

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0688746

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 1 1978
DATE ENTERED DEC 22 1978

**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 Huff Jones House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
1345 Main Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Eighth

CITY, TOWN
Oconto

VICINITY OF

STATE
Wisconsin

CODE
55

COUNTY
Oconto

CODE
083

CLASSIFICATION

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

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mahlon Retzlaff

STREET & NUMBER
1345 Main Street

CITY, TOWN
Oconto

VICINITY OF

STATE
Wisconsin 54153

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER
Oconto County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN
Oconto

STATE
Wisconsin 54153

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

DATE
1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN
Madison

STATE
Wisconsin 53706

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR
 DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Huff Jones house is a two-story frame building with a two-story projecting wing and single-story wing at the rear of the main block. The building faces south with the gables of the main block facing north and the gable of the projecting wing facing west. The wing is set back about six feet from the plane of the main block's facade. The entire house is clapboarded, with the exception of the west end of the projecting wing, and painted white. The roof is of ridged sheet metal painted green. Massive beams regularly notched to receive joists support the floors and walls of both the main block and the projecting wing. Whether the house is balloon-framed or of post-and-beam construction has not been determined. The building rests on a rough-cut stone foundation which replaced the original one when the house was raised in 1906.

A wide single-story veranda, which in 1906 replaced earlier porches, stretches the length of the main facade, with its roof supported on Tuscan columns. Stylistically the facade reads as a combination of vernacular styles combining the Greek Revival of the main block and late Victorian elements in the projecting wing.

The main block is a vernacular interpretation of the Greek Revival style. Stylistic elements are restrained and include the low-pitched roof, heavy cornice with returns, and entablature in the eaves. The main elevation is the gable end and contains three bays. The main floor contains two double-hung six-over-six windows and the main doorway of the house; these are symmetrically spaced with the doorway on the west side. The second floor contains only two windows, double-hung with large panes and symmetrically arranged. Iconographic evidence suggests that this arrangement was original to the building.

The east facade of the main block contains four windows symmetrically spaced. Of these, three are identical to the windows in the second floor of the main facade; the fourth, on the first floor to the rear of the block, is a modern picture window with three panes side by side. The sympathetic handling of this alteration, which placed the picture window in line with the others and used panes the same size as the other windows, makes it a less-than-obtrusive modification.

It is thought that the projecting wing, in some form, is original to the house. Iconographic evidence confirms its existence in 1871, although at that time it may have been only one story high. Moreover, property assessments between 1857 and 1870 suggest no major improvements during the period. The stylistic embellishments to the west end of the wing appear to date from later in the nineteenth century, suggesting that the wing was modified sometime after 1870. Tax rolls for the period after 1870 survive only at ten-year intervals, making precise dating of modifications to the wing impossible.

The main elevation of the projecting wing contains a pair of windows and a single window on each level. The west end of the wing is stylistically interesting. It is formed as a three-sided bay with the central west-facing surface twice as wide as the flanking diagonally facing surfaces. Eaves in the gable end are ornately bracketed. A double window on the second floor of the bay has an ornately carved wooden lintel. Surfaces in the west end are varied with flush boards running diagonally and vertically.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

7. DESCRIPTION (continued)

To the rear of the main block is attached a single-story frame structure, perhaps the house's original kitchen wing. Curiously, the roof of the wing is hipped at the end which attaches to the main building, allowing the existence of a full-size window in the second floor of the north facade of the main block. Although such a configuration suggests that the wing was an addition to the main block, iconographic evidence confirms that such a wing was there as early as 1871. Attached to the single-story wing are two small entryway enclosures, one on the east side and one on the south. These are thought to date from 1906. A modern patio/deck is attached to the west side of the single-story wing. To the northwest of the building stands a shed which was built in 1907.

The interior of the house has been remodeled a number of times. Although the plan has been altered, the original staircase, many of the original moldings, and wooden panels beneath the first floor front windows of the main block survive.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> _INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> _POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _OTHER (SPECIFY) association with locally important family
		<input type="checkbox"/> _INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1857 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Huff Jones

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
 The Huff Jones house is significant to the history of Oconto as the home of a pioneer important to the settlement and industrial history of the area. Despite interior remodeling, the house retains the appearance it had when it was the home of Huff Jones; its major exterior additions were made during that period.

To Huff Jones, his father David, and his brother Tarleton is credited the first establishment of commercial lumbering in the Oconto area and lumber milling in Oconto proper.¹ Herein lies the bulk of Huff Jones' importance to Oconto's history: the lumber industry which he helped establish was the reason for the settlement and development of Oconto and remained the mainstay of the area's economy into the twentieth century.

In 1835 Colonel David Jones, a War of 1812 veteran, brought his family to Green Bay and established himself as a government trader at Fort Howard. In 1844, David and his sons Huff and Tarleton jointly established a lumber camp on the Oconto River and a dam and water-powered sawmill at the site which would become Oconto. A couple of years previously George Lurwick had begun a dam at the site, but Lurwick's project was not completed and the Jones Lumber Company became the first to undertake commercial lumbering in Oconto. By 1849 the Jones company had augmented its operation with a second mill, this one steam powered. The Joneses remained the predominant millers in Oconto for less than a decade. In the 1850s their operation was eclipsed by larger more heavily capitalized concerns such as Holt and Balcom. David Jones died at Green Bay in 1856, and Tarleton Jones left Wisconsin, retaining an interest in lumbering at Oconto while establishing himself in business in Chicago. Huff, however, remained in Oconto and was renowned throughout his life as a successful and noteworthy figure in the affairs of the city.² In addition to his business interest in lumbering, he was a founding member of the Episcopal Church in Oconto, and he served as Oconto County Register of Deeds from 1871 to 1893.

Around 1857 Huff Jones built this house in the "Huff Jones Addition," a block which he had platted on the east side of town the year before. About this time other prominent men of Oconto were also building houses in this neighborhood. Among them were Colonel Uri Balcom, Joseph and George Hall, and Timothy Goodrich. Jones built his house in the Greek Revival style but used stylistic decoration sparingly. Sometime late in the century he modified the west wing of the house, adding Victorian decoration in the gable end and perhaps enlarging what may have been an original single-story wing to two stories.

Today, the historical importance of Huff Jones is widely recognized in Oconto. Recently old Jones family letters, photographs, and the original roll of electors of the organizational meeting of Oconto County, which was held in June 1852 at "the house of David Jones" in Oconto, were found in the attic of this house. The find has

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See continuation sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.56

QUADRANGLE NAME Oconto East, Wisconsin

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 431870 4970580

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 1 of Huff Jones Addition to the City of Oconto, according to the recorded plat thereof excepting a strip 30 feet wide off the west side of lot 11

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

(based in part on a form by Mahlon Retzlaff and George E. Hall)

NAME / TITLE

David Donath, Historian

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

July 1978

STREET & NUMBER

816 State Street

TELEPHONE

608/262-3390

CITY OR TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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 M. Curney

TITLE Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE 10/20/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST: *Charles A. Hennings*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
Kenneth B. Franklin
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 12.22.78

DATE 12.18.78

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8, 9 PAGE 1

8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

created a suspicion that this was David Jones' home and the scene of the historic meeting. This suspicion has yet to be confirmed and evidence contained in Oconto County tax rolls and in the deeds pertaining to the property casts doubt on the interpretation. The present owners of the house are proud of its history and anxious to preserve the building.

¹George E. Hall, A History of Oconto (Oconto, 1969), 43.

²Commemorative Biographical Record of the West Shore of Green Bay, Wisconsin (Chicago, 1896), 670-671.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

Abstract of Title to Lots 1 & 2 Huff Jones Addition to Oconto City.

Commemorative Biographical Record of the West Shore of Green Bay, Wisconsin. Chicago, 1896.

Fowler, T. M. and H. H. Bailey. Bird's Eye View of Oconto, Wis. Milwaukee, 1871.

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History of Northern Wisconsin. Chicago, 1881.

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Sanborn and Perris. Insurance Maps of Oconto, Wis. Chicago, 1893, 1878, 1904, 1911, 1919, 1927.

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