

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

PH 0678791

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 7 1979

DATE ENTