

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received NOV 28 1986
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

DEC 29 1986

1. Name

historic Henry Fiedler House
and/or common — N/A

2. Location

street & number Southeast corner of Putnam & Washington Streets not for publication
city, town Town of Orion x vicinity of Muscoda
state WI. code 55 county Richland code 103

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N.A.	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Lynn J. and Gloria M. Schnier
street & number 6234 N. Sayre Avenue
city, town Chicago vicinity of state IL 60631

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Richland County Courthouse
street & number —
city, town Richland Center state WI 53581

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1986 federal state county local
depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin
city, town Madison state WI

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Henry Fiedler house is located in the unincorporated village of Orion, 12 miles from the county seat, Richland Center, Wi. The house is approximately 250 yds. from the Wisconsin River and a state highway, but its existence is known only to a few. The approach to the house is on what appears to be a farm road but turns into a circular drive lined with mature black walnut trees, white pines, and a stone fence on the west. Before one reaches the house a small sandstone barn stands, across from the remains of a temporary residence in which the Fiedlers' first lived. Within sight of the house and barn on an east ridge stand two large granite monuments, in what is now the Orion Cemetary, being those of Henry and Louisa Fiedler.

The Fiedler house is a one and one-half story sandstone farmhouse with four gables - two of which are stone and the remaining two of wood, presently covered with metal siding simulating stone. The slopes of the various gables are now covered with composition shingles rather than the original cedar shingles. The only projections from the building are remodeled wooden porches found on the east and west sides of the building. Old photographs reveal that a two tier porch greeted visitors at the front of the house (west) with the upper section being a balcony. French doors, since removed and replaced with windows, allowed access from the second floor.

The freestone is laid in ashlar running bond. The base of the stone walls are approximately two feet in width, diminishing to fifteen inches at the apex of the stone gables. The sand stones are all rectangular and are likely to have come from quarries in the hills approximately .5 miles north of the property. The lintels are hand hewn oak timbers, and the windows are double hung, with six panes per window. The wood fascia is in the Carpenter Gothic style with accompanying decorative brackets. It is said that the fascia and majority of windows are original. Special attention was shown to the entrance of the front door. Side lights and a top light are to be found surrounding the door scrolled in the Carpenter Gothic style. The previously mentioned old photographs reveal the porch was also structured in the same style, as was the top balustrade. The second story entrance to the porch was decorated in a similar fashion, but with the omission of the top light in favor of a scolled half-circle window.

A porch was added to the rear of the house (east), its value has not yet been determined. This porch replaced the original Fiedler pumphouse which enclosed a stone well and metal hand pump, which are still to be found on the north east corner of the house. Two decorative brick

Two contributing buildings
(Main house, stone barn)

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chimneys are located on the north and south gables as shown in the old photographs, but the brick gothic style rain caps have been removed. The structural integrity of the walls and roof seem to be excellent.

Plans of the two floors are very similar. The house appears to have ventilation as a main ingredient in its design. The first floor has the staircase centrally located, with the front and rear entrance door symmetrically opposite through a connecting hallway at the bottom of the staircase. The first floor has three rooms; the living room is the area south of the stairs with an Round Oak wood stove in the center of the room. To the north of the staircase and hallway exists the kitchen and a utility room. A characteristic of each of these rooms is an oil lamp niche within the stonewall in a corner of the room. The kitchen has been totally remodeled with the original plaster walls and painted cabinets removed. Original window seats still remain in the utility room but have been removed in the kitchen and living rooms.

The entrance to the stone arched root cellar is found by the back door on the underside of the rising second floor stairs. The root cellar remains intact without alteration. The kitchen and utility room floor rest on oak timbers embedded in sand. The living room floor rest on the root cellar. The two bearing walls, which run parallel to the stairs and hallway are constructed of studs joined to 6x6 oak bearing beams by mortise and tenon. All beams within the structure are hand hewn. All first floor interior windows are angled, arched openings. A small crown moulding was throughout the first floor. What appears to be original wainscotting can be found throughout the hallway. Interior doors are four panel pine doors with surface locks and latches remaining.

It should be mentioned that the first floor was poorly remodeled in the 1960's but it is the current owners intention that the original design and spatia prevail.

The second floor, which was only partially remodeled and altered, has three bedrooms and an added bathroom. Two large bedrooms lie to the north and south of the upper hallway with each having two windows. A small bedroom and the bathroom lie at opposite ends, with the latter being on the east side of the house. Window openings are square and an oak lintel spans the top. All floors are maple and have been stained to the original walnut color.

To the northeast sits the small barn. The original structure was built

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by Henry Fiedler but remodeled by his heirs (Solomon Huntley and Louisa Fiedler Huntley) with a gambrel roof replacing the gable. The barn is constructed of sandstone on the ground level, with an upper level and western extension comprised of vertical board siding capped by a metal roof. The barn is in very good structural condition.

