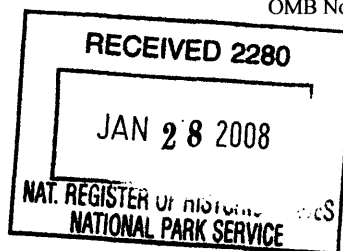


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**United States Department of Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Strunk, John and Eleanor, House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number	2306 North Parker Drive	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Town of Janesville	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county Rock	code 105
			zip code 53545

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _ nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

1/25/08

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer - Wisconsin

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _ meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Strunk, John and Eleanor, House

County Rock

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.

___ See continuation sheet.

___ determined eligible for the National Register.

___ See continuation sheet.

___ determined not eligible for the National Register.

___ See continuation sheet.

___ removed from the National Register.

___ other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall

3-21-08

Jan

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

- Private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- structure
- site
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

contributing	noncontributing
1	3 buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
1	3 total

Name of related multiple property listing:
(Enter "N/A" if property not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources is previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MID 19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation STONE/Limestone

walls STONE/Limestone

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD/Weatherboard

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Strunk, John and Eleanor, House
Name of Property

County Rock
County and State

Wisconsin

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1844

Significant Dates

1844

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.3 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 333508 4730465
 Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

See Continuation Sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Carol Lohry Cartwright, Consultant	date	9/1/2006
organization	Prepared for the City of Janesville	telephone	262-473-6820
street & number	W7646 Hackett Road	zip code	53190
city or town	Whitewater	state	WI

Strunk, John and Eleanor, House

County Rock

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title	Tom and Susan Skinner	date	9/1/2006
organization		telephone	608-752-2111
street&number	2306 N. Parker Dr.	zip code	53545
city or town	Janesville	state	WI

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Strunk, John and Eleanor, House
Town of Janesville, Rock County, WI

DESCRIPTION

Site

The John and Eleanor Strunk House sits on a one and one-third acre parcel that is located on a strip of land in the Town of Janesville that is almost completely surrounded by the far north section of the City of Janesville, a medium-sized city in far south-central Wisconsin. This area was rural until the World War II era, with farms and open space dominating. When the north side of Janesville grew with suburbs and extensive commercial development, low-density residential housing was built along this part of North Parker Drive, primarily because of its picturesque location along the Rock River. Eventually dense suburban development enclosed this area, along with the development of Rock County institutions just to the north of the Strunk house.

The large lot of the Strunk house is typical of the large lots of other houses along North Parker Drive. But, just to the east, the rear of the Strunk lot borders a suburban development of smaller lots and more modern homes. The large lot size of the Strunk house has allowed the building to retain much of its historic context as part of an old farmstead. Also on the property are a large garage and a pump house, remaining from the farmstead, and a summer kitchen moved to this site from a different location. These resources are non-contributing.

Part of this historic physical context is the fact that the house sits at the high point of the lot, which gently slopes down to North Parker Drive and continues to slope more steeply across the street as it meets the Rock River. Since the development across North Parker Drive is not dense, the Strunk house still has much of its historical association to the Rock River. The large lawn spaces on the north and south sides of the house still suggest the open spaces that were typical around a historic farmstead.

The landscaping around the house is a bit more formal than it was when the property was part of an historic farmstead. On the north, west, and south sides of the house there are large lawn spaces punctuated with mature trees and shrubs and many planting beds. In front of the west, or main, elevation of the house, there is a long, sloping lawn with a centrally-placed sidewalk that leads to a period (probably turn of the twentieth century) wrought-iron fence supported by plain posts. The fence borders a narrow and steep strip of land that leads down to the street. Just beyond the gate of the fence is a set of steps used to reach the street. A large maple tree sits in the front lawn near the north section of the house, and small shrubs are planted in beds close to the house's foundation. The fence continues along the north side of the lawn all the way to the house.

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Strunk, John and Eleanor, House
Town of Janesville, Rock County, WI

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On the south side of the house, there is another strip of lawn that is bordered by planting beds and some mature trees that generally define the south lot line of the property. On the north side of the house, the lot extends considerably further and includes some landscape features that have been historically attached to the building. Much of this area is taken up with lawn space with a number of older and more recently planted trees and shrubs. The landscaping includes a garden area defined by shrub walls and another garden area to the east. Other planting beds define the north property line.

Closer to the house, but also on the north side, a driveway runs through the site. This driveway curves around the rear or east elevation of the house, ending in a parking area and access to the garage that sits just east of the house. Between the house and the garage is the "back yard," a formally landscaped area behind the house that features a large patio, some lawn space, and several attractive planting beds with a variety of trees, shrubs, and perennials.

According to historic photographs (probably c. 1900), it was in this general area that there were three large buildings from the farmstead that are no longer extant. One was a large granary that was rebuilt in 1978. The concrete slab from this modern granary is still extant. The other building was a large barn with an attached masonry silo; its location was reportedly east of the parcel on the site of a modern home.

The historic photographs also show a large windmill sitting behind the farmhouse. This was attached to a well and the old well head is still extant in the back patio of the house, disguised with a faux rock. According to the owners, an old tank once stood near the well and they also report that for some time, a pipe ran from this well right into the kitchen, providing some "running water" to the house. Both the barns and windmill were demolished in 1952.

