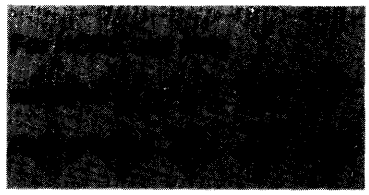
FHR-8-300 (11-78)

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 Drohman, George, Residence

and/or common Drohman Cabin (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 6701 E. Broadway ___ not for publication

city, town Madison ___ vicinity of congressional district Second

state Wisconsin code 55 county Dane code 025

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	_X_ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
_X_ building(s)	___ private	_X_ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	_X_ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	_X_ other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name City of Madison Parks Department

street & number 704 E. Gorham

city, town Madison ___ vicinity of state Wisconsin 53709

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City Clerk

street & number 210 Monona Avenue

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53709

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes _X_ no

date 1981 ___ federal _X_ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_X_ original site
___ good	___ ruins	_X_ altered	___ moved date _____
_X_ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Drohman cabin is a one and one-half story building, standing alone on a small rise in the middle of what is now the Yahara Hills Golf Course. Originally a dwelling, the building has not become altogether anomalous in its surroundings, because of the recurring growth of high grasses immediately around it. Currently, the cabin is sheathed in late-nineteenth century board and batten siding on the outside and modern lath and plaster on the inside. On the exterior of the east wall and the interior of the south wall the sheathings have fallen away, revealing the two-story shaped log principle portion of the structure, and the small one-story tan brick and half-timber rear portion with its wattle-and-daub interior structure.

The front facade is spanned by an open porch of simple square columns and remnants of a jig-saw-cut valence, supporting the extended gable roof. At the time that the porch was added (probably in the late nineteenth century), a triangular gable was added in the center of the roof over the front facade. More recent red brick infill over the side wall of the rear extension indicates that the rear slope of the roof was altered to its saltbox form at the time that the board-and-batten veneer was applied, probably also in the late nineteenth century. The entire roof, with its front and rear extensions, is now covered with asphalt shingles. One red brick chimney rises from the western half of the rear extension, which lacks the wattle-and-daub interior finish and may well have been added at a later date. (A small closed "vestibule" added in the center of the rear extension conceals any evidence of a scar.) A tall exterior chimney, of concrete block, rises along the east wall. Openings throughout are rectangular, enclosed by wood frames and covered by plywood panels where they have not been disturbed. A flight of steps serves the wood door in the cellar on the west wall.

The logs in the two-story portion are handhewn oak, laid horizontally in the manner of the German immigrants, who left spaces between the logs for chinking of mortar and boards. The corners are joined with dovetailed notches, also a typically German technique. The logs are in excellent condition despite their age (more than 125 years) due to the board-and-batten veneer. The timbers that are exposed in the basement area and interior wall of the first floor show little sign of rot.

The only structural problems with the building appear to be the disturbance of the wattle and daub construction in the south wall, a missing section of the back wall of the main log portion of the dwelling, a missing porch column, and loss of jigsaw valences, and a leaking roof.

Aside from the visible portion of wattle-and-daub structure on the south wall and shaped logs on the south wall of the rear extension, little evidence of the original form of the interior remains. Generations of crumbling plaster-and-lath and wall paper (probably from the 1920s and 1940s) cover the walls. Panelled wood doors of late nineteenth-century vintage divide the front portion and rear extension into two rooms each; a hall and stairway fill the center (actually the rear of the two-story portion) of the plan. A wood door with three ascending rectangular lights (typical of the early 1950s) covers the front entrance. Buckling linoleum covers the floors. Deterioration and water damage, although not serious, are considerable.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion	
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science	
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture	
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian	
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater	
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation	
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)	
		___ invention			

Specific dates c. 1850[1] **Builder/Architect** George Drohman[2]

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The George Drohman Cabin is architecturally significant as a rare representative of a type of ethnic construction. The small cabin is one of few known extant examples of German-type shaped log, half-timber, and wattle-and-daub construction in the state.

