

568

RECEIVED 2280

Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

JUL - 8 2016

United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Owen, John and Margaret, House


other names/site number

2. Location

street & number	33 2 nd Street		N/A	not for publication
city or town	Milton		N/A	vicinity
state	Wisconsin	code	WI	county
			Rock	code
			105	zip code
				53563

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _ nationally _ statewide x_ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title  Date 7/6/16

State Historic Preservation Office - Wisconsin
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _ meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Owen, John and Margaret, House

Rock County

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register.
 - ___ See continuation sheet.
 - ___ determined eligible for the National Register.
 - ___ See continuation sheet.
 - ___ determined not eligible for the National Register.
 - ___ See continuation sheet.
 - ___ removed from the National Register.
 - ___ other, (explain:)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Barbara Ogall
Signature of the Keeper

8-23-14
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	contributing	noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	2	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> site		structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		objects
		2	0 total

Name of related multiple property listing:
(Enter "N/A" if property not part of a multiple property
listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources
previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne

foundation Stone

walls Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Name of Property

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce

Period of Significance

1894-1913

Significant Dates

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Owen, John

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Owen, John and Margaret, House
Milton, Rock County, WI

DESCRIPTION

Site

The John and Margaret Owen House is a large Queen Anne style house, constructed in 1894 and located in a residential area in old Milton Junction, the western half of the larger community that is known today as Milton. (The eastern half of the community was originally known as Milton; the two communities merged in 1967 and became the City of Milton.) The house was owned for 40 years by John and Margaret Owen, then for lengthy periods by other families. Glenn and Grace Disrude have owned it for the last 40 years.

The property is in a historic neighborhood of houses built primarily in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Almost all of the buildings in the neighborhood are residential with the exception of two churches, one that is directly across the street from this house. This residential area grew up east of the commercial district of old Milton Junction and was platted into three residential streets (1st, 2nd, and 3rd streets) and four narrower streets or alleys (1st Lane, 2nd Lane, 3rd Lane, and 4th Lane). Almost all of the houses front along the streets with the lanes being primarily alleys that provide access to the back of the properties. The lanes create a separation between residential back yards and a spaciousness not seen in other neighborhoods.

The landscape of the neighborhood is typical of small town residential neighborhoods. The setbacks are fairly generous and most houses have large lawns and mature trees and shrubs. 2nd Street is no different. It is a wide street that allows for parking on both sides. There are sidewalks on both sides of the street with terraces and curbs and gutters. Mature trees sit in most terraces. The land is primarily flat with a slight rise from the south to the north.

The Owen House sits at the center of two lots so that it has a particularly spacious lawn on both sides. It is a corner property, so the lawn extends south to Vernal Avenue, a street that runs perpendicular and on an angle to the numbered streets of the neighborhood and defines the neighborhood's southern boundary.

Landscaping around the house consists primarily of lawns, shrubs and planting beds. Most of the large trees are located in the terraces of 2nd Street and Vernal Avenue. At the northwest corner of the house is a small area that is surrounded by wood board fencing, creating a private "patio" in this area of the yard.

The rear yard backs up to 2nd Lane, a narrow, unimproved alley. The alley has an asphalt surface that is extended into what would be the rear yard of the house to provide a driveway in front of a large

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 2

Owen, John and Margaret, House
Milton, Rock County, WI

carriage house that sits directly on the alley. This carriage house is two-stories in height with a hip roof, roof dormers, lap wood siding and two large vehicle openings. It appears to have been built as a combination carriage house and horse barn with a large upper story for animal feed storage. It is a contributing resource of the property.

Description of the House

General Exterior Features

The Owen House is a two-story Queen Anne style building with an irregular plan that highlights numerous projecting gables, bays, and wood architectural details. The house has a complex hip and gable roof covered with architectural grade asphalt shingles. The central hip roof slopes down on all sides creating a gambrel appearance on three of the four elevations. There are numerous projecting gables and one- and two-story bays, and even a dormer, projecting from the roof and upper walls of the house. The house is covered with narrow clapboard siding on the first story while the second story is covered with wood shingles in two dominant patterns. The fenestration is irregular, but is largely filled with single-light, double-hung sashes set in pairs or grouped in bays. The house sits on a regularly coursed rusticated grey limestone foundation.