Also in back of the house, near the garage, is a small area that is thought to be a site of an outhouse. Shallow digging has uncovered a concrete slab and an area where ceramic shards have been found. Not seen in the old photographs, but reportedly also on the property, were a poultry house and a limestone smokehouse. A description of the property from the 1970s indicates that at least part of the smokehouse was still extant at that time. Some impressions in the ground on the property indicate where some of the outbuildings were probably located, however, a historical archeological investigation was not included as part of this nomination.

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Strunk, John and Eleanor, House
Town of Janesville, Rock County, WI

House

Exterior

The Strunk house consists of three sections: a main block two-stories in height, a single-story north ell, and a large enclosed porch projecting off the east elevation of the main block. The main block and ell were constructed in 1844 with features from the Greek Revival architectural style. The rear porch was constructed in 1977 and reflects the still popular Colonial Revival style in its details. Both the main block and ell are covered with low-pitched gable roofs clad with asphalt shingles. The large rear porch has a low-pitched hip roof also clad with asphalt shingles. The house is entirely constructed of locally-quarried limestone except for a portion of the west or main elevation of the ell, which is clad with original flat wood boards. All of the stone walls sit on a limestone foundation accented with a smooth limestone water table course. Details of each elevation are discussed below.

The main elevation of the main block is made up of regularly coursed limestone blocks with an ashlar finish. Smooth limestone blocks in a short-long, or "tabbed" pattern form the corner quoins connecting the main wall with the side walls of the main block. Symmetrical fenestration punctuates the main elevation. On the first story, two window openings filled with six-over-six-light, double-hung sashes, flank a central entrance. These windows are topped with flat stone lintels and sit on stone sills. The second story has four small, rectangular openings filled with horizontally divided three-light windows that sit under a narrow wooden frieze, two each flanking a shallow inset stone panel with the carving "J Strunk 1844."

The main entrance consists of a wood panel door flanked with original sidelights and topped with the original tripartite transom. The entrance has a mid-twentieth century covering that consists of storm windows, a storm door, and wood panels. Surrounding the entrance is a fluted wooden molding attached at the corners with square blocks accented by incised square blocks, a trim style that is seen in the interior. Highlighting this molding are a large smooth stone lintel and limestone tabs on each side that mimic the corner quoins.

The shape and type of original porch that covered the main entrance of the main block is not known, but historic photographs indicate that around the turn of the twentieth century, this part of the house had a large veranda that spanned the entire front of the main block and ran around the south elevation. This porch was removed some time in the mid-twentieth century. A modern stone landing reached by three stone steps currently sits in front of the main entrance.

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Strunk, John and Eleanor, House
Town of Janesville, Rock County, WI

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The main elevation of the ell is made up of a limestone wall and an ell porch that is recessed from the stone wall. The stone has an ashlar finish and tabbed quoins at the corners like the main elevation of the main block. The ell porch is covered by the main roof of the ell that is "supported" by the original round wood columns and square wood pilasters. The wall surface of the porch is covered with the flat horizontal boards mentioned earlier. Three stone steps lead up to the stone-constructed deck. Both the recessed porch wall and the stone wall have symmetrical fenestration of six-light, double-hung sashes like the main elevation of the main block. An entrance into the north side of the stone portion of the ell has a plain wood door and pediment lintel trim.

The north elevation of the house consists of a small exposed portion of the north wall of the main block and the north wall of the ell. A six-light, double-hung, sash window with a stone lintel sits in the first story of the ashlar-finished north wall of the main block. Above the ell roof, a small portion of the north wall of the main block is exposed. The west half of this part of the wall has the ashlar finish, but the east half, which can not be seen from the front, is composed of regularly-coursed, rusticated, limestone. The north wall of the ell is also composed of regularly-coursed, rusticated, limestone, and its corner quoins are also rusticated and irregular. Both the roof eaves of the main block and the ell are returned on this elevation.

The south elevation of the house is the south wall of the main block, which can also be seen from the front. Therefore, it has a regularly-coursed limestone wall with the ashlar finish and the "tabbed" smooth corner quoins of the main elevation. The wall is punctuated with symmetrical fenestration of six-over-six-light, double-hung sashes that are decorated with flat stone lintels and stone sills.

The rear, or east, elevation of the house consists of the main block and the ell. Attached to about two-thirds of the rear wall of the main block is the large, one-story, enclosed, porch added in 1977. The east wall of the ell is attached directly to the east wall of the main block, creating one long line from the north wall of the ell to the south wall of the main block. This entire wall is constructed of regular-coursed rusticated limestone.

The openings of the main block are asymmetrical and include small rectangular three-light windows in the second story, right under the eaves. Behind the enclosed porch is an entrance with a plain wood door and enclosed transom and a six-over-six-light, double-hung sash window that sits just north of this entrance. A narrow entrance filled with a plain wood door topped with a narrow transom sits in the east wall of the main block just north of the porch. North of this opening is another six-light sash window. The exposed entrance and window are topped with stone lintels.

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The rear or east elevation of the ell section has irregularly-placed openings consisting of two six-light sashes and two entrances. Both entrances into the ell have plain wood doors, but the northern-most entrance, which is a later alteration, is covered by a twentieth-century shed-roofed overhang supported by large knee-brace brackets. Originally, in this location, there was a large entrance with barn-like doors that led into what was the tack room. This entrance was enclosed with matching limestone and the current entrance.