The grounds of the Fiedler house appear to be largely original. The road to the west is lined with silver maple trees on one side and a low stone fence on the other, which itself is flanked by extremely large, old white pine trees. On other sectors one finds large and mature black walnut trees, suggesting that the parts of the original landscaping remains.¹

Despite past poor remodeling and improper maintenance the house remains in good overall condition. The house is currently occupied on a summer and part-time basis by the present owners whose intention it is to restore the house to its original condition.

¹ Descriptive information indicated above was obtained from oral statements of Arthur Hinkle, Beloit, Wisconsin, husband of Ruth Huntley Hinkle, granddaughter of Henry Fiedler. Mr. Hinkle also lived in the house from approximately from 1939-1949 when it still existed in its original state. Other information was obtained from old photos, some of which are included with this nomination, obtained from Fiedler family members.

photos

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1860 (construction)¹ **Builder/Architect** Henry Fiedler (builder)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Architecture

The 1860 Fiedler house in Richland County is being nominated to the National Register as a fine example of local sandstone construction from the mid-19th century. A handsome, rural structure, the house is representative of the small scale construction typical of the era and is a good example of Wisconsin's distinctive stone construction traditions.

It was in 1860 that the Fiedler house attained its present appearance.¹ The Fiedler house is not to be judged as a "period house", but rather as being distinctive of construction techniques found in the Richland County region. Within the immediate surrounding area only two other stone residences exist; one has been totally covered with wood siding and the other is unoccupied and in a total state of collapse.

In addition, Henry Fiedler undoubtedly adopted construction techniques which he learned in his native homeland, the Rhineland area of West Prussia. Fiedler is also known to have built two other residences on adjoining parcels of land for his daughters. One was recently destroyed to make room for new construction. The second was dismantled by Fiedler himself after he was informed that it would increase his taxes.² The present structure does not represent a remarkable period of architecture but rather a functional, well built home that has served several generations well. Fiedler was a known carpenter and cabinet maker who wanted to "build everything to last forever."³ This house is an example of that determination. The retention of the important exterior design, and some interior construction, represent the significance of the building as an illustration of the architectural, ethnic, and social tastes of that period and area. To the early settlers coming to Wisconsin the natural stone deposits provided an accessible source of building materials. Many of the early German and Irish immigrants were familiar with stone building techniques and availed themselves of these materials to construct distinctive homes of simple form and stylistic detail. The Fiedler house is representative of this building tradition in early Wisconsin settlement, which saw particular popularity in the Wisconsin River region of south central Wisconsin.

Historical Background

Henry Fiedler (1825-1904) was born in the Rhineland area of West Prussia and immigrated to the United States in 1850. He is stated to have been a "forty-eighter" who moved to the United States after the failure of the 1848 revolutions in Germany.⁴

9. Major Bibliographical References

No author, History of Crawford & Richland County. Madison: Union Press. 1884.
No author, History of Orion. Madison: Union Press, 1884.
Duffy, John. "Henry Fiedler House." Muscoda Progressive, May 7, 1975.
Property abstract, Richland County Courthouse, Richland Center, Wisconsin.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2 acres

Quadrangle name Muscoda Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UTM References

A

1	5	7	0	9	1	5	0	4	7	8	6	5	7	5
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots One (1), Two (2), Three (3), and Four (4) in Block Eleven (11), village of Orion, formerly Richmond; lots Five (5), Six (6), Seven (7), and Eight (8) in Block eleven(11); in the Village of Orion as laid out and platted upon section Six(6) Township Eight(8) North, range one(1) East, Richland County, Wi.
~~List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries~~

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lynn J. Schnier / owner

organization —

date August 11, 1986

street & number 6234 N. Sayre Avenue

telephone 312-631-6619

city or town Chicago

state Illinois 60631

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title

date NOV. 24, 1986

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


Keeper of the National Register

date 12.29.86

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Henry Fiedler House, Town of Orion, Richland County, Wi.
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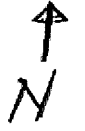
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The town that Fiedler settled in Orion, Wisconsin, was purchased and laid out by T. Matthews, a former officer in the Revolutionary Army. Matthews is stated to have contracted with German representatives to ferry German immigrants across the Wisconsin River free of cost if they purchased land in his sub-division. The ploy was apparently successful since the names initially associated with the town are quite Germanic in origin - Fiedler, Schultz, Stein, Braunhoffer.⁵ German is stated to have been the basic language spoken in the community and is attested to by a 1874 Independence Day bulletin (found in the Fiedler house and in possession of the current owner) which is printed in English and German.

Fiedler was known to work as a carpenter and cabinet maker. Given the age (25) that he immigrated to the U.S.A., it would be logical to assume that he learned his trade in Germany. In addition to being a carpenter, Henry was also a soldier in the Union Army serving during the Civil War. Little else can be said of the person. He was not important as a businessman, statesman, or military officer, but as a member of his class and ethnic origins which he represented very well.

1. Property abstract, Richland County Courthouse, Richland County, Wisconsin.
2. John Duffy, Henry Fiedler House, Muscoda Progressive, May 7, 1975.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. No author, History of Orion, (Madison: Union Press, 1884).

* Within a 10-15 mile radius of the Fiedler House there remains only approximately seven structures of sizable stone construction, thus reinforcing the significance of the Fiedler Home as a distinctive building type.



