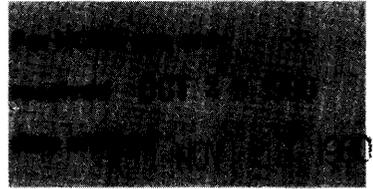


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**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 Huson, Henry H., House and Water Tower

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 405 Collins Street and Henry H. Huson Park not for publication

city, town Plymouth vicinity of Sixth congressional district

state Wisconsin code 55 county Sheboygan code 117

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name House: Mr. and Mrs. Peter Ullrich (continued)

street & number 405 Collins Street

city, town Plymouth vicinity of Wisconsin state 53073

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sheboygan County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Sheboygan state Wisconsin 53081

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Sheboygan County Landmarks, Ltd. has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date designated 1976 federal state county local
(private)

depository for survey records

city, town Sheboygan state Wisconsin 53081

(continued)

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Henry H. Huson house sits on a two acre lot studded with mature trees on Collins Street in the small city of Plymouth. Across the street on a smaller lot is the watertower which was built by Huson in 1887 to serve his house.

The House

The form of the house, a two-story frame structure, changed by accretion several times in the 19th century. An 1870 bird's-eye map of Plymouth shows a two-story east-west section with its gable running parallel to Collins Street. From the front projects a wing of the same height. The July 3, 1873 Plymouth Reporter noted that a major addition (18 x 38) was being constructed. This was no doubt the wing to the rear, which gives the house a cruciform shape. This wing is two-stories high near the main block of the house and steps down to one-story at the rear. It might also have been in 1873 that the three-story tower was constructed, filling in the northwest corner of the "el" between the front (north) wing and the main block.

Across the front of the house, unifying the north wing and the tower extends an elegantly simple wooden porch. Flattened arches spring from impost blocks composed of molding strips on square posts. An iron balustrade of foliate scrolls topped by a row of wrought iron starflowers trims the roof of the porch. The front entrance door leading into the tower is pierced by two round-arched lancets. A top light is decorated in late 19th century stained glass rosettes. Two French windows also open onto the front porch. The top sash of each window is ringed by tiny stained glass panes in the Queen Anne style.

The siding protected by the porch is composed of narrow, flush boards. Elsewhere on the first floor narrow clapboards abut at corner posts. The second story is sided with vertical board and batten. The tall, square tower is also sided with board and batten. Doubled windows with sixteen lights in the top sash and single panes below light the interior. The hipped roof on the tower is crowned by a lacy iron cresting.

On the west side of the house the roof of the main east-west section projects out a bit to cover a two-story Queen Anne rectangular bay. The tall rectangular windows are edged with tiny stained glass panes and a window box decorates the ground level. In the southwest "el" between the main and rear wings is another porch trimmed much like the front porch. The back one-story wing is entirely board-and-batten. Projecting from the southeast corner of the "el" is another one-story wing containing a bathroom and a solarium. This wing is

(continued)

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Continuation sheet

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4. Owner of Property (continued)

Watertower: City of Plymouth
Plymouth, Wisconsin 53073

6. Representation in Existing Surveys (continued)

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places
1975 State
State Historical Society of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

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7. Description (continued)

probably a late addition. Tucked into the "el" in the northeast corner is another small porch.

Wood shingles cover the roof. The house is painted in its late 19th century colors--brown with blue shutters, doors and steps.

One enters the oak-trimmed front hall under the tower. To the left is the front parlor, which takes up the whole north wing. The east-west section contains a study to the left, which features stained glass doors, the old central hallway with its narrow stairway, and the living room with a corner mahogany fireplace hand-carved in England. In 1965 when Alice Huson Bush died, the family removed the light fixtures and the mantel. When it became certain that the house would be preserved, they returned the mantel to its place in the living room.

The first room in the rear wing is the dining room, with wainscotted walls and an oak parquet floor. Next are the pantry and the kitchen, which also has an oak parquet floor, and glassed cabinets and a wooden cookstove. The last room is a summer kitchen.

Upstairs are four bedrooms. The room above the living room has an oak parquet floor. All others in the house not specified above are floored in maple.

The Barn

Behind the house is a barn, now used as a garage, which originally stood closer to the house and was one of several outbuildings on the property, including an outhouse and a chicken coop. The stable part of the barn was torn off in 1940 when the carriage storage part of the barn was moved to the rear of the lot.

The Watertower

The watertower is a frame, two-story structure built in 1887. The first floor of the watertower is decorated with an overlaid arcade of long narrow, round-arched lancets. Above the arcade a wide band of horizontal boards separates the first story from the clapboarded second story. The foundation is trimmed in a half-timber pattern of wood on each side of the door facing Collins Street.

One window pierces each side of the tower at the first and second stories. Each window is capped by a triangular molded wood pediment. On the shallow hipped roof sits a shingled cupola with a gabled eave on each side protecting a small window. Originally, a steeply pitched roof and the windmill structure rose above the cupola.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) association with locally significant person
Specific dates	ca. 1870	Builder/Architect		

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Henry H. Huson house is eligible for the National Register as the best example of Downingesque architecture in Plymouth and as the home of Henry H. Huson, "one of the most widely known and influential residents of Plymouth."¹ In addition, the watertower is the last remaining of the six which originally served individual residences in Plymouth.