The enclosed porch is an addition from 1977. It has a low-pitched hip roof, a stone foundation and is enclosed with pairs of tall, narrow eight-light windows and wood panels. Narrow pilasters sit in between the paired windows. At the northeast corner, one of the openings is actually an entry door into the porch.

Interior, First Floor

The first floor of the Strunk house has living space within both the main block and the ell. Originally, the first floor of the main block consisted of four rooms with a central hallway, typical of houses from this era and with this style. Two rooms on the south side of the main block were combined to form a large living room, a small hallway and a downstairs bathroom. The north side has retained its two room plan with a dining room and a kitchen. Most of the ell was originally used as a tack room and was remodeled into living space later. At one time in the twentieth century, the ell was used as a small "apartment." Today, the ell consists of a laundry room, den, and a bedroom currently being remodeled.

At the front of the house, just beyond the main entrance, is the foyer, a small area with doors on each side that lead into the large living room and the dining room. Across from the main entrance is the staircase to the second floor. The original surfaces of the door, sidelights, and transom are covered on the exterior of the house as explained above, but in the foyer, the original surfaces of these features are exposed. The foyer includes an antique light fixture.

The entrance on the south side of the foyer leads into the living room. It is brightly lit by the original windows that are deeply recessed due to the thickness of the stone walls. The trim around all of the windows is fluted and joined with corner blocks that have an incised square decoration. There are plain, wide baseboards accenting the narrow board maple floor, which the owner reports covers the original wide pine board flooring. The walls and ceilings have plaster surfaces joined with a narrow crown molding. At the northeast corner of the room is a hallway that leads into the enclosed porch. To the south of the hallway is a bathroom with modern fixtures and details.

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Across the foyer from the living room is the dining room that was redecorated around 1977 in the popular mid to late-twentieth century "colonial" style. The floor is covered with the same maple flooring as seen in the living room, accented with wide baseboards. The upper third of the walls and the ceiling are covered with plaster, and the lower third of the walls are paneled. Each of these panels features a recessed square and the paneling is topped with a thick molded chair rail. There is also a crown molding between the walls and ceiling. Hanging from the ceiling is an antique French Baccarat crystal chandelier that was originally used with candles and converted to electricity.

The doors and windows of the dining room are decorated with a molded architrave trim and are covered with interior shutters that came from an old house in Evansville, Indiana. A similar type of architrave trim surrounds the firebox of the fireplace. This fireplace was "hidden" until a previous owner discovered it and remodeled its exterior. The fireplace area was enclosed with vertical grooved paneling and a mantel with a plain shelf and heavy, rounded, molding was added.

The most interesting and decorative feature of the dining room, one that fully enhances the "colonial" décor of the room, is a large panel of brightly-colored, hand-printed wallpaper on the east wall. This wallpaper is a replica of a mural found in the Diplomatic Reception Room of the White House known as "Views of North America, Boston Harbor," executed by Jean Zuber and Company, Rixheim, Alsace, in 1834. The replica wallpaper was installed in this room when it was redecorated in the 1970s.

The kitchen sits at the northeast corner of the main block. It was enlarged in 1990 when the back staircase to the second floor was removed and the staircase to the basement was moved to another location. The kitchen has been recently remodeled with new cherry kitchen cabinets and counters, modern appliances, and modern fixtures. Also, the walls, ceiling, and floors are modern, but there is some period trim still extant around doors and windows. And, an original deeply recessed window remains extant.

Completing the first floor is the interior of the enclosed porch, completed in 1977. The west wall of the porch interior is the original rusticated limestone wall of the main block. The floor was laid with red brick street pavers from Milwaukee and the ceiling is covered with salvaged period wainscoting. The original threshold of the entrance between the enclosed porch and the main block is made up of a very broad piece of virgin oak timber and the entrance is surrounded by a molding and a panel-enclosed transom.

The ell is reached from the interior of the main block through an entrance in the kitchen. Until the 1950s, the ell was used as a tack room and was unfinished and included a dirt floor. Since the 1950s,

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it has been remodeled several times and at one time, it was a small apartment. Today, there are three separate rooms. The southeast room is a relatively narrow laundry room with some modern finishes, such as plain trim, a modern paneled ceiling, and carpeting. There are some old cabinets in the room that have a period wood-grained finish and may have been added when this room was used as the kitchen of the apartment in the ell.

West of the laundry room is a bedroom that is currently being remodeled. It may have been the bedroom of the apartment. It has plaster walls, large modern closets, and carpeting. However, period doors and trim are still extant in the room, as are the original deeply recessed windows.

The north room of the ell, which sits behind the open ell porch on the exterior, was probably used as the apartment living room and retains a 1970s-era décor when this room was converted to a family room. This décor includes “knotty” pine paneling, modern trim around doors and windows, an acoustical tile ceiling, and carpeting. It is currently being used for storage.

Interior, Second Floor

The second floor is housed entirely in the main block and it is reached via the central staircase in the first floor foyer. This staircase is has a single, open run, wooden steps, and a cherry balustrade typical of the mid-nineteenth century. The balustrade has plain square posts and simple turned newel posts. The balustrade continues along the second floor hallway.

