

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Thematic Resources of the Cooksville Area

CONTINUATION SHEET

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<u>Property</u>	<u>Owner Name & Mailing Address</u>
39 <u>Savage House</u> Cooksville vicinity (Dane County)	Mrs. Earl Anderson Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
40 <u>Leedle Mill Site & Truss Bridge</u> Cooksville vicinity	Town of Union Wayne Disch, Chairman Croft Road Evansville, WI 53536
41 <u>Cooksville Cheese Factory</u> Cooksville vicinity	Dr. Adolf & Allison Lunde U 188, Leedle Mill Road Route 3 Stoughton, WI 53589
42 <u>John T. Dow House</u> Cooksville vicinity	Norman & Laura Jean Hatlen Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
43 <u>Cooper-Gillies House</u> Cooksville vicinity	Norman & Laura Jean Hatlen Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
44 <u>Miller House</u> Cooksville vicinity	James D. & Thomas N. Hatlen Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
45 <u>Miller House</u> Cooksville vicinity	Carl Liedholm Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
46 <u>Champney Brickyard & House Site</u> Cooksville Historic District	Sidney Anderson Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
47 <u>Joseph K. P. Porter Farmstead</u> Cooksville vicinity	Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Tait Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
48 <u>Harrison Stebbins House ("Windermere")</u> Cooksville vicinity	Earl & Lavon Keehn Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
49 <u>Richardson Grout House</u> Cooksville vicinity	Harold Porter 6641 Gettysburg Drive Madison, WI 535705

with the founding family of the area. J.K.P. Porter (1819-1907), from Charlton, Mass., acted as agent for his uncle, Dr. John Porter, who acquired the east half of Section 6, including the Waucoma land, and the west half of Section 5 from famed United State Senator Daniel Webster in 1842. Joseph came with his bride, Ann Eliza Bacon Porter (1821-1890), to manage the property. He built the core of the house in 1847. By mid-1860's, it was a two-story four-bay frame Greek Revival house with returned cornices and a 1½ story wing to its rear. It was then similar in proportion to the brick Cooper-Gillies house in Union. As the children married, wings were added so that the families could return to visit in the summer. These wings were also two-storied and gabled with returned cornices, to match the rest of the house. One wing houses a stairhall which was added on the south front side, and is centered in front of the original house. Floors are oak, sawed in the sawmill which was located on the farm. This sawmill had furnished lumber for other Waucoma houses after the Cooksville mill was completely converted to a flouring mill. The big farmhouse eventually became a tenant house. The tenants included some of the Norwegians who had moved to the area to work on the farms in the late 19th century, when tobacco was added to the dairy and forage production of the region.

In the 1920's, one of the two-storied wings, now with simple gables, was moved about 1/8th of a mile northeast along the Badfish Creek by John B. Porter, who was then in ill health, to become the family home. The doorway was centered on the long side of the house. It was embellished with a flat, decorated Eclectic Georgian Revival lintel and engaged pilasters. The first story windows were remodeled into pairs on either side of the door, and a porch was added on the left rear, overlooking the creek. This building is contributory on historic grounds only, as part of the long occupation of the site by the family.

About 1935 Lyell Porter, among the last of the descendents to own the farm, constructed a compatible two-story frame house just west of the moved one. It also overlooks the creek. Fitzhugh Scott of Milwaukee contributed to the design of this Eclectic Revival house. There is a nice broken-pedimented entrance, a six-over-six paned window on either side of the door, and three square three-over-three paned windows on the second story. The facade is better proportioned than its mate. There is also a small cornice return on the sides. Similar in scale and material to its companion and directly associated with the family, it is also contributory to the nomination.

A rustic two-story horse barn of about 1870 was converted to a granary about 1920. It sits on a concrete slab ca. 75 feet north of the big farmhouse, and is topped with a gabled cupola. It was converted to an antique shop in the 1970's but is now vacant. It is contributory as the only one of the numerous farmbuildings which were once in existence on the site.

The sawmill on the farm has left too few traces to be part of the nomination. Some of its record books, however, are extant. The earthworks were visible not far from the two houses as late as the 1940's.