History

The community of Plymouth was originally two towns, Quit-Qui-Oc east of Division Street developed by the Smith brothers from Vermont, and to the west of Division Street, the hamlet of Plymouth. Patrick H. Smith insured the vitality of his family's development when he moved his general store, the major provisioner in the area, from Plymouth to Quit-Qui-Oc in 1850.² Quit-Qui-Oc grew to be a flourishing small commercial center serving the German settlers who homesteaded the farms of western Sheboygan County.

Main Street in Quit-Qui-Oc ran along the northern edge of the Mullet River. On the south bluff overlooking the Mullet, the three Smith brothers and Robert H. Hotchkiss, the mill owner, built their gracious Yankee residences.

Meanwhile, in 1856, H. H. Huson at the age of eleven, came to Sheboygan County from New York State with his parents. After attending college, Huson began his business career in 1866 as a merchant's clerk for Smith. In 1868 Huson bought an interest in the business, which became known as Smith and Huson.³ In 1869 Smith sold Huson property on "Yankee Hill." According to Sheboygan Landmarks, Ltd., and Alfred Radloff, a previous owner, the house was built for Huson in 1870. He moved into the house with his new bride, a niece of Smith's from Vermont, in 1870.⁴

Huson became a very prosperous businessman and was "classed among the most successful and popular merchants of Sheboygan County." In later years he was associated with Gustav Zerler. In 1891 Huson became one of the incorporators of the Schramm and Huson Chair company, one of several wood product manufacturers in Sheboygan County. In 1894 this company employed seventy-five people.

Huson served six years as clerk of the Plymouth School Board and two terms (1878-1879 and 1888-1889) as Plymouth's mayor. During his terms, street lighting was installed on the principal streets and

(continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property 1.7 acre

Quadrangle name Plymouth South, Wisconsin

Quadrangle scale 1: 24,000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>6</u> <u>5</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Ullrich property: Appleton's Addition #2, Lot 63 and N 75' of the W 1/2 of Lot 68, City of Plymouth, Wisconsin.
 City of Plymouth property: Appleton's Addition #2, Lot 56.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Katherine H. Rankin
 organization for the owner date April 1, 1980
 street & number 1109 Sherman Avenue telephone 608-256-2905
 city or town Madison state Wisconsin 53703

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Richard Muey

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 10/14/80

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Carol W. Shull date 11-28-80
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Linda Hunt Mc Clelland date 11.28.80
 Chief of Registration

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8. Significance (continued)

the first City Hall and Jail were built.

Architecture

The Huson House is an excellent example of the Downingesque tradition of frame house construction as imported from New England and New York State to the midwest by pioneering Yankee settlers. It is by no means a pure design, with its steeply pitched Gothic rooflines, Italian campanile and Queen Anne bay and window trim. But its nineteenth century accretions were sensitively designed by Plymouth's carpenter-builders and their masterly use of wood as a material enhanced the beauty of the structure so that although it is small, the Huson house ranks in elegance and monumentality with the later and more lavish French Second Empire houses built on the bluff.

Of the few early Downingesque cottages left in Plymouth, the Huson house is the best example. The P. H. Smith house was no doubt a fine Carpenter Gothic house but, unfortunately, about the only remnant of Smith's house is a scrolling vine bargeboard now applied to a different house.

Recent History

The Husons had one daughter, Alice, who married E. J. Bush, a vice-president for the P. Lorillard Company. The Bushes continued to own the house throughout their lives, although they used it only as a summer residence. They changed very little of its Victorian features. Mrs. Bush died in 1965. She asked her family to demolish the house, because her mother had been saddened to watch a neighboring house decline into a ruin. However, preservationists in Sheboygan bought the house to save it from the wrecker's ball.

At the time of Mrs. Bush's death, her son Henry dedicated the land across the street and the watertower to the City to serve as a public park. In the early 1970s the Plymouth Lions Club spearheaded an effort to develop the park and restored the watertower. Built in 1887, its water was used to serve the house and for lawn and garden sprinkling and a large fountain which graced the front lawn.⁶ In the 1890s it was one of six such towers, the others serving residences on E. Main Street, Milwaukee Street, Forest Avenue and another on Collins.⁷ Now it is the last remaining.

¹ Zillier, p. 239.

² Plymouth Centennial Book.

³ Bleyer.

⁴ U.S. Census rolls show the Huson's as probably living next to the Hotchkiss family who are known to have lived on Collins.

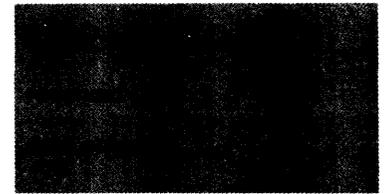
⁵ Portrait and Biographical Record, p. 620.

⁶ Sandvig.

⁷ Ibid.

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