

46/73

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wisconsin	
COUNTY: Outagamie	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>OCT 18 1972</b>	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Grignon (Charles A.) House	Congressmen to be notified: Sen. William Proxmire
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Sen. Gaylord Nelson Rep. John W. Byrnes

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: Augustine Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Kaukauna			
STATE Wisconsin	CODE 55	COUNTY: Outagamie	CODE 087

**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	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input 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) _____ _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: City of Kaukauna	STATE: Wisconsin COUNTY: Outagamie
STREET AND NUMBER: City Hall	
CITY OR TOWN: Kaukauna	
STATE: Wisconsin	

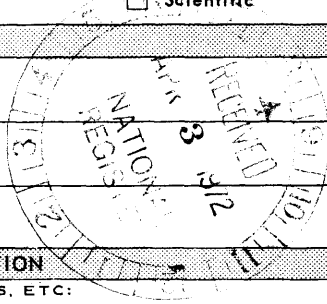
**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Outagamie County Courthouse	STATE: Wisconsin COUNTY: Outagamie
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN: Appleton	
STATE: Wisconsin	

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey	STATE: District of Columbia COUNTY:
DATE OF SURVEY: 1941	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	
STATE: District of Columbia	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Wisconsin  
 COUNTY: Outagamie  
 ENTRY NUMBER: OCT 18 1972  
 DATE: 11

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

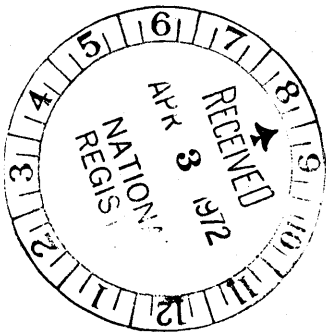
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Grignon House, built c. 1836 by Charles Augustin Grignon, is a large, 2 1/2 story Greek Revival frame house in the Federal mode. The main building has a one-story kitchen wing at the rear and, extending across the front, a "five bay, balustraded, square colonnaded porch, with a two story [pedimented] portico over the main entrance." This is the unique and outstanding exterior feature of the house, which is a handsome structure.

The wing is now the kitchen but was originally the dining room. In the early days the kitchen was a separate building connected by a short, covered passageway to the dining wing, where there was a window through which the food was passed. The original kitchen has long been gone, but the small window at the end of the wing still remains. The house has four fireplaces and seventeen rooms. Probably the most interesting interior feature is a solid cherry stair rail in the central hallway, with a fine, hand-carved, S-shaped newel post. It is in an excellent state of preservation.

Once in near-ruinous condition, the Grignon House has been beautifully and faithfully restored, furnished with numerous original Grignon items and appropriate related pieces to the period of 1836, and is operated as a museum of early Wisconsin history.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

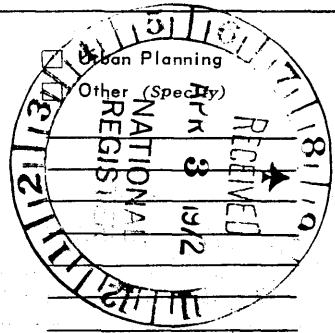
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<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) **c. 1836**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation		



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Grignon House is located at the hub of early French activity in Wisconsin. It was built in 1836 by Charles A. Grignon, who was born at Kaukauna June 8, 1808, and died there April 18, 1862. Grignon was a great-grandson of Charles de Langlade (1729-1800) usually regarded as the first permanent white settler of Wisconsin. About 1745 Charles de Langlade, along with his father, Augustin, migrated to La Baye (Green Bay) from Canada. The father was an Indian trader of French extraction, and de Langlade's mother was the sister of the head chief of the Ottowas. A daughter of de Langlade married Pierre Grignon and the two men formed a partnership to establish a fur-trading post at Grand Caquillien Rapids (Kaukauna) before 1760. When Pierre Grignon died in 1795, the fur-trading post was taken over by his son, Augustin. Augustin married Nancy McCrear, a near neighbor whose family also was engaged in the fur-trade. Charles A. Grignon was their oldest son.

Charles Grignon was educated partly in New York State and partly at Kaukauna. Upon completion of his studies he engaged in his father's enterprises in Kaukauna and Green Bay, later formed a partnership in fur-trading with his brother, and was involved with businesses of his own. From August 25, 1830 until his death in 1862, he was United States interpreter at all the Menominee Indian Treaties. The Menominee are said to have refused to attend any meetings unless they had Charles Grignon as their interpreter and confidential advisor. In later years Grignon became involved in civic affairs and was Outagamie County treasurer for many years.

The Grignon House, originally called the "Mansion in the Woods," was used as an inn, church, trading post, and meeting place for Indians. It was occupied by members of the Grignon family until 1933, when the youngest of Charles A. Grignon's children died there. The Grignon House leads us back to our earliest settlers and the beginnings of Wisconsin history. No other name in Wisconsin history is mentioned so often as that of the Grignons, and the index to the Wisconsin Historical Collections contains 1350 references to them.

The architectural significance of the Grignon House is certified by the Historic American Buildings Survey.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Historic American Buildings Survey, Wisconsin Architecture, National Park Service, Washington, D. C., 1965, 52.  
 Perrin, Richard W. E., Historic Wisconsin Architecture, Wis. Chapter, A.I.A., Milwaukee, 1960, 29.  
 Perrin, Richard W. E., Historic Wisconsin Buildings, Milwaukee Public Museum, 1962, 32, 37.  
 "Grignon, Charles Augustin," Dictionary of Wisconsin Biography, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, 1960, 150, 151.  
 "The Grignon House at Kaukauna," Badger History, 1(8):11, Madison, Wis., 1948.

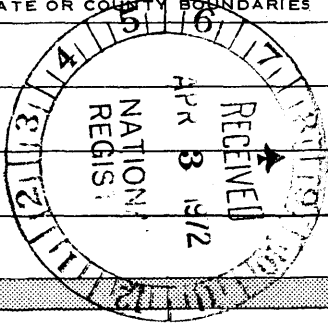
**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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 44° 17' 08"	W 88° 15' 21"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 7

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

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: Feb. 21, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN: Madison      STATE: Wisconsin      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: MAR 20 1972

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

Robert M. Utley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 10/18/72

ATTEST:  
Robert M. Utley  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 10/10/72

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: Grignon, Charles A., House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Outagamie

DATE RECEIVED: 4/06/00 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/21/00  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 72000064

NOMINATOR: STATE

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: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Additional Documentation Accepted**

RECOM. / CRITERIA

REVIEWER

DISCIPLINE

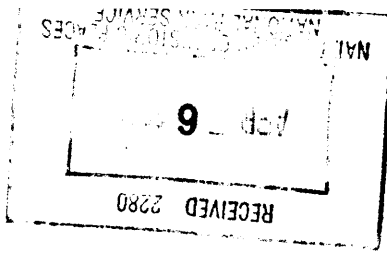
TELEPHONE

DATE

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

*Accept*  
*Edouard Beall*  
*Historian*  
*4/28/00*

72 000 064



NPS Form 10-900-a  
(Rev. 8-86)  
Wisconsin Word Processing Format  
(Approved 3/87)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Sections 9,10 Page 1 Grignon House  
Outagamie County, WI

**AMENDMENT**

**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 X statewide    locally. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Alicia J. Cook  
Signature of certifying official/Title

3/27/00  
Date

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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**REFERENCES CITED**

Mikos, Susan D. and Allen P. Van Dyke  
1999 *Archaeological Survey and Testing at the Augustin and Charles A. Grignon Sites in Outagamie County, Wisconsin-1999*. Report of Investigations No.199071, AVD Archaeological Services, Inc. Report on file, Office of the State Archaeologist, Division of Historic Preservation, State Historical Society, 816 State Street, Madison, WI, 53706.

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The boundary of the Grignon House property is shown as the bold line on the accompanying map entitled, "Boundaries of the Grignon House, Outagamie County, WI".

NPS Form 10-900-a  
(Rev. 8-86)  
Wisconsin Word Processing Format  
(Approved 3/87)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 Page 2

Grignon House  
Outagamie County, WI

---

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The 1972 nomination form for the Grignon House lists seven acres as the size of the property but does not define the property boundaries. This figure appears to be a technical error in the original documentation; it does not correspond to any land division associated with the Grignon family. The boundaries on the accompanying map, encompassing 4.55 acres, include all known resources historically associated with Augustin and Charles A. Grignon's homesteads as documented by historical research and archaeological survey (Mikos and Van Dyke 1999).

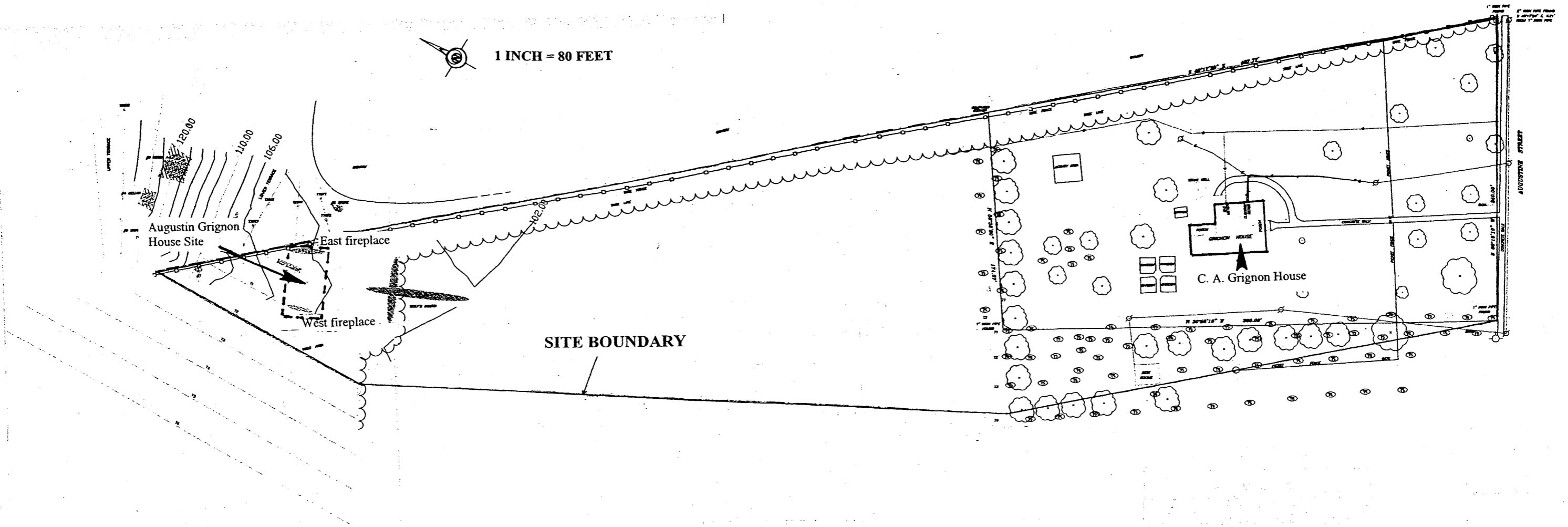


Fig. 1 BOUNDARIES OF THE GRIGNON HOUSE, OUTGAMIE COUNTY, WI