The second floor has an unusual floor plan that appears to be almost completely original. Instead of a symmetrical four-room plan one would expect in a Greek Revival-influenced house from the mid-nineteenth century, the plan consists of two large bedrooms in the center, flanking the main hallway, and a group of small, narrow rooms along the east and west sides of the floor. On the west side, the small rooms are probably in their original configuration, but on the east side, the small rooms have been altered into closets and baths. The “rear” staircase was also in this location before it was removed.

The decoration of the main hallway of the second floor features original wide board pine floors, plaster walls and ceilings, and medium-sized plain baseboards. Most of the doors are original four-panel wood doors with period hardware decorated with simple flat wood trim, some with thin moldings that may date from the original construction of the house. Some of the doors appear to be replacements or additions from the early twentieth century and are constructed with two long vertical panels.

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The large bedroom on the south side of the floor is currently used as the master bedroom. It has plaster walls accented with a plain chair rail and a plaster ceiling accented with a narrow crown molding. The floor is covered with original clear pine flooring. Along the east wall of the bedroom are two entrances, each leading to a closet. The construction of the doors suggests that these small closets were probably one larger room, either a bedroom or storage room that could have been accessed from the landing of the rear staircase. Both of the closets have original wide pine flooring, plaster walls and a plaster ceiling, and wide baseboards. The south closet is lighted by one of the exterior "eyebrow" windows.

The large bedroom on the north side of the floor is currently used for storage. It also has plaster walls and a plaster ceiling both decorated by a molded chair rail and thin crown molding. The floor is original clear wide pine boards. Like the south bedroom, there are two doors leading into two small rooms. However, both doors appear to be original, suggesting two separate rooms rather than one larger room. They may have been original closets or storage rooms. Today, the north room is a closet, while the south room is a small bathroom with fixtures and finishes that date it to the later twentieth century.

Between the small rooms on the east side of the second floor, there is another bathroom that has an access door into the main hallway. This bathroom is in the location of the original enclosed staircase and/or its landing. The bathroom was added in the twentieth century, probably when the rear staircase was removed in 1990. It was very recently remodeled with modern fixtures and finishes.

Along the west side of second floor are two small bedrooms that parallel the four small rooms on the east side of the floor. These rooms have entrances that lead into the hallway, suggesting they were, at least at one time, used for bedrooms. The two narrow bedrooms have finishes that are similar to the large bedrooms, including plaster walls and ceilings and narrow board flooring. The small rectangular "eyebrow" windows along the east elevation of the exterior light these rooms. Between these two bedrooms, with access from the hallway, is a closet that was probably a later alteration closing up part of the second floor hallway.

Basement

There is a full basement under the main block. It is divided into two large rooms by a stone wall and the stone walls of the foundation are also exposed. A root cellar also sits under the main block. It is accessed from a rebuilt wooden bulkhead along the east elevation. The root cellar is lined with concrete blocks. Under the ell, there was once a cistern, part of which was used for space to provide a furnace to the ell apartment. Under the rest of the ell is just a crawl space.

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Strunk, John and Eleanor, House
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Other Buildings

As stated earlier in the description, this house was once part of a farm and included significant farm buildings that are no longer extant. These buildings included a large granary that was rebuilt in 1978, but has been demolished, leaving the concrete slab still on the property. A large barn and silo site located northeast of the house is no longer on the property. Another large barn also sat northeast of the house and its site may still be on the property. Other non-extant parts of the farmstead included a poultry building, a stone summer kitchen, and a windmill. The foundation walls of a pig barn that was part of the farmstead to the west of the house are still extant and have been incorporated into the modern home across the street (2317 N. Parker Drive).

The current buildings are as follows.

Garage, c. 1920, c. 1960, NC

The garage sits just southeast of the house and consists of two parts. The original garage is perpendicular to the house with its main elevation facing the house. It appears to have been built for an early twentieth century automobile. It has a steeply-pitched gable roof, original vertical board siding, and a large double entry door on the west elevation that swings open from the middle on large period hinges. Above the door is a small shuttered opening.

Attached to the north wall of the original garage is a large garage addition from the mid-twentieth century. It sits parallel to the house and is about twice the size of the original building. The modern garage has a low-pitched gable roof, wood siding, and two paneled and glazed garage doors sitting in the north elevation. Because the modern garage so overwhelms the original garage, the building is non-contributing to the property.

Pump House, c. 1910, NC

The old pump house sits across the driveway just to the northeast of the house. It is a small one-story building that sitting on a raised foundation that is slightly banked on north side. The building has a new gable roof structure and walls that have been recently resided with modern clapboards. The original swinging door made of vertical boards sits in the south wall and foundation. A small four-light opening sits in the east elevation. The pump house is attached to a large concrete trough on the east elevation, a twentieth century concrete structure that was part of the old cow yard between the

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Strunk, John and Eleanor, House
Town of Janesville, Rock County, WI

pump house and the barn. Because of its extensive remodeling, the pump house does not contribute to the property.

