

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wisconsin	
COUNTY: Rock	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
FEB 1	1972

1. NAME

COMMON:
Milton House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Goodrich (Joseph) House and Log Cabin

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **18 South Janesville Street** **Congressmen to be notified:**
Sen. William Proxmire

CITY OR TOWN: **Milton** **Sen. Gaylord A. Nelson**
Rep. Les Aspin

STATE Wisconsin	CODE 53563	COUNTY: Rock	CODE 105
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Milton Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Milton** STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Rock County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Janesville** STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1941** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **District of Columbia** CODE: **11**

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

- Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

- Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

- Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Milton House, built in 1844, consists of a three-story hexagonal tower with each side of the hexagon approximately 20 feet wide, giving a total outer wall perimeter of something over 120 feet. A two-story rectangular wing which is 42 feet deep and 19 feet wide adjoins the south face of the tower, with the front wall of the wing beginning at the westernmost edge of the south face. The walls of the entire structure are made of concrete or grout consisting of sand, cement, broken stones and gravel in wet mixture which was tamped into forms to construct the walls. The outer surface of the walls was plastered or stuccoed. The basement is constructed of hammered limestone. Basement walls are 18" thick; first floor walls 15"; and the upper walls 12". In the center of the tower is a large chimney around which a circular (hexagonal) winding staircase follows to the third floor. Both top floors had five bedrooms or guest rooms, each with a door leading to the stairway. The ground floor was devoted to a parlor and a lobby.

Windows are double hung sash with wood frames and varying numbers of panes; those of the upper two floors of the tower have four panes per sash; those of the first floor, six panes each; and those of both floors of the wings have nine-paned upper and six-paned lower sash. A single large squared wood beam flush with the front wall serves as a lintel for the two lower windows of the wing, extending horizontally above the front door. Beams of similar size extend downward from it and form the sides of the door frame. A lintel of the same size caps the door frame and connects with the vertical pieces, the effect being that of providing the door with a cement transom and the entire first floor door-window complex with an appearance of extraordinary sturdiness.

Originally the two-story wing extended roughly ninety-two feet from the south wall of the tower and was divided into five separate units. The one nearest the tower was the living quarters of the Goodrich family, while the remaining four were occupied variously by stores or craftsmen's shops. The tower itself was the hostelry. Behind the middle of the five wing units was a forty-foot extension, two stories high, which added to the storage and utility space and really created a T of the wing as a whole.

In 1948 the four southernmost units collapsed, largely as a result of tampering with the south wall to provide an opening, leaving only the northernmost unit of the wing or T intact. When the Milton House was restored, only the unit adjoining the tower was restored along with the tower. In the restoration process, the ground floor of the tower was given additional support with vertical shoring and with replacement or reinforcement of floor joists. This and similar reinforcing where needed elsewhere, plus the loss of the greater part of the south wing, constitute the major alterations which have occurred. The restoration was nevertheless done with a high degree of fidelity.

Behind or to the east of the hexagonal tower is the small 1 1/2-story log cabin which was Goodrich's home and hostelry from about 1838 until he erected the Milton House. It is built of hand-squared logs and has the usual gable roof shingled with hand-cut shakes. At the west end is a massive split-rock chimney. ~~and at the east end is a small log cabin.~~ After the Milton

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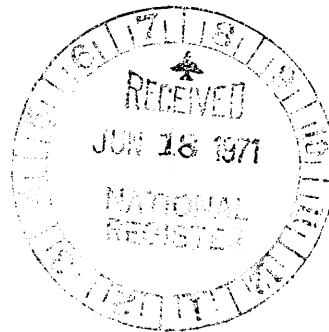
(Number all entries)

MILTON HOUSE

7. House was built, an underground tunnel connected its basement with the log cabin. The cabin is today a museum as part of the Milton House complex.

DESCRIPTION OF BOUNDARIES OF HISTORIC SITE:

Bounded on the north by a town road leading to Storrs Lake, on the east and south by private properties, and on the west by Janesville Street.



