

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wisconsin	
COUNTY: Milwaukee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 23 1972

1. NAME	
COMMON: Damon (Lowell) House	Congressmen to be notified: Sen. William Proxmire
AND/OR HISTORIC: Damon (Oliver) House	Sen. Gaylord A. Nelson Rep. Glenn R. Davis

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 2107 North Wauwatosa Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Wauwatosa			
STATE Wisconsin	CODE 53213	COUNTY: Milwaukee	CODE 079

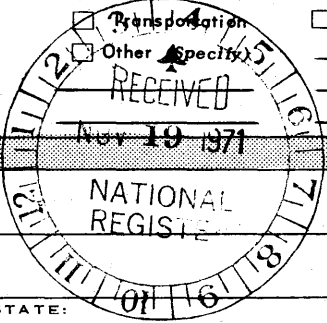
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input 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	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Milwaukee County Historical Society			
STREET AND NUMBER: 910 North 3rd Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Milwaukee	STATE: Wisconsin	CODE 53203	CODE 55

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Milwaukee County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER: 901 North 9th Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Milwaukee	STATE: Wisconsin	CODE 53233	CODE 55

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1935	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress			
STREET AND NUMBER: Washington D.C.			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington D.C.	STATE: District of Columbia	CODE 11	DATE FEB 23 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Wisconsin
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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

Built in 1844-1846, the Lowell Damon house is a unique combination of Greek Revival and Colonial architecture in a number of details. It consists of a wide, 1 1/2-story, gabled-roofed frame structure with a loft, and with a single-story ell at the rear (west). The ell was built first, in 1844, and has a saltbox profile. At its northwest corner is a small lean-to shed. The main house was built later, having been completed in 1846. The main house is wide, with the front (east) end divided into five bays. It is shallow, however, being only one-room deep, the depth being about half that of the ell.

Interesting features include a nicely detailed Colonial front doorway with a wide cornice supported by pilasters, a single, rather complexly paneled door, and narrow, four-paned sidelights. At the gable ends the cornices are deep and the returns are supported by corner pilasters similar to those of the doorway. Along either side of the main house is a pair of single frieze windows with diamond-shaped lights, and there is a single frieze window on the south side of the ell near the point where it adjoins the main house. All other windows in the house are six-paned, double-hung sash, with those of the main house having ornamental architrave trim. The house is clapboarded in its entirety with the exception of the rear shed which is sided with flush vertical boards.

At the time that the house was measured for the Historic American Buildings Survey, in 1935, it had deteriorated to almost ruinous condition. Fortunately it was saved and faithfully restored by the Milwaukee County Historical Society, to which it had been donated. In his HABS report of 1935, Guth reported that the house had been built from trees in the forest which originally surrounded it and that, "Some of the young saplings were simply squared on one side and used as rafters and joists. Others were hewn and squared with an adze, and the tool marks are still to be seen on many a piece of timber in the old house. Much of this timbering is of oak and black walnut."

At one time a garage door opening was cut into the north side of the ell where there had originally been a porch. This area has been reconstructed.

The house is owned and maintained by the Milwaukee County Historical Society which operates it as a museum of Wauwatosa history. It is currently in need of minor exterior repairs but is generally well kept-up. The main house, which is the museum portion, is unoccupied, but a caretaker lives in the ell.

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) **1844-46**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

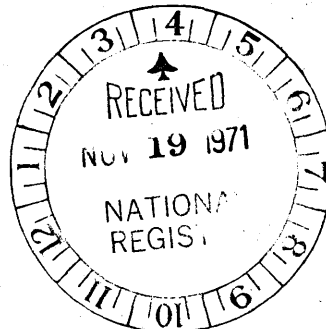
- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Lowell Damon house is architectural, lying much in its "originality of conception, refinement of detail and excellence of mouldings."¹ Apparently the original landowner and builder was Oliver Damon, Jr., but the house has long been known as the Lowell Damon house, identified with the son of the builder. It is one of the oldest landmarks of the city of Wauwatosa and one of the best-known of the Milwaukee area in general. Its builder was a carpenter and wheelwright who, according to Guth, must have learned his carpenter's trade in the surroundings of some of the best of Colonial work in the East. Damon had come from New Hampshire. It is described in one report on file with the Historic American Buildings Survey as being "As refreshing a piece of typical colonial architecture as can be found in the entire state."² Guth was reportedly much impressed with the house, and his HABS report, after calling attention to some of the exceptional refinements of detail, states, "The average citizen of Wauwatosa is not alive to the fact that here is an example of the purest type of architecture extant."³

1. Guth, "Lowell Damon House" (HABS report), 1935, 2.
2. Kohler, 29.
3. Guth, op. cit.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kohler, Ruth de Young, Wisconsin's Historic Sites, The Committee on Wisconsin Women, Kohler, Wis. 1848, 28-29.
 Perrin, Richard W. E., Historic Wisconsin Architecture, Wisconsin Chapter, American Institute of Architects, Milwaukee, 1960, 19.
Wisconsin Architecture, Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1965, 78.
 Guth, Alexander C., "Lowell Damon House," Data Reported to HABS, Sept. 9, 1935, (WIS-121).

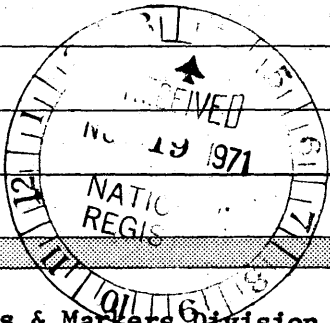
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		N 43°	03'	22"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		W 88°	00'	28"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **0.2**

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: **August 24, 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 NOV 12 1971

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

Ernest R. Connelly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date **FEB 23 1972**

ATTEST:
William M. [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date **FEB 8 1972**

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