Main (East) Façade

The primary façade faces east and is dominated by a second-story projecting bay above a large veranda. The bay is clad with both sawtooth and scalloped shaped wood shingles in a largely horizontal pattern. The gable is further decorated with five rows of scalloped and sawtooth shaped shingles that create a large arch. A tall, modern, two-light sliding style window has replaced a smaller double window at the center of the gable. The gable projects slightly and brackets ornament the cornice. Under the brackets is a tripartite opening filled with single-light sashes. An inset porch projects from this window group and originally had a balustrade that has been removed. Also, projecting from the roof on this elevation is a small hip roof dormer with a small opening filled with a 20-light window.

The curved, hip-roofed, veranda covers the entire first-story main elevation and extends around a small part of the south elevation of the house. The veranda roof is supported by plain posts grouped in pairs or in threes. The porch features its original beaded board ceiling, porch deck, and latticework apron. A projecting gable highlights the steps leading to the porch. It features a plain bargeboard and a gable peak with scallop and sawtooth shaped wood shingles. The balustrade is modern and consists of plain posts that attaches to the set of wooden steps.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Owen, John and Margaret, House
Milton, Rock County, WI

Section 7 Page 3

Behind the veranda, the first story features a large bay with a central opening filled with a single light at the center that is flanked by two, single-light, double-hung sashes. To the north of the bay is the main entrance opening. It is enclosed with a multi horizontal paneled and glazed door that is similar to the style of interior doors in the house.

South Elevation

On the south elevation, the hip roof slopes down to form a large gambrel on the second story. Projecting from the gambrel is a large bay that extends over the first story, as well. A gable with returned eaves projects from the top of the bay and it is covered with scalloped and sawtooth shaped wood shingles. At the center of the gable is a modern, two-light, sliding style window that replaced a tripartite opening with a fanlight as seen in a historic photograph. The base and bracket of this old opening is still extant under the modern window.

The first and second-story bays are identical except for the wall covering; shingles on the second story and clapboards on the first story. A cornice with dentils runs between the two levels of the bay and across the bottom of the gambrel. The bays have a pair of central, single-light sash windows flanked by individual, single-light sash windows. The bay flares slightly over the foundation.

Next to the bay is the side entrance located within a shallow, enclosed porch. The entry has a fully-glazed patio-style door. A historic photograph shows that this was originally an open porch with details similar to the veranda. Besides the modern door, it is enclosed with clapboards and has a plain post balustrade.

West Elevation

The west or rear elevation is dominated by a large complex gambrel roof and a modern addition. The gambrel roof has a gable shaped top section and flared lower section. Both are covered with scalloped shaped wood shingles accented with sawtooth shaped wood shingles. The first floor is covered with clapboard siding. Paired single-light sash windows sit in the second story at the south end of the first story. At the southwest corner, there is a round bay that features a large, curved single-light opening flanked by single-light sashes.

Attached to the north half of the west elevation is the two-story enclosed porch addition. It has a slightly sloping shed roof and the walls are covered with clapboards. Openings in the south wall of the addition are identical on both levels and are filled with paired modern sliding style windows.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 4

Owen, John and Margaret, House
Milton, Rock County, WI

North Elevation

The north elevation of the house features a slightly projecting gambrel bay on the second story. It is covered with scalloped and sawtooth shaped wood shingles. Under the gambrel are brackets that support the bay that projects slightly from the rest of the second story wall surface. This wall surface is also covered with the same wood shingles. Cut into the gambrel is a pair of single-light sashes. Just west of the gambrel bay is a flat wall with an opening filled with a single-light sash and a shallow shed-roofed projection.

The first story of this elevation is covered with narrow clapboards. The east two-thirds of the first story have a pair of single-light sash windows and an individual single light sash punctuating the wall. At the west end of this elevation, there is an opening in the wall corresponding to the kitchen filled with a modern single light window flanked by casement windows. Further west is the north wall of the porch addition.

Interior, First Floor

There are several general characteristics of the first floor. Almost all of the floors are covered with narrow board wood flooring, primarily ash, but maple where indicated. The trim around doors and windows is made of ash that is finished in a light stain. The wood has all been restored and in some cases, cornices still need to be returned to the upper part of the door and window trim. All doors are made of five horizontal panels of various sizes, including some double doors that recess into the walls. There are wide baseboards in all rooms except the kitchen and walls and ceilings have generally been renovated with modern drywall and plaster. Cast iron radiators with foliated scroll designs are still extant throughout the house. Exceptions to these general characteristics will be noted below within the discussion of the floor plan.

The main entrance to the house is from the veranda on the east elevation and this entrance leads into a short hall that has entrances into the first floor and the main staircase to the second floor. Off of the hall are entrances into the parlor at the southeast corner of the house and the living room behind it. The hall is decorated with the finishes described above. The wood staircase is of a two-run configuration with a small landing in between each run. The open staircase has a paneled wall on the lower run that faces the hall and there are wood panels under the balustrade of the second run. The steps are wood and the balustrade features turned posts attached to a simple molded banister. The newel posts at the landing and at the beginning of the staircase are square and decorated with recessed panels, cornices, and dentils. The lowest step of the staircase winds around the lower newel post.

Across from the staircase, a set of double pocket doors provides access into the formal parlor, a narrow room at the front of the house. It has the finishes as described earlier. Its main decorative feature is a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5Owen, John and Margaret, House
Milton, Rock County, WI

fireplace with an elaborate classically-decorated mantel, surround, and overmantel. Surrounding the firebox and covering the hearth are the original ceramic tiles in muted brown and tan tones. Around the firebox, the tiles create a pattern. Along the sides there are oil lamps sitting on thin round posts decorated with ribbon. A floral swag connects the lamps and runs across the top of the firebox.

The mantel features an entablature decorated with scrolled foliage attached to a central medallion and featuring rosettes and other floral motifs. Two narrow partly fluted columns rise to support the overmantel. These columns have Corinthian capitals and sit on tall bases. Between the mantel and the overmantel is a large mirror set into a plain frame. The overmantel is decorated in a manner similar to the mantel with large scrolled foliage attached to a central medallion and featuring rosettes and other floral motifs. Topping the overmantel is a heavy cornice that is enriched with dentils.

At the west wall of the parlor are five-panel pocket doors. This entrance leads into the living room. An entrance from the hall into the living room has a five-panel single door. The same finishes are found in this room as described earlier, including the wood floors and trim. The exception is the trim around the bay windows, which has been replaced with modern wood trim.

A large five-paneled wood door is located at the entrance from the living room into a former sitting room that is now used as an office. This room has the same finishes described earlier, except that the original wood floor was removed due to damage; the room now has carpet.

Another large set of double pocket doors connects the living room and dining room. The floor in this room is maple and includes dark accent strips around the edges of the room. The trim is similar, but painted rather than stained. At the southwest corner is the unusual round bay. The side entrance leading outside is located at the south wall of the dining room. It is covered with a five paneled heavy wood door.

Along the north wall of the dining room is the entrance into the kitchen and a built-in cabinet with a pair of two-panel doors. This cabinet, which is painted white, passes through to the kitchen so that it can be accessed from either room. In the kitchen, the cabinet extends out from the wall from floor to ceiling and features two recessed panel doors above a set of drawers. It is stained and is one of the few extant cabinets from the original kitchen. The kitchen has large doors over two sets of drawers. Two other historic features of the kitchen include a narrow board maple floor and two five panel doors with trim that cover the staircases to the basement and the second floor.

The rest of the kitchen has modern fixtures and built-in cabinets, and the ceiling is covered with modern drop-in acoustical tiles with fluorescent lighting. Behind the kitchen is the first floor of the enclosed porch addition. This addition includes a storage area and a bathroom. The bathroom has modern fixtures and finishes.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 6

Owen, John and Margaret, House
Milton, Rock County, WI

Interior, Second Floor

The main staircase leads to the second floor that has a central hallway off of which are three bedrooms. At the west end, the hallway turns north to service the back of the house. Off of this part of the hallway is a bedroom, bathroom and back staircase. The second story is in the process of renovation and the wood trim in the hallway has been removed and walls are in the process of being renovated with wall board and plaster. The original ash wood floors are extant although in the bedrooms, they have been covered with carpeting. The five panel doors to second floor rooms are all extant and stained a light color.

At the back of the floor is the enclosed back staircase and access to a bathroom. The back staircase has new treads and the bathroom features mid-twentieth century fixtures and décor. Off of this part of the hallway is the second floor of the enclosed porch room, which has modern finishes and carpeting.

Basement

The basement is accessed through a door at the east wall of the kitchen. The basement is unfinished and has stone walls and a concrete floor. It is partitioned into several rooms via stone walls and is used for storage.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 1

Owen, John and Margaret, House
Milton, Rock County, WI

SIGNIFICANCE

The John and Margaret Owen House is locally nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B in the area of Commerce for its association with one of Milton's important businessmen, John Owen. Owen was a partner in the Chambers and Owen wholesale tobacco business, a business that grew from the important tobacco trade in old Milton Junction into a regional cigar and tobacco business. Tobacco trading was an important commercial activity in Rock and southern Dane counties during the late-nineteenth century and the early-twentieth centuries. Chambers and Owen was a significant local company because it expanded the scale of trade, becoming wholesalers in tobacco products and ultimately the most important and longest-lived company related to the wholesale tobacco trade in Milton.