Drefahl Summer Kitchen, c. 1860, NC (moved to site)

Sitting just northwest of the pump house is a building that the current owner has reconstructed on the site. It is an old Civil War era summer kitchen that originally stood on the Drefahl farm, located at Coon Island and Townsend Roads in Center, Wisconsin. The current owner has reconstructed this building using the structure and the original six-over-six-light, double-hung sash windows. It has a new roof structure and is clad with clapboards taken from old mid-nineteenth century buildings slated for demolition. The entrance is also from a different mid-nineteenth century building. With the use of both old and new materials, the result is a Greek Revival-influenced structure that, while not original to the farmstead, blends in well with its current appearance. But, due to the use of many non-original materials in the building, it is non-contributing to the property.

Potential Prehistoric and Historic Archeological Sites

There are several areas of potential archeological interest on this property. Its location near the Rock River suggests a high likelihood of Native American activity in the area and there may be hidden artifacts or sites related to this activity on the property. There may also be historic archeological sites of interest including the locations of the outbuildings that are no longer extant (shown on old photographs), an area behind the house near the garage that could be a pit site (the owners have found ceramic shards and a concrete slab under the surface), and a cabin site at the northwest corner of the property that may have been related to very early settlement in Janesville (perhaps related to Henry Janes, the city of Janesville's founder).

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Strunk, John and Eleanor, House
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SIGNIFICANCE¹

The John and Eleanor Strunk House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C, architecture, for its local significance as a fine and highly preserved example of a pioneer-era Greek Revival style house. The house has the symmetrical form and massing typical of the style and the simple, classical, architectural details found in pioneer-era Greek Revival-influenced houses in Wisconsin. These details include the original six-over-six-light windows, rectangular “eyebrow” windows under the eaves, returned eaves, and an entrance decorated with sidelights and a transom. Adding significance to the building is its high-quality stone construction using locally-quarried limestone and superior building techniques. These well-executed and well-preserved details make this house one of the most important pioneer era buildings in the Janesville area.

Historical Background

The first white settlers in the area around Janesville, Wisconsin, were “Yankees” from New York and New England. This pattern was typical in southern Wisconsin after the government offered the land for sale in the late 1830s, after the final Native American claims were relinquished. Several Yankees settled in Janesville during this time, including Henry Janes, who developed the successful plat for the city.²

The Yankees who settled in the area in the 1830s and 1840s were almost all of British ancestry. Other ethnic groups, particularly Germans and Norwegians, did not begin significant immigration into the area until the late 1840s. In light of this typical immigration pattern, it is of interest that this property was part of a large farm established by John and Eleanor Strunk in 1839. While Eleanor Strunk was of Scots-Irish descent, John Strunk was an ethnic German. However, due to his family background, he did not fit into the typical German immigrant pattern in Wisconsin. In fact, he was more of a “Yankee” than a German by the time he set up his large farm along the Rock River.

¹ This citation refers to the period of significance and the significant dates for this nomination. The date of construction comes from the datestone of the house as well as from “Remarks Made by Mrs. Eleanor McNitt Strunk portrayed by Liz French at 160th Anniversary Celebration (of the First Congregational Church of Janesville) Sunday, 2-13-05; manuscript based on published sources in possession of the current owner.

² Carol Lohry Cartwright and Randal Waller, “Immigration and Settlement,” in Carol Lohry Cartwright, Scott Shaffer, and Randal Waller, *City on the Rock River: Chapters in Janesville’s History*, Janesville, WI: Janesville Historic Commission, 1998, pp. 43-45.

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John Strunk was a second generation American when he arrived in the Janesville area. His grandfather, Henry Strunk, came from Germany to New York State in 1750, settling in Rensselaer

County near Albany. Henry Strunk's seventh child, Jacob, born in 1769, married Elizabeth Dator in upstate New York. Their fifth child, John, born in 1801, was also married in New York, to Eleanor McNitt. Like Jacob and John, most of the other members of the Strunk family married Yankees, transforming the family from German ethnic immigrants into "Yankees," who, except for the continuation of the Strunk name, were more British than German by the mid-nineteenth century.³

John and Eleanor McNitt Strunk married in 1829 in the Jamestown, New York area. According to Eleanor Strunk, who wrote her reminiscences of coming to Wisconsin later in life, John Strunk was a successful and wealthy farmer in New York. But, like many Yankees, he was looking for a new opportunity in the land opening up in the Midwest during the mid-nineteenth century. Eleanor Strunk relates that her husband gave \$600 to Daniel Smith to purchase 400 acres of land on the Rock River. According to Mrs. Strunk, Daniel passed the money along to his brother, Isaac Smith, who was coming to the area earlier. Smith purchased the land for Strunk at the territorial land sale in 1839 and, reportedly, Smith and Janesville founder Henry Janes built a cabin on the land.⁴

John and Eleanor Strunk came to Janesville the following year, and in 1840 they purchased 1,000 acres of land for \$15,000, making their property a large tract and proving that John Strunk was, indeed, a wealthy farmer in New York. Also supporting the fact that the family came to Wisconsin with considerable means is the construction of this elegant house in 1844, only four years after establishing their large farm. The limestone was from the nearby Chapin Quarry, but the high quality of the construction materials and methods used in this house suggests the use of the best available (and more costly) masons and carpenters in the area.⁵

Tragically, John Strunk died in the same year that the house was completed, and Eleanor was left a widow with six children, the oldest only 11 years old. Again, her family fortunes were large enough for her to continue operating the large farm herself. Eleanor's financial means also allowed her some leisure time to devote to non-farm activities. Of these activities, Eleanor was most involved in her church, Janesville's First Congregational Church. She was among the 15 charter members who formed the church in 1845 and was the member who broke the tie that decided the affiliation of the church, Presbyterian or Congregational. From this act, she was forever referred to as the "mother" of

³ Genealogical information on the Strunk family in possession of the current owner.