Constructed in mid-nineteenth-century "frontier" Madison on land granted by the United States during Wisconsin's year of admission to the Union,[2] the nominated structure, in its isolation on the Yahara Hills Golf Course, is one of few "pioneer" structures in Wisconsin whose site retains some of its historical character. Tax records of 1851 show German[3] immigrant George Drohman as "resident owner" of eighty acres of land in the Town of Blooming Grove, east of the capital village of Madison. Nothing is known about Drohman's specific region of origin or whereabouts after he failed to appear in the 1860 state census. According to State Historical Society of Wisconsin staff at Old World Wisconsin, the state's outdoor ethnic museum, the Drohman Cabin is one of only three known examples of wattle-and-daub construction in the state.[4] The technique, consisting of branches woven through wood members and plastered with a mixture of clay and straw, was used extensively in northern European construction, and by German and Danish immigrants to Wisconsin in the nineteenth century. In addition to the significance of the wattle-and-daub alone, the survival of a shaped log building with German-type half-timber extension on its original site on the outskirts of an urban area is exceptional.

The abstract of title to the original Drohman property showed a transfer of to Adolph Siggelkow in 1851; possession passed from the Siggelkow heirs to Charles Beckman in 1890. The house and property remained in private hands until the early 1960s when the City of Madison acquired the land. The cabin now sits at the top of a rise surrounded by an island of vegetation on the Yahara Hills Golf Course, owned and operated by the City. In its present protective ownership, it may be that the educational potential of the Drohman Cabin could be realized.

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1 Dane Co. Tax Rolls.

2 Title Abstract.

3 Wisconsin State Census records, 1850.

4 March 31, 1981 interview with Mark Knipping and Alan Pape, Old World Wisconsin, Eagle, WI, by Jacquelyn Star of Madison. Architectural Historian Richard W. E. Perrin, in a letter of March 27, 1981 to Diane Filipowicz of the State Historical Society, recommended Pape as knowledgeable about wattle-and-daub construction. That letter, and transcript of the subsequent interview, are on file in the Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Madison East, Wis. Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	16	315910	7766820	B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property shall consist of a square ninety feet by ninety feet in size centered on the building.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By (continued)

name/title Jacquelyn Star

organization N/A date February, 1981

street & number 701 Schiller Court telephone (608)249-7321

city or town Madison state Wisconsin 53704

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X 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 Neeney

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 7/27/81

For HCRS use only

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

for Deloris Byers Entered in the National Register date 9/28/81

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

GPO 938 835

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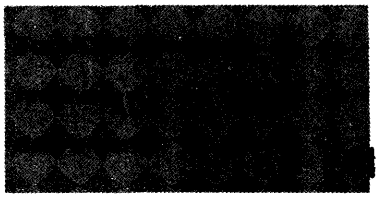


DROHMAN CABIN, Madison, Dane County, Wis.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Conzen, Michael P., Frontier Farming in an Urban Shadow, Logmark editions, The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, 1971.

Dane County Abstracts, 1846-1905; Dane County Census 1850-1880.

Dane County Tax Rolls, Township of Blooming Grove, 1850-1853. (1847-1849 unavailable).

Nesbit, Robert C., Wisconsin, A History. The University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, WI, 1973.

Perrin, Richard, W. E., The Architecture of Wisconsin, The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, 1967.