Period of Significance

The period of significance for this building is the time that John Owen resided here. Owen built the house in 1894, and lived there until his death in 1913. During this time, he was a partner in Milton's most influential wholesale tobacco business, Chambers and Owen.¹

Historical Background

Northern Rock County and southern Dane County was a center of tobacco production and wholesaling in Wisconsin during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. While the older community of Milton had a few tobacco warehouses during the tobacco heyday, it was old Milton Junction, with its railroad links, that dominated the tobacco trade in the immediate area. Milton Junction was perfectly situated at the junction of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad and the Chicago and NorthWestern Railroad to become important in tobacco shipping. Nearby Edgerton was the most important tobacco shipping center and many large brick tobacco warehouses were built in that community. Milton and Milton Junction's tobacco warehouses were largely frame buildings, most of which have been lost over time.²

In Milton Junction, several tobacco warehouses were built close to the railroad lines. Two were even built for the two rail lines, themselves. One of these warehouses is extant, although it is highly remodeled and has lost much of its historic character. The other railroad tobacco warehouse has been demolished. Another private tobacco warehouse is also extant, but has been extensively remodeled.

¹ Building Abstract, in possession of the owner.

² Carol Cartwright, *Architectural and Historical Survey of Milton, Wisconsin* (Milton: Milton Historic Preservation Commission: City of Milton, 2013), 50.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 2

Owen, John and Margaret, House
Milton, Rock County, WI

Other tobacco warehouses have been demolished. Trading in tobacco reached a height of importance at the turn of the twentieth century and gradually declined. But, for one firm, the tobacco trade was just the start of their business aspirations. That firm was Chambers and Owen.³

Chambers and Owen had its roots in a business started in Milton Junction in 1870 by George H. Button. Button sold cigars and "Yankee" notions (sewing supplies and select clothing and accessories) and was a fairly successful commercial business in Milton Junction. In 1881, S. C. Chambers started to work for Button and John H. Owen joined Button's business in 1883. Chambers was known as a successful salesman and used his talents to increase demand for the products that Button sold. Owen was considered a talented businessman and was in charge of the business dealings of the firm. Together they grew Button's business significantly and when Button died in 1891, they purchased the business.⁴

In 1890, Button had constructed the Button Block in downtown Milton Junction (541 Vernal Avenue, contributing building in the Merchant Row Historic District, NRHP, 2015), and housed the business in one-half of his two-storefront building. Chambers and Owen continued to operate the Yankee notions business out of this location, but that side of the business was no longer their priority. Rather, Chambers and Owen expanded the tobacco side of the business, specifically branching out into the wholesale trade of tobacco related products.⁵

Chambers and Owen had their own tobacco warehouse in Milton Junction (not extant) and began to manufacture their own brand of cigars after 1891. The junction of the two rail lines in Milton Junction meant that Chambers and other salesmen in the firm had easy transportation access throughout southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois, and indeed, the company exploited this transportation link. By the early years of the twentieth century, the company was selling to retailers throughout this region and the business had become one of the most successful commercial businesses in Milton.⁶

In 1913, John Owen died, but the business continued on with Owen's son, A. Paul Owen, as part of the firm. In 1920, A. Paul Owen acquired the entire business and discontinued the notions line, but he kept the original business name, Chambers and Owen. By 1927, the business had grown so much that Owen decided to move to larger quarters in nearby Janesville. Over the next 10-20 years, despite the economic problems of the Great Depression of the 1930s, the business kept expanding and Owen created branch offices in Beloit, Wisconsin, and Rockford and Freeport, Illinois. During that time, Chambers and Owen became leading regional wholesalers of tobacco products to retail outlets,

³ Cartwright, 51.

⁴ Cartwright, 51-52.

⁵ Cartwright, 52.