⁴ "Remarks Made by Mrs. Eleanor McNitt Strunk."

⁵ Information from the current owner.

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Strunk, John and Eleanor, House
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the First Congregational Church. When a church building was constructed in 1848-50, Eleanor provided the lime for construction needs from the Strunk farm.⁶

Eleanor Strunk's children Franklin and Daniel remained on the farm after they were adults, and with their help Eleanor continued to operate the farm until 1882, when she moved to Minneapolis to live with her second son, Daniel. She owned the farm until 1888, when at age 78, she died. It can probably be accurately stated that Eleanor's personal will and determination were the factors that kept the farm in the family for over 50 years.⁷

After Eleanor's death, Daniel Strunk and his wife, Elisa, inherited the Strunk farm, but they only kept ownership for three years. In August of 1891, the Strunks sold the farm to Edward Hardt, a baker from Chicago, who farmed the property with a tenant and used the farmstead as a summer home. After 26 years, Olaus and Sena Knutson owned the farm for another 34 years, selling it to the Harold Nutleys in 1951. The Nutleys called the property "Stoneleigh," and did some restoration work on the house. It was during the Nutley's ownership that Eleanor Roosevelt attended a tea in the house after a speaking engagement at the Congregational Church in Janesville in 1955, a significant event in the historic lore of the house.⁸

Beginning in the 1920s, the farm, now renamed "Riverview Farm," began to shrink, as Olaus and Sena Knutson sold the eastern portion of the property to the Tractor Sand and Gravel Company. Later, a portion of the farm along the Rock River was sold. Eventually, these lands were developed with houses. Later in the twentieth century, the remainder of the farm was sold and the farmstead became part of a plat called Tradition Lane Estates, which was developed by the Nutleys. Much of the remaining farmstead is included in the 1.3 acre lot 6 of this plat, but one of the barn locations ended up in lot 7 of the plat.⁹

In 1964, Russell and Ruth French purchased the farmstead property and owned it until 1998. Russell French was a manager at the Parker Pen Company, one of Janesville largest employers during the years the family owned this house. He and Ruth were active in the community and were responsible for opening their landmark home to the public at least twice for tours. They also maintained the property

⁶ "Remarks Made by Mrs. Eleanor McNitt Strunk."

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ Information from current owner; Property Abstract, in possession of current owner; Letter to Frank Mercen from H. P. Nutley, 28 September 1962, copy in possession of the current owner.

⁹ Information from the owner; Property Abstract.

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at a high level and were responsible for some of the home's remodeling, remodeling that did not detract significantly from its historic character.¹⁰

The tradition of caring for this historic property has been taken up by Thomas and Susan Skinner, both retired educators, owners of the property since 1998. The Skinners are meticulously working on improving the farmhouse in a way that preserves and restores the building's historic details while maintaining high quality details added by previous owners in the 1950s and 1970s. For example, instead of replacing original windows, the Skinners have chosen to add appropriately-designed wooden storm windows to add to the energy efficiency of the house. On the interior, the Skinners are preserving and restoring the historic original and period details of the house, but also are retaining the high-quality mid-twentieth century decoration of the dining room that blends in well with the original décor of the house.

Area of Significance—Architecture

The Strunk house is architecturally significant at the local level as a well-preserved and distinctive example of a Greek Revival style farmhouse. Adding architectural significance is the building's high quality of stone construction, using locally available materials and expert craftsmanship. Although the house was part of a larger farmstead that no longer exists, it is a good artifact of the type of farmhouse that was built by a successful Yankee immigrant farmer during the area's pioneer era.

According to Wisconsin's *Cultural Resource Management Plan*, the Greek Revival style was the first national style commonly seen in Wisconsin, popular from 1830 to around 1870. Greek Revival buildings are formal, orderly, and symmetrical. Although most Greek Revival buildings in the state are of frame construction with clapboard or, now, artificial siding, the style also adorned brick, fieldstone, and quarried stone buildings. There are a number of larger, high-style Greek Revival buildings in Wisconsin, but because the style was popular primarily during the state's pioneer era, style elements are seen most often on vernacular buildings in the form of symmetrical massing, regular fenestration, simple cornices and returned eaves, and entrances decorated with a transom and/or sidelights.¹¹

¹⁰ Information from the current owner.

¹¹ Barbara Wyatt, ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin Vol. 2*, Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, Architecture, p. 2-3.

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The Strunk house has many distinctive elements of the Greek Revival style, as described above. The building has a general vernacular gabled ell form, but it is much more stylistic than most vernacular buildings of its era. The building has the formal, orderly, and symmetrical details that are general characteristics of the style. In particular, the house has a very formal appearance, with an ashlar finished coursed limestone main elevation, distinctive wood siding on the ell, the central main entrance, and the decoration of the ell porch. The symmetry is most obvious in the regular

fenestration of well-preserved six-over-six-light, double-hung sashes and small rectangular upper story "eyebrow" windows. Other important Greek Revival details of the house include quoins, the returned eaves, and the sidelights and transom that decorate the main entrance.

A review of Greek Revival style buildings in Janesville found numerous buildings with these architectural details, most of which are located in the various historic districts of the city, including the Look West, Old Fourth Ward, Prospect Hill, and Courthouse Hill Historic Districts. Of these buildings, though, the majority have had some type of alteration, most commonly the application of artificial siding and window alterations. The well-preserved examples of the style are generally of small, frame construction, and are not individually distinctive.

There are three buildings that rival the Strunk House for their architectural details. The frame Greek Revival Thomas Sleeper House at 1218 Ruger Street has a high level of architectural style details extant and a high level of historic integrity. This house has the symmetry, regular fenestration of original six-over-six-light sash windows, and classically decorated entrance that makes it a typical, yet distinctive, example of the style.

The second example is the Wilson King Stone House on the grounds of the Lincoln-Tallman Restorations house museum grounds at 440 North Jackson Street. This symmetrical building features a full pediment over a front portico, but few other distinctive details. Because it is a museum building, it has a high level of integrity and preservation. But, its interpretation of the Greek Revival style is different from the Strunk House, although distinctive in its own right.

The Chapin house at 3216 North Parker Drive, a short distance north of the Strunk House, has the most similarities to the Strunk house. It, too, is built of locally-quarried limestone (from the same quarry as the Strunk house) and has Greek Revival details. It does not currently have as much integrity as the Strunk House, but in its own right, can be considered a good example of a Greek Revival style house built by an early Yankee immigrant.

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That these houses are also good examples of the Greek Revival style does not detract from the quality or distinctiveness of the Strunk House. Rather, all of these buildings are all of National Register quality (the Wilson King Stone House is listed in the Look West Historic District) and all add to the depth of our understanding of this style in the Janesville area.

An important additional area of architectural significance for this house is its high quality stone construction. According to Wisconsin's *Cultural Resource Management Plan*, stone construction is

found throughout Wisconsin and stone was used for the construction of buildings with high architectural styles as well as with simple vernacular forms. In constructing stone buildings, local masons took quarried stone and laid it up in sand and lime mortar. When the stone weathered, the buildings took on distinct visual qualities and colors that reflected the type of stone used and the place it was quarried from. There are concentrations of stone buildings from the early years of the Wisconsin territory in the lead mining region of southwestern Wisconsin, as well as important pockets of stone construction in areas just north of Milwaukee, in Dane and Sauk counties, near Waukesha, and in far northern Wisconsin. In other areas of the state, there are many examples, some clustered, of local quarried stone construction and individual stone buildings can be found in almost all areas of the state.¹²

A review of mid-nineteenth century stone buildings in Janesville and Rock County shows that there are no large concentrations of stone buildings in any one area of the county, although stone buildings were built during this time period, especially near limestone quarries. There is a small cluster of stone buildings in the south part of the city of Janesville near quarries in an area called "Monterey." Monterey was so named because of the blasting in the quarries that people associated with the battle of Monterey during the Mexican War.

The cluster of buildings in the Monterey area of Janesville are similar in that they are all vernacular buildings with simple details suggesting the Greek Revival and Italianate architectural styles. Individually, they are not particularly distinctive for their rough stone construction and simple details, but as a group, they are of interest within the Old Fourth Ward Historic District in which they are contributing resources.

The above-mentioned Wilson King Stone House is one of the best examples of stone construction in Janesville, but it does not have the polished details of the Strunk House. Once again, the closest example to the distinctive stone construction of the Strunk House is the Chapin house just north on

¹² Wyatt, Architecture; pp. 4-6 to 4-7.

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Parker Drive, built from materials that came from the same quarry. Because of its construction methods and materials, the Chapin house is also of National Register quality, but does not overshadow the highly-preserved Strunk house. Both houses increase our knowledge of pre-Civil War era stone construction.

In fact, it is the well-preserved stone construction techniques that make the Strunk house stand out as such an important historic resource. The ashlar limestone construction of the main elevation, with well-executed dressed stones gives the Strunk house a particularly elegant appearance. Adding to this

appearance are the well-tooled flat stone trim around doors and windows and the prominent "tabbed" corner quoins. These elegant details are even more significant considering the building's construction date only eight years after the first crude log cabins were built in the Janesville area.

Another significant feature of the house is its fine integrity, especially after over 150 years of constant use. The historic stonework, described above, is intact with only minor alterations on the rear elevation, alterations that were completed during the historic period. The original windows and main entrance are important elements of the building and have been preserved, especially during a period when window and door replacement is almost standard in older houses. Even the exterior alterations done in the later twentieth century, including the large enclosed rear porch, are tasteful, well-constructed, and done in a manner that has largely retained the historic details of the house.

The interior of the house has seen the most remodeling and some changes were made to the first floor plan. But, these changes, like those of the exterior, have been largely well done and have kept the majority of the interior's historic details, such as the deep window wells, the window and door trims, the original main staircase, and many historic finishes. The second floor of the house is largely intact, including the unusual floor plan with two large bedrooms and a series of smaller rooms, an arrangement that is not conducive to twentieth century living, but was preserved by several generations of owners. Even in the kitchen, which has seen the most remodeling, historic doors are intact and an original window has been retained.

