

5-1-1-4

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Wisconsin
COUNTY:	Walworth
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 24 1974

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Strang (James Jesse) House

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Mormon House

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: *W of Burlington on* Congressman to be notified:  
Route 2 (State Trunk Highway 11) *Wise* Rep. Les Aspin, Wis. 1st Dist.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Burlington (vicinity)

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Wisconsin	55	Walworth	127

**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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

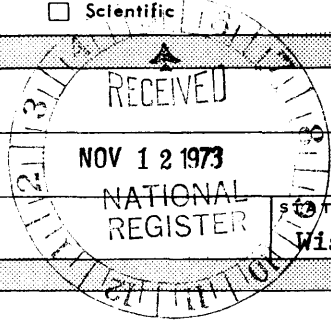
**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mrs. J. A. Wilson

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Route 2

CITY OR TOWN:  
Burlington

STATE:	CODE
Wisconsin	55



**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Elkhorn

STATE:	CODE
Wisconsin	55

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1935  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE:	CODE
District of Columbia	11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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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 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

Built in 1844 in the Mormon settlement of Voree, just west of Burlington, the Strang house is a simple 1 1/2 story cottage of Burlington limestone rubble laid random and heavily mortared. It is gable-roofed with a saltbox profile. The lean-to at the rear which gives the profile is flush with the east wall of the house but extends by itself beyond the west wall. It is apparently original as it appears in all known photographs or illustrations of the house, however early. The house has wood lintels, sill, cornice, and muntined sash, and is characterized by Perrin as being extremely simple and typical of the Mormon architecture of the area.

Exteriorly the house has been well maintained and is in good condition. The condition of the interior is not known.



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**

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 checked="" 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 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The architectural significance of the Strang house is certified by the Historic American Buildings Survey. It is important in being representative of the Mormon contribution to the architecture of the region and is characterized by extreme simplicity and the use of Burlington limestone quarried nearby.

The greater significance of the house lies in its association with James Jesse Strang and the onetime settlement of Voree, a community of factional Mormons in Wisconsin.

James Jesse Strang (1813-1856) came to Burlington from New York in 1843 and practiced law for a time with some degree of success. He had been attracted to Mormonism and in 1844 went to Nauvoo, Illinois, was converted and baptized by Joseph Smith, the Mormon prophet, and became ardent in the practice of the religion. When Smith was murdered in 1844, Strang challenged the leadership of Brigham Young and was excommunicated by Young's followers. Strang produced a document mailed to him from Nauvoo before Smith's murder and received at the Burlington post office which was purportedly written by Smith and named Strang as his successor. The document was not accepted by Young's followers, however.

Strang developed a following of his own and established the community of Voree, "The Garden of Peace," in Walworth County just west of Burlington, Wisconsin, in 1844 and eventually attracted some 2,000 settlers. Between 1844 and 1847, Strang devoted his time to establishing his position as the chosen leader of the colony through various revelations and miracles, which included finding and being given the power to translate some metal plates which had been buried beneath a tree within Voree. He propagandized his theology through the Voree Herald, later known by various names, including Gospel Herald, which was printed in the Strang cottage in Voree.

Local hostilities toward the Strangite Mormons, and dissensions within the colony, resulted in Strang's moving the congregation to Beaver Island in Lake Michigan in 1847, where he established a truly autocratic religious settlement. He had himself ceremoniously crowned king, proclaimed the sanctity of polygamy and personally began to practice it by taking four wives to himself. Having shown complete disregard for property and other rights of non-members of his kingdom, Strang was charged in 1851 with

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Dictionary of Wisconsin Biography, Madison, 1960, 341-342.  
 Fulton, Antoinette Meinhardt, "Adventures in Old Voree," Wisconsin Magazine of History, 33:391-402, 1950.  
 Perrin, Richard W. E., Historic Wisconsin Architecture, Milwaukee, 1960, 12.  
 "Voree. A Mormon Community Founded in Spring Prairie over Sixty Years Ago," Delavan (Wis.) Republican, Jan. 4, 1906 et seq.  
 "When the Mormon Church Flourished in Wisconsin," Beloit (Wis.) Free Press, Feb. 23, 1906.  
Wisconsin Architecture, Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, Washington, 1965, 38.

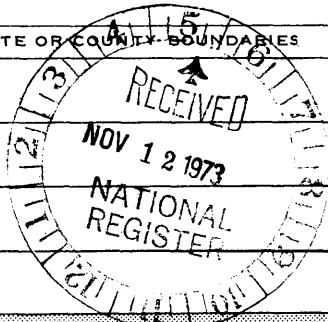
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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	° ' "	° ' "		N 42° 41' 00"	W 88° 18' 31.5"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **3.5**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

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

ORGANIZATION: **State Historical Society of Wisconsin** DATE: **July 12, 1973**

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 5 November 1973

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

D. R. Montrose  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 1/24/74

ATTEST:  
Doris Emery  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date Jan 21, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Wisconsin	
COUNTY Walworth	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 24 1974

(Number all entries)

Strang (James Jesse) House

- counterfeiting, robbing the mails, and trespassing on federal lands, but won acquittal. Twice (1852 and 1854), Strang's followers succeeded in electing him to the Michigan legislature. In June, 1856, anger arising from Strang's arbitrariness and high-handed treatment of his subjects culminated in an assassination attempt by two members of his own kingdom on Beaver Island. At his own request, Strang was returned to Voree where he died the following month. He was buried in the Voree cemetery but later reinterred in the Burlington cemetery.

A few Strangite Mormons are still to be found in the area, but most of the old settlement of Voree long ago reverted to use as farmland and only a few vestiges of the colony can still be found. The Strang house, located at the northernmost edge of the land occupied by the settlement, is the only whole structure remaining. It is fortunately well preserved, retaining its original appearance, and still in use as a private residence.