⁶ Cartwright, 52.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 3

Owen, John and Margaret, House
Milton, Rock County, WI

restaurants, and soda fountains. In the 1930s, the company also moved into the emerging vending machine business. In the 1950s, A. Paul Owen's two sons became partners in the firm and since that time, the business has expanded to become one of the largest suppliers of products to convenience stores in the Midwest. According to the company website, they still supply tobacco products, but most of their business today involves supplying food items to convenience stores. They also have a business providing management information and training for convenience store owners. The firm is still headed by the fourth generation of the Owen family.⁷

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: COMMERCE

According to Wisconsin's *Cultural Resource Management Plan*, growing tobacco was important in the late nineteenth century in two areas of the state. One of these areas centered in northern Rock and southern Dane county. Farmers found soils in this area to be suitable for tobacco growing and it became a lucrative crop during the Civil War as southern tobacco was not available.⁸

Growing tobacco evolved from the need for farmers to diversify as wheat growing was beginning to deplete the soil in the 1860s. Most pioneer farmers in southern Wisconsin in the 1840s through the 1860s grew wheat as a cash crop. By the end of the Civil War, soils were depleted from wheat-growing and fertile soils west and northwest of the state were opening up for wheat cultivation. After the war, wheat prices dropped, as well, so farmers looked to other cash crops. Farmers in Rock and Dane counties began to grow tobacco as early as the 1850s, but tobacco as a cash crop really developed after the Civil War started. By 1880, there were 10,000 acres of tobacco in production in southern Wisconsin and tobacco trading centered in Edgerton in Rock County and Stoughton in Dane County. But, throughout this area, tobacco warehouses were built in other communities, including Milton.⁹

Tobacco growing would continue to be an important commercial activity into the twentieth century and production, which remained high in the Rock and Dane county areas, expanded into Crawford and Vernon counties. By 1900, around 7,000 farmers were growing 45.5 million pounds of tobacco with a value of around \$3,000,000. Much of this tobacco was not considered the best quality, but it found a market for cigar making, as binders or fillers, or in chewing tobacco.¹⁰

⁷ Cartwright, 52.

⁸ Barbara Wyatt, ed. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin Volume 2* (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1989), Agriculture, 7-2—7-3.

⁹ Robert C. Nesbit, *The History of Wisconsin, Volume III Urbanization and Industrialization, 1873-1893* (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1985), 39; John D. Buenker, *The History of Wisconsin, Volume IV The Progressive Era, 1893-1914* (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1998), 44.

¹⁰ Buenker, 44.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 4

Owen, John and Margaret, House
Milton, Rock County, WI

All that tobacco had to be traded and tobacco buyers built warehouses to concentrate their purchases until enough tobacco had been purchased to make up a large shipment. Over 50 tobacco warehouses were built in nearby Edgerton, which was considered the center of tobacco trading in the Rock and Dane County region of tobacco growing. A large number of warehouses were built in Stoughton in Dane County, as well and tobacco houses from Chicago, New York and other eastern cities competed for the trade in these communities. Other southern Dane County and northern Rock County communities were bustling centers of tobacco trading, as well. By 1900, there were about 30 tobacco warehouses in Janesville and in small Milton; at least a half-dozen warehouses were built. Most tobacco warehouses were located near or along the railroad lines because the railroad was the most important means for shipping tobacco.¹¹

Compared to Edgerton or Janesville, Milton's commercial tobacco trade was small, but the significance of Chambers and Owen in the tobacco trade in Milton was that they not only engaged in this important commercial activity, but expanded their firm into a regional business. Chambers and Owen saw an opportunity beyond simply acting as a middleman between farmers and larger tobacco companies and used a small business as a stepping stone to a larger enterprise. The company would see even more success under John Owen's sons' tenure in Janesville, but it was a highly successful enterprise in Milton for the 30 years of John Owen's involvement. By the time of Owen's death in 1913, the company was one of the most prominent in Milton. This house, built by Owen at the time he and Chambers were growing their firm, and lived in by Owen during the growth of the company, is significant for its association with him.

Integrity

The Owen House has high integrity, with the majority of its historic features intact. Its location is the same as when it was built and because Owen sited the house in the center of his two lots, no close infill construction has intruded on the spaciousness of the grounds. The exterior retains its fine wood architectural details, including narrow clapboards and wood shingles. The front porch, which was enclosed in the mid-twentieth century, was opened by the current owner after 1976. This has made a big difference in the overall exterior appearance and visible integrity of the house.

Exterior alterations are limited to the enclosure of a small side porch and the two-story, enclosed porch addition off of the rear of the building. The alteration of the small porch does not detract from the historic character of the south side of the house. The two-story, rear porch addition is larger, but its placement at the back of the house makes it less noticeable when viewing the house as a whole. The

¹¹ Wyatt, 7-3; Carol Lohry Cartwright, Scott Shaffer, and Randal Waller, *City on the Rock River: Chapters in Janesville's History* (Janesville: Janesville Historic Commission, 1998), 114.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 5

Owen, John and Margaret, House
Milton, Rock County, WI

change to the windows in the attic story is also an alteration that affects the integrity of the house, but, again, this change does not significantly affect the overall historic character of the house.

The interior also has high integrity, with the floor plan intact and alterations limited primarily to the kitchen. Major interior features, such as the main staircase, the parlor's fireplace, the original woodwork and flooring, and the original built-in cabinet in the dining room have all been retained and contribute to the home's historic character. The loss of trim in the second floor hallway and changes to the wall finishes of the house do not significantly detract from the overall integrity. The wall surfaces retain the historic appearance of smooth plaster, despite the use of modern materials; the trim on the second floor will be restored. The enclosed porch additions are located at the back of the house and as a small percentage of the current floor plan; do not overwhelm the historic portions of the house.

The house was built at what could be considered the height of the Queen Anne style, 1894, and with its high exterior and interior integrity, would be very familiar to the Owen family if they saw it today.

Conclusion

The John and Margaret Owen House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B in the area of Commerce as the home of one of Milton's most successful businessmen in one of the area's most successful commercial enterprises, the tobacco trade. John Owen, with his partner S. C. Chambers, was engaged in the popular commercial activity of tobacco trading in the late-nineteenth century, building a tobacco warehouse and trading the product. But, by also joining a well-established commercial business, they were able to take their company beyond simply tobacco trading. They became two of the most important businessmen in Milton as their company grew into a regional supplier of tobacco products, including their own brand of cigars made from the tobacco in their warehouse. During the time Owen lived in this house, he ran the business operations of the firm, keeping it on a steady rising course as his partner, S. C. Chambers, largely handled the sales end. Together they made a successful team and operated a prosperous business for 30 years in Milton, a business that, although in a different community, is still thriving today.

PRESERVATION ACTIVITY

This nomination was supported by the very active Milton Historic Preservation Commission as a result of an historic and architectural survey conducted in 2012-2013. This property was suggested as potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in the survey report. The Milton Historic Preservation Commission funded this nomination with a Certified Local Government

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 6

Owen, John and Margaret, House
Milton, Rock County, WI

subgrant from the National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, and administered by the Historic Buildings and Preservation Division of the Wisconsin Historical Society. This nomination is one of four supported by this subgrant for the year 2014-2015. In 2013-2014, the Milton Historic Preservation Commission received a subgrant for the preparation of nominations for two historic districts and four individual properties that have been completed and are currently awaiting listing in the National Register. Listing properties in the National Register is only one of the Historic Preservation Commission's activities that include supporting historic walking tours, the preparation of a historic resources tour book for the entire community, and promoting general historic preservation in Milton.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The activity that is the subject of this publication has been financed with Federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, and administered by the Wisconsin Historical Society. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior or the Wisconsin Historical Society. Nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior or the Wisconsin Historical Society. This program receives federal financial assistance for identification and protection of historic properties. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1975, as amended, the U. S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or disability or age in its federally assisted programs. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, 1849 C Street NW, Washington DC 20240.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 1

Owen, John and Margaret, House
Milton, Rock County, WI

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES

Buenker, John D. *The History of Wisconsin, Volume IV The Progressive Era, 1893-1914*
Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1998.

Building Abstract. In possession of the owner.

Cartwright, Carol. *Architectural and Historical Survey of Milton, Wisconsin*. Milton: Milton Historic Preservation Commission: City of Milton, 2013.

Cartwright, Carol Lohry, Scott Shaffer, and Randal Waller. *City on the Rock River: Chapters in Janesville's History*. Janesville: Janesville Historic Commission, 1998.

Nesbit, Robert C. *The History of Wisconsin, Volume III Urbanization and Industrialization, 1873-1893*. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1985.

Wyatt, Barbara, ed. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin Volume 2*. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1989.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 1

Owen, John and Margaret, House
Milton, Rock County, WI

Verbal Boundary Description:

The John and Margaret Owen House is located on a parcel described as: Morgan's Addition, Lots 51 & 52.