The metallic buildings which were added in the 1970's to the west of the farmhouse and granary are incompatible to the nomination.

(Rock County, 1879, p. 871; L.R. Porter, Choice Seed in the Wilderness, 1964; Edgerton Reporter, May 1965; Milwaukee Journal, July 2, 1967; Raney notes.)

47. Harrison Stebbins house ("Windermere") 1850 Acreage: less than 1 acre
 SE NE S. 8, Porter UTM Reference: (n) 16/318910/4743730 (KOC - corrections
 Owner: Earl and Lavon Keehn, R 1 Ev rec'd 9/16/80)

One of the finest 19th century residences in Rock County, this "large and commodious" 2½ story limestone house was praised soon after it was erected in 1850 as "one of the most desirable situations in the county" (Ag. 1856, p. 116). Its primary significance is architectural, as embodying with exceptional quality the distinctive characteristics of a period and type of construction, limestone Greek Revival with Federal characteristics.

Built of locally quarried limestone block, it is a "five-bay" house, with stright lintels and a central door with lights. The gable ends are raised above the roof line, creating a parapet wall with coping. The stepped gable rises to a pair of chimneys at each end. (The front chimney on the right side has been removed.) Bullseye louvers fronted the attic story. Dances and dancing classes were held upstairs; they contributed to the social life of Cooksville.

A decorative front porch with cresting (still intact) was in place by 1873; back porches were added as well. By 1873 there was also a long frame two-story wing, lower than the main house. Its far end, however, has been removed and replaced with a one story garage, which is not part of the nomination. Other than this the exterior of the house is relatively little altered. The stone needs pointing and the roof needs repairs. An avenue of trees along the two-fifths mile-long entrance from the west was almost obliterated during severe windstorms in 1965, and a few years later.

The Stebbins house is secondarily significant for its association with an early settler who became a locally prominent person. Harrison Stebbins (1820-82), born in Vermont, came to Janesville as one of its first school teachers in 1841. He was county suveyor until 1844, when he purchased his first 240 acres in Porter. He was a commissioner for the location of Territorial Road, Rock County Superintendent of Schools, a member of the state legislature in 1852, a "progressive farmer" and the builder of a gristmill in Stebbinsville on the Yahara River. (The most notable sites which remain in Stebbinsville are the dam and the Gilley-Tofslund octagonal barn (NRHP). The latter was built by a son-in-law of Stebbins.)

(Ag. 1856, pp. 115-116; Atlas, 1873, illus. p. 58; Rock County, 1879, p. 871; Biog., 1889, pp. 715-716; L.R. Porter, Choice Seed, pp. 161-163; Douglas and Hartung, RCHSB, illus. p. 31, pl. 10d, pp. 33, 138.)

48. Richardson Grout house ca. 1848-50
SE SE 8, Porter UTM Reference: (o) 16/319220/4742810
Owner: Harold Porter, 6641 Gettysburg Drive, Madison 53705

Acreage: less than 1 acre.
(KOC-corrections
rec'd 9/16/80)

This 1½ story vernacular cottage is significant architecturally as an example of grout construction in Rock County, a type of construction of which at least 16 examples are known to survive. Nine are concentrated in Milton, about 13 miles to the east (NRHP: Milton Grout Thematic), and there are two in the Town of Fulton, six and seven miles east. This is the only grout house surveyed in the Town of Porter.

It is a simple gabled cottage, entered at the long side, with a frame porch across the front and a frame saltbox to the rear. Fenestration is simple. There is only one, tall, window on the south side which opens out of the core, and a window on each side of the front door. A central chimney separates the two main rooms.

Scottish-born Alexander Richardson is credited with the construction of the house. The land was deeded from Jonathon Roby to Robert Richardson in December 1849. Supposedly coming from Milwaukee to Cooksville to establish a store, Alexander was said to be enthralled with the view from the ridge and settled to farm here until his death while hauling lumber to nearby Edgerton. The house was eventually passed to members of the Porter family.

(Abstracts; Porter, Choice Seed, P. 191; RCHSB, pp. 10, 139; Raney notes.)