BARN

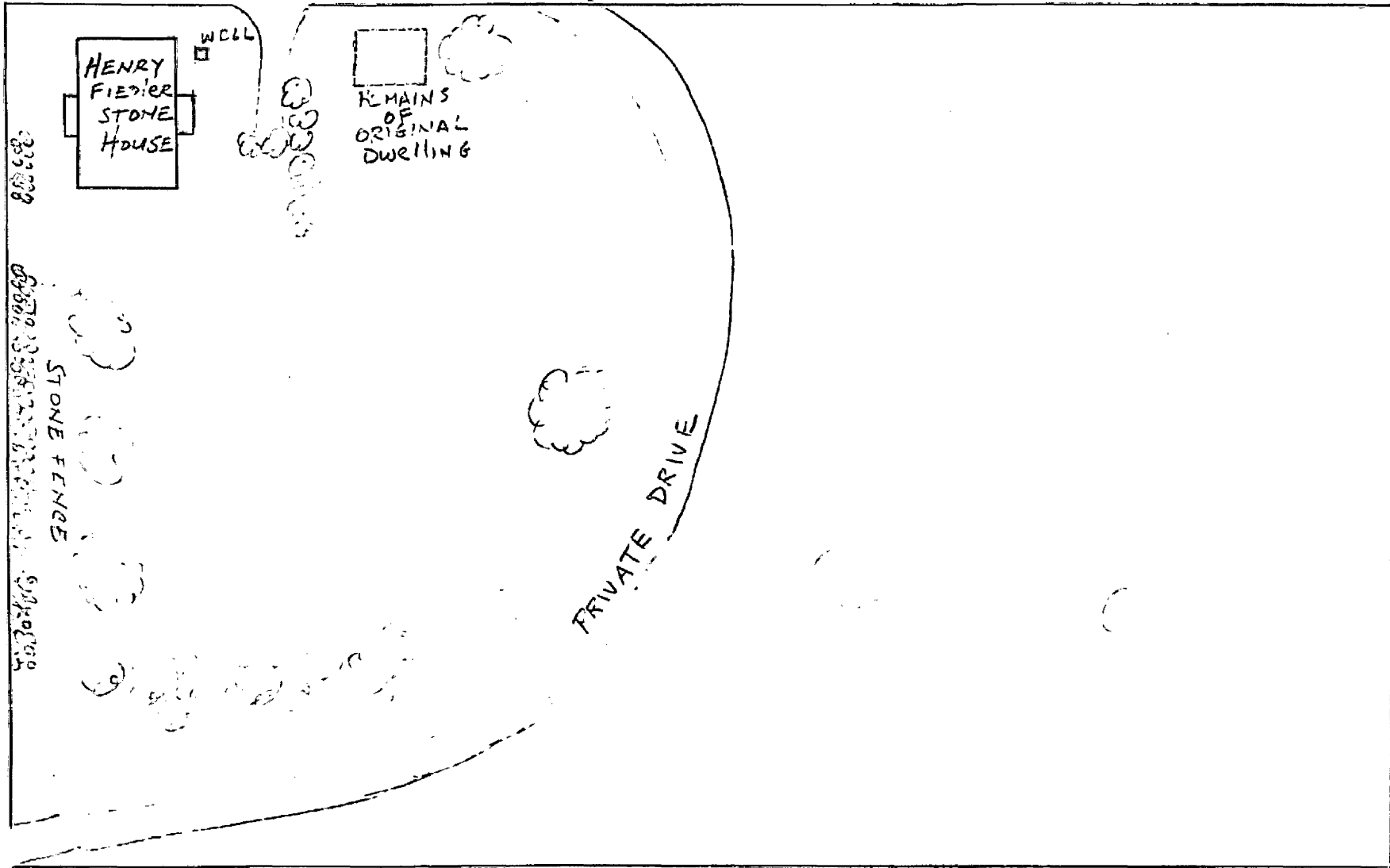
WASHINGTON ST. (CLOSED)

FIEDLER FAMILY
GRAVESITE

ORION CEMETARY

ADDITION ST. (CLOSED NORTH OF CATHERINE)

PUTNAM ST. (CLOSED NORTH OF CATHERINE)



CATHERINE ST.



BARN

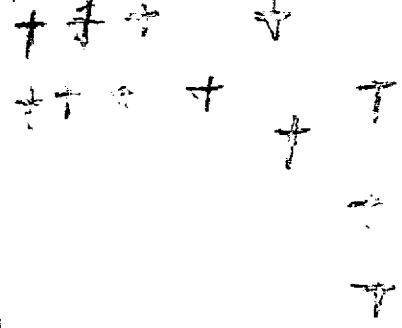
WASHINGTON ST →
(CLOSED)

MEDIAN ST.



ADDITION ST. (CLOSED)

FIEDLER GRANESITE



ORION CEMETARY.

CATHERINE ST.

POTNAM ST.

TOWN OF ORION

← TO MUSCODA

HIGHWAY 60

TO GOTHAM →

WISCONSIN RIVER