Boundary Justification:

The house has occupied this historic parcel since its construction date in 1894.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Owen, John and Margaret, House
Milton, Rock County, WI

Section photos Page 1

Name of Property: Owen, John and Margaret, House
City or Vicinity: Milton
County: Rock County
State: WI
Name of Photographer: Carol Lohry Cartwright
Date of Photographs: June, 2015
Location of Original Digital Files: Wisconsin Historical Society, Division of Historic Preservation,
816 State St., Madison, WI 53706

WI_Rock County_Owen, John and Margaret, House_0001
Site view, camera facing west
WI_Rock County_Owen, John and Margaret, House_0002
Main or east elevation, camera facing west
WI_Rock County_Owen, John and Margaret, House_0003
East and south elevations, camera facing northwest
WI_Rock County_Owen, John and Margaret, House_0004
South elevation, camera facing north
WI_Rock County_Owen, John and Margaret, House_0005
West or rear elevation, camera facing northeast
WI_Rock County_Owen, John and Margaret, House_0006
East and main elevations, camera facing southwest
WI_Rock County_Owen, John and Margaret, House_0007
Carriage House, camera facing northeast
WI_Rock County_Owen, John and Margaret, House_0008
Interior, first floor, main staircase
WI_Rock County_Owen, John and Margaret, House_0009
Interior, first floor, looking from parlor into vestibule at main staircase
WI_Rock County_Owen, John and Margaret, House_0010
Interior, first floor, parlor fireplace
WI_Rock County_Owen, John and Margaret, House_0011
Interior, first floor, looking from living room into dining room
WI_Rock County_Owen, John and Margaret, House_0012
Interior, first floor, looking at round bay in dining room
WI_Rock County_Owen, John and Margaret, House_0013
Interior, first floor, looking at north wall of dining room

WI_Rock County_Owen, John and Margaret, House_0014

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section photos Page 2

Owen, John and Margaret, House
Milton, Rock County, WI

Interior, first floor, kitchen looking at east wall and staircase doors

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

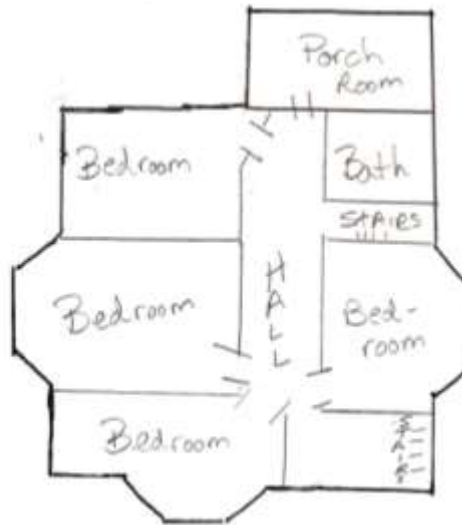
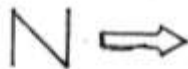
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section figures Page 1

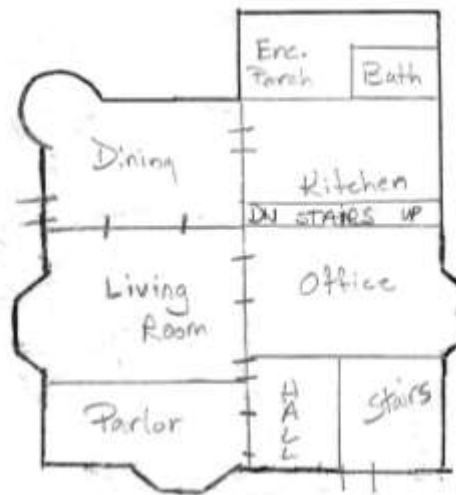
Owen, John and Margaret, House
Milton, Rock County, WI

Second Floor

NOT TO SCALE



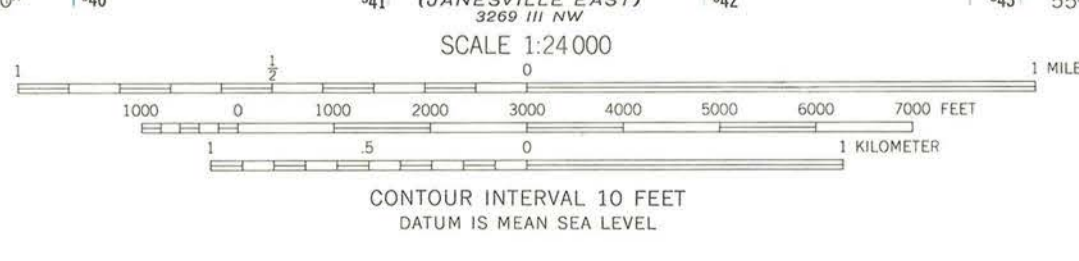
First Floor





Milton, Rock Co. WI
Owen, Reynolds and
Margaret, House
UTM:
16/329410/4738150

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1955. Field checked 1961
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Wisconsin coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 16, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1971. This information not field checked
Map photorevised 1976
No major culture or drainage changes observed