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1844**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input 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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, the design of Milton House is that of its builder, Joseph Goodrich, who explained that the purpose of the hexagonal tower was to enable him to watch for hostile Indians and that the use of cement walls was occasioned by the fact that burning the white man's dwelling was a frequent form of Indian attack.¹

Whether these reasons for the design and mode of construction are fact or fancy, the Milton House is significant not only for its influence on Orson Fowler but also, through him, its influence on American architecture at least to a degree. In his book *A Home For All*, Fowler states, relating to his visit to Wisconsin in 1850, "Near Jaynesville, Wisc., I saw houses built wholly of lime mixed with coarse gravel and sand...I visited Milton, to examine the house put up by Mr. Goodrich, the original discoverer of this mode of building, and found his walls as hard as stone itself, and harder than brick walls...He erected a blacksmith's shop, and finally a block of stores and dwellings; and his plan was copied extensively. And he certainly deserves to be immortalized, for the superiority of this plan must certainly revolutionize building, and especially enable poor men to build their own homes. All the credit I claim is that of appreciating its superiority, applying it on a large scale, and greatly improving the mode of putting up this kind of wall." ² Perrin adds, "What Joseph Goodrich had unwittingly done was to rediscover Roman concrete and give it one of the earliest uses in modern times." ³ Goodrich has been credited with having erected the first concrete building in the country, ⁴ but whether or not that can be supported as fact, Fowler's espousal of concrete as a structural material after seeing the Milton House, undoubtedly had its effects in the United States.

The small log cabin in which Goodrich lived before building the Milton House has significance in itself, and both structures were included in the 1941 catalog of the Historic American Buildings Survey. About the cabin's architecture Perrin states, "Of the small one-room cabins which marked the early pioneer period, two very good examples have survived and, fortunately, falling into sympathetic hands, have been very nicely restored. They are the John Petty cabin at Aztalan ...and the Goodrich cabin at Milton in Rock County. Both...were built by 'Yankees' in the late 1830's and are very typical of the smaller variety built by pioneers of Anglo-American stock." ⁵

Transportation history is naturally associated with the era of stagecoach travel and the establishment of taverns or inns along the stagecoach roads to provide food, shelter and rest for the travelers of the day. It is especially interesting that Joseph Goodrich was reputedly quite scientific

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Perrin, Richard W. E., The Architecture of Wisconsin, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, 1967, 35-36.
 Perrin, Richard W. E., Historic Wisconsin Buildings, Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, 1962, 6-8.
 Whyte, Bertha K., Wisconsin Heritage, Chas. T. Branford Co., Boxton, 1954, 14, 106-107.
 Titus, W. A., "The First Concrete Building in the United States," Wisconsin Magazine of History, 24(2):183-188, Dec., 1940.
 Cole, Harry E., Stagecoach and Tavern Tales of the Old Northwest, Arthur H. Clark Co., Cleveland, 1930, 126-128.

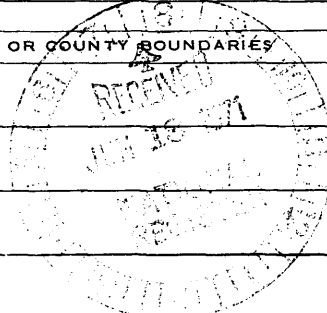
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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 42° 46' 37"	W 88° 56' 11"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.5

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Donald N. Anderson, Assistant Director, Historic Sites & Markers Division

ORGANIZATION: State Historical Society of Wisconsin DATE: April 20, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN: Madison STATE: Wisconsin 53706 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: June 15, 1971

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

Ewert A. Connolly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

FEB 1 1972

Date: _____

ATTEST:
J. Bradford
 for Keeper of The National Register

Date: January 4, 1972

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MILTON HOUSE

8. in choosing a site for his hostelry in the early days of such travel in Wisconsin. He is said to have selected the site by drawing on a map of the territory one line connecting Chicago and Madison and another connecting Fort Atkinson and the bend of the Rock River at which Janesville was being established. At the intersection of these lines he bought a considerable quantity of land and built his inn, expecting that it would become a major stopping and transfer place. It became so indeed and remained important for years thereafter, even when railroads at Milton and nearby Milton Junction eventually ended the need for a stagecoach stop. During the height of the era of stagecoach travel and as late as the 1870's there were at least twenty-five stagecoaches which made daily stops at the Milton House.

Goodrich is noted for other activities as well. In the same year that he built the Milton House, he established, in another cement building, the coeducational academy which later became Milton College. And while travel through the area was increasing, Goodrich was working at building the community of Milton, which he had established.

In pre-Civil War days the Milton House and Goodrich's log cabin, connected by a secret underground tunnel, served as a haven for escaped slaves on their way from the South to freedom in Canada. The Milton House is noted as having been an important and active station on the underground railroad.

1. Titus, "The First Concrete Building in the United States," 186
2. Quoted in Perrin, The Architecture of Wisconsin, 35
3. Perrin, The Architecture of Wisconsin, 36.
4. Titus, op. cit., 185
5. Perrin, Historic Wisconsin Buildings, 8
6. Titus, op. cit., 184
7. Cole, Stagecoach and Tavern Tales, 127-128