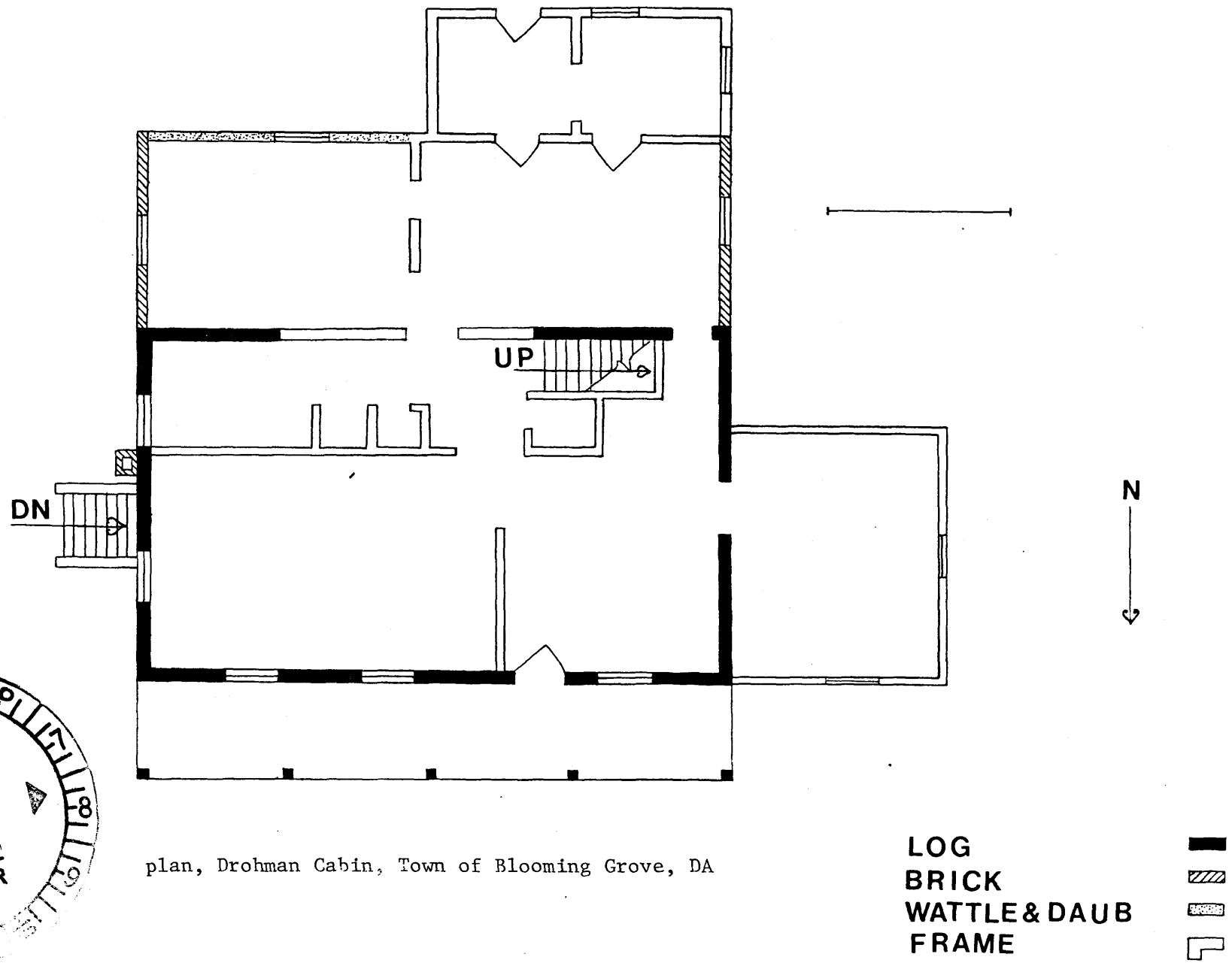
Perrin, Richard, W. E., Wisconsin Buildings, 1835-1970, Milwaukee Public Museum Press, 1962.

Star, Jacquelyn, "The Drohman Cabin: A Part of Blooming Grove's Frontier Heritage," The Journal of Historic Madison, Inc., Madison, Wisconsin, Vol. V. 1979-80.

11. Form Prepared By

Diane H. Filipowicz, Architectural Historian
State Historical Society of Wisconsin
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706

May, 1981
(608)262-2970



plan, Drohman Cabin, Town of Blooming Grove, DA

DRAWN BY SOUHIR W. SOLIMAN

RECEIVED
AUG 28 1981
NATIONAL REGISTER
SEP 28 1981