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND WISCONSIN GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY, MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

MILTON, WIS.
SW/4 FORT ATKINSON 15' QUADRANGLE
N4245-W8852.5/7.5
PHOTOINSPECTED 1976
1961
PHOTOREVISED 1971
AMS 3269 IV SW-SERIES V861





























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Owen, John and Margaret, House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Rock

DATE RECEIVED: 7/08/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/26/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/10/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/23/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000568

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER

Barbara Coyell

DISCIPLINE

Historian

TELEPHONE

202-354-2252

DATE

8-23-16

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

RECEIVED



BY:

STATE SENATOR JANIS RINGHAND

May 3, 2016

Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board
c/o Peggy Veregin
Wisconsin Historical Society
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board:

Thank you for considering the Haven-Crandall House in Janesville, the John and Margaret Owen House in Milton, the Reynolds and Lois Greenman House in Milton, and the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Milton for the National Register of Historic Places and the State Register of Historic Places. I urge you to list each of these buildings as historic sites.

The Haven-Crandall House was originally built in 1872, was lived in briefly by the Haven family before Albert Crandall purchased it. Mr. Albert Crandall taught at Milton College. He was one of the most important and best educated professors in Milton College history. Alberta Crandall, his daughter, was also a notable professor at Milton College, working as a professor of music until 1950. The Crandall family's 50 year association with Milton College is remarkable in the history of the college.

The John and Margaret Owen House, is a Queen Anne style home and was built in 1894. John Owen was one of the most successful businessmen in the City of Milton. In the late nineteenth century, Owen, with his partner, S. C. Chambers, built a business related to the tobacco trade in southern Wisconsin. By Owen's death in 1913, Chambers and Owen had become a regional wholesale distribution firm with markets throughout southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois. Owen built this house just as he and Chambers were achieving success and it is the second best example of the Queen Anne style in Milton.

In 1927, under the leadership of Owen's son, A. Paul Owen, the company moved to Janesville and grew even bigger, until today, under the fourth generation ownership of the Owen family, Chambers and Owen is one of the Midwest's largest suppliers of food products and management information systems to convenience stores.

The Reynolds and Lois Greenman House was built in 1866 and lived in by one of the most successful and significant commercial businessmen in old Milton Junction, the west side of today's City of Milton. Reynolds Greenman was a lumber yard owner and contributed considerably to the growth and development of the community.

In 1863, Greenman and his wife, Lois, came to Milton Junction, where Greenman opened a lumber yard. After Greenman sold his lumber yard in 1891 he had already started his second

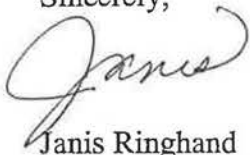
commercial career in Milton. In 1889, he bought a joint interest in a newspaper, the Milton Junction News. Additionally, Reynolds was also a popular public servant, serving on numerous local boards.

Finally, the Seventh Day Baptist Church was built in 1933-34 after a fire destroyed the original church. Noted Milwaukee church architect, Hugo Haeuser, designed the building in the Late Gothic Revival style. He also used his favorite material, limestone veneer known as "lannon stone."

The Seventh Day Baptist faith came with the first pioneers to Milton, including Joseph Goodrich, who built the unusual grout-constructed hexagonal-shaped Milton House. Goodrich and many of the families who came later were members of the Seventh Day Baptist faith in New York State and Milton became a center of immigration for church members. Known for their worship on the "seventh" day or Saturday, the faith has been an enduring institution in Milton.

Given the historical significance of these buildings, I strongly support adding them to the National Register of Historic Places and the State Register of Historic Places. If I can be helpful in any way please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janis".

Janis Ringhand
State Senator
15th Senate District



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

RECEIVED 2280

JUL - 8 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

TO: Keeper
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Peggy Veregin
National Register Coordinator

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this Seventh day of July 2016, for the nomination of the John and Margaret Owen House to the National Register of Historic Places:

1 Original National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form
1 CD with NRHP Nomination form PDF
 Multiple Property Nomination form
14 Photograph(s)
1 CD with image files
1 Map(s)
1 Sketch map(s)/figures(s)/exhibit(s)
1 Piece(s) of correspondence
 Other:

COMMENTS:

 Please ensure that this nomination is reviewed
 This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
 The enclosed owner objection(s) do or do not constitute a majority of property
owners
 Other: