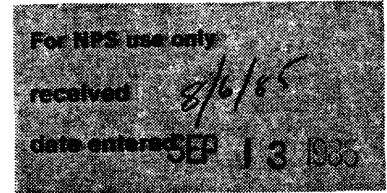


United States Department of the Interior
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COBBLESTONE BUILDINGS
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INVENTORY OF NOMINATED PROPERTIES

Clark-Brown House

3457 Riverside Drive
Beloit, Wisconsin

Owner: Dwight Brown
3457 Riverside Drive
Beloit, Wisconsin

The Clark-Brown House is located north of the city of Beloit on the bluff, east of U.S. Highway 51 overlooking the Rock River. Originally part of a larger parcel of 240 acres purchased in 1839 by Lewis Clark, a native of Orange County, Vermont, the farm came to be known in the latter part of the 19th century as "Cottage Hill Farm." From it Clark operated a dairy which included some 20 head of fine Jersey cattle.⁸

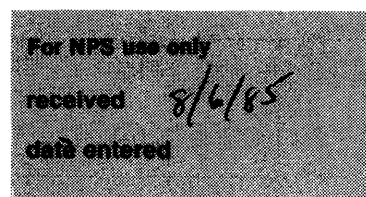
For purposes of this nomination the house is included in an area of less than 1 acre beginning from a point 2' south and 2' west of the southwest corner of the structure, thence easterly 67', thence northerly 48', thence westerly 67' and thence southerly 48' to the point of beginning. The limitation of the boundary includes only sufficient land to accommodate the structure of the house itself and excludes later outbuildings, as well as a small limestone "ice house," on the now 10 acre parcel.

The house has a basilican appearance: the two story gable roofed core of the house is extended on the east, north and south by salt box, one story wings with metal standing seam roofs. The cobblestone work on the east, north and south walls has small stones, 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 inches in diameter, laid up in horizontal bands with gray mortar in a narrow bedded joint between the layers of tones. The cobblestones vary in color with grey and brown tones predominant. The inner core of the exterior walls is rubble stone set in mortar. The cobblestone and brick veneers (west wall) cover this core so that it is only visible in the basement and evident in the deep window wells and doorways. There is some indication that the east one wing may have been added later; the west wall of the present kitchen area is approximately 12" thick and may have been an original exterior wall.

Limestone quoins, sills and lintels decorate the exterior of the house on the east, north and south. The west facade is cream brick with flat segmental brick lintels; it is thought to be of later construction built up following a fire which damaged the original west wall sometime in the late 19th century. Evidence of the fire was found in the charred boards, now enclosed in the interior wall, near the west foundation. Support beams in the basement have been replaced by milled 2 x 6 inch boards.

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INVENTORY OF NOMINATED PROPERTIES (cont.)

Greek Revival style returned cornices with wide fascia dominate the central core and one story wings of the building. The rectangular windows are six over six paned, double hung sash on the first story, while those of the second story are smaller "half" windows of three paned, double hung sash.

The original recessed entry in the south wing has been enclosed and is now an entrance hall. The west wall of the house is dominated by an open porch with Doric style columns supporting a flat roof surmounted by a second story balustrade. Another frame porch on the east extends outward from the one story cobblestone wing and then continues the downward slope of the roofline. It is essentially a sun-porch, and the cobblestone work of the original wall is now painted grey.

Much of the interior woodwork and hardware remain intact. The window frames are of wide panelled boards that are set at a 45 degree angle into deep window wells. Original doors and hardware have been well maintained on the interior. It should be noted that the window frames in the east porch are not angled. On the second story, the interior window frames are not as elaborate as those of the first story.

UTM Reference: 16/332940/4714040 (Beloit, Wis. 1:2400) Acreage: less than one

Clark Brown House

SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Clark-Brown House lies in its unique type and method of construction: the use of small rounded cobblestones as an exterior wall veneer. Built in 1847,⁹ it is also unique in its basilican outward appearance, and is the only such building type known in Rock County. Distinguished from the other cobblestone work known in the county, the Clark-Brown House contributes substantially to the cobblestone heritage of Rock County and the theme of the nomination.