During the mid-twentieth century, two different owners made most of the changes to the house, but due to their view of the property as an historic site, these changes did not alter the basic quality of the original house. The most significant change was the alteration of the tack room in the ell, a relatively open space, into three small rooms with twentieth century décor. The current owners are restoring these areas to a more appropriate appearance and are working on areas of the house that need maintenance or updating. They are doing so, though, in a meticulous manner that retains and restores

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important historic details from the original house, as well as important twentieth century design details, such as the "colonial" interior décor of the dining room.

Conclusion

The Strunk house has the outstanding distinctive characteristics of the Greek Revival style and the distinctive stone construction materials and methods that make it locally architecturally significant and eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The house features well-preserved Greek Revival details and a high quality of construction using locally-quarried limestone and well-crafted techniques. The house, by virtue of these significant style characteristics, building materials and methods, integrity, and historic appearance, stands out in the built environment of the city and surrounding area. For these reasons, it well deserves listing in the National Register.

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Boundary Description

The boundary of the Strunk house is defined as Lot 6 of Tradition Lane Estates, Town of Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin. Specifically, the lot is a rectangle with the dimensions of 280.31' x 205'. The lot sits along North Parker Drive (County Highway F) with the longest dimension running along the street. (See site map)

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses much of the original Strunk farmstead, including most of its outbuildings that are no longer extant. One of the large barn locations is not in the boundary, along with the old pig barn, which is part of a house across the street. Even without the locations of these buildings, the site is large enough to provide an appropriate context for the old farmhouse. There are large lawn spaces and historic trees and shrubs within the site and although the area is suburban, this property has a larger lot than its neighbors and retains more of the rural ambience typical of an old farmstead. The nominated boundary corresponds to the current legal parcel.

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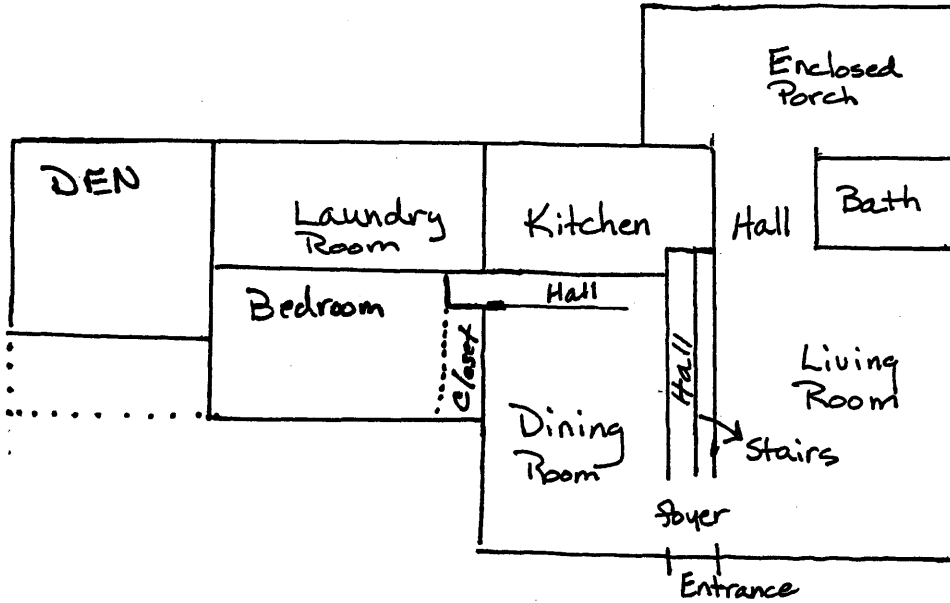
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Strunk, John and Eleanor, House. Town of Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin. Photos by Carol Lohry Cartwright, June, 2006. Negatives on file in the Historic Preservation Division of the Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin.

- 1 of 17: Site view, from the northwest
- 2 of 17: Main elevation of farmhouse, from the west.
- 3 of 17: Northwest elevation of farmhouse, view from the northwest.
- 4 of 17: South elevation of farmhouse, view from the south.
- 5 of 17: East elevation of farmhouse, view from northeast.
- 6 of 17: Garage, view from the northwest.
- 7 of 17: Summer kitchen, view from the east.
- 8 of 17: Pump house, view from the southeast.
- 9 of 17: Interior of farmhouse, first floor, living room, looking toward enclosed porch.
- 10 of 17: Interior of farmhouse, first floor, living room, looking across foyer into dining room.
- 11 of 17: Interior of farmhouse, first floor, dining room, looking at fireplace.
- 12 of 17: Interior of farmhouse, first floor, dining room, looking across foyer into living room.
- 13 of 17: Interior of farmhouse, first floor, ell, vacant room being renovated.
- 14 of 17: Interior of farmhouse, main staircase looking down into foyer.
- 15 of 17: Interior of farmhouse, second floor, hallway looking west.
- 16 of 17: Interior of farmhouse, second floor, hallway and landing, looking east; main entrances of large bedrooms on each side of the landing.
- 17 of 17: Interior of farmhouse, second floor, south bedroom looking at one of small closets along east side of house.

Figure 2: STRUNK, JOHN AND ELEANOR, HOUSE
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FARMHOUSE FLOOR PLANS



First Floor Plan

Second Floor Plan

