

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wisconsin	
COUNTY: Grant	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-5-48-0005	DATE 5/19/70

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Stonefield

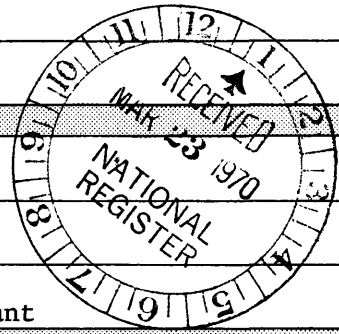
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Nelson Dewey Plantation

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1 mi. NW of Wis. 133 on County "VV"

CITY OR TOWN:  
Cassville

STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 48 COUNTY: Grant CODE: 043



**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
State of Wisconsin, Department of Natural Resources

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Madison STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 48

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Lancaster STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 48

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
None

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Wisconsin

COUNTY: Grant

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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

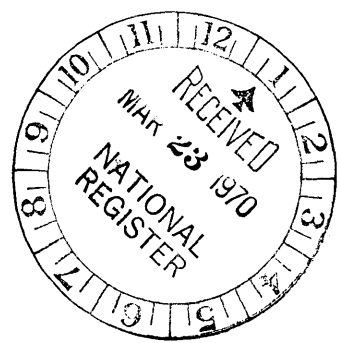
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The homesite of Stonefield is on a sloping hillside at the base of a line of high bluffs along the Wisconsin side of the Mississippi River. The buildings near the main house--a smokehouse and a two-story wine cellar--are handsome steep-gabled Gothic structures built of native limestone which was quarried some seven miles away. These gray and buff buildings are original parts of the complex of buildings constructed in the early 1860's. The home itself, built at the same time, was also a Gothic structure, a stone mansion with stately dormers, and known as the show-place of the upper Mississippi valley until a fire in 1873 destroyed the roof and much of the interior. When it was rebuilt, the walls were trimmed down; the dormers omitted, the walls made of red brick. Thus the house lost most of its Gothic characteristics and took on a much less handsome Victorian style. The well-kept original outbuildings, however, still demonstrate the grandeur of the estate. The original two-story steep-gabled stone barn still stands and has been modified inside for office, workshop and display space.

DESCRIPTION OF BOUNDARIES OF HISTORIC SITE:

Bounded on the north by the section line between Sections 12 and 13, Town 3 North, Range 6 West; on the south and west by the Cassville Slough of the Mississippi River; and occupying approximately the southwest 1/4 of Section 18, Town 3 North, Range 5 West; thus bounded on the northeast by the line dividing Range 5 West from Range 6 West. The property boundaries coincide with and are identical to those of Nelson Dewey State Park. See Property Map.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**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) ~~1854 - 1889~~ 1860's

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"/> 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

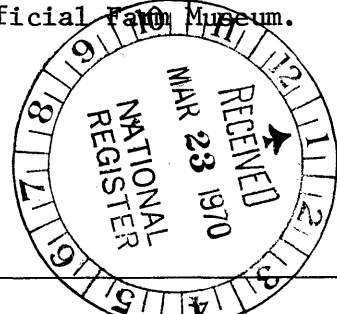
Although significant because of its Gothic Revival architecture and prominence as a magnificent estate in the 1860's and 1870's, Stonefield's greater importance lies in its builder, Nelson Dewey, Wisconsin's first state governor.

Dewey was born in Connecticut in 1813 of a well-to-do family, was well educated and schooled in law. He came to Cassville in 1836 at the time the Wisconsin Territory was created and rose rapidly on the political horizon. He was elected to the Territorial Assembly in 1838, became Speaker of the House in 1840 and was reelected in that year. In 1842 he won election to the Legislative Council for four years, during one session of which he served as president of the council. He was also, during the 1840's, Clerk of the Grant County Board of Supervisors for one or two years and District Attorney for about one year. In May, 1848, when Wisconsin attained statehood, Nelson Dewey was elected the first state governor. He was reelected in 1850, thus serving as governor for two terms. In 1853 he was elected State Senator from Grant County. After leaving that office, however, he never again attained real prominence in state politics, though he did hold important offices at local governmental levels at various places in Grant County for some time thereafter.

Between the mid-1850's and early 1870's he amassed a considerable fortune, but lost most of it and eventually became poverty-stricken after the money panic of 1873. He died a poor man in 1889. But during his career in state politics he was a man of power who did much in shaping the destiny of the state and establishing good government.

The Nelson Dewey plantation was significant in agriculture not only because of the diversity of Dewey's farming but also because of his experimental and pioneering agricultural efforts which led to important new farming practices. In 1953 the Wisconsin Legislature designated the Nelson Dewey plantation as the state's official Farm Museum.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Holford, C. N., "Nelson Dewey, 1813-1889," History of Grant County Wisconsin, 1900. 101-109.  
 "Nelson Dewey, Autobiography of Wisconsin's First Governor," The Teller, Lancaster, Wisconsin, October 24, 1889.  
 "Governor Dewey's Life, Sketch of His Career by Hon. W. Seaton of Potosi," The Teller, Lancaster, Wisconsin, December 5(?) and 12, 1889.  
 Kutchin, Victor, "Some Personal Recollections of Governor Dewey," Wisconsin Magazine of History, 10: 411-416, (June, 1927).  
 Perrin, Richard W. E., Historic Wisconsin Architecture, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1960, 26.

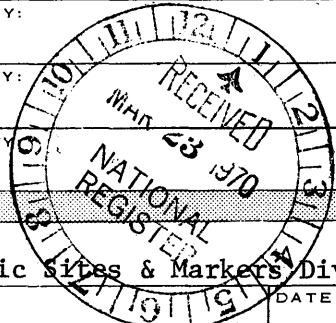
**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	N42° 44 ' 34 "	W 91° 02 ' 11 "		0	0	
NE	N42° 44 ' 34 "	W 91° 00 ' 25 "				
SE	N42° 43 ' 31.5 "	W 91° 00 ' 25 "				
SW	N42° 43 ' 31.5 "	W 91° 02 ' 11 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **591**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

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

ORGANIZATION: **State Historical Society of Wisconsin** DATE: **Jan. 28, 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**816 State Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Madison** STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **48**

**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 Richard A. Emery  
 Title Acting Director  
State Historical Society of Wis.  
 Date March 18, 1970

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

Ernest Allen Connally  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

**MAY 19 1970**

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 ATTEST:  
William J. VanAntwerp  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 Date **MAY 7 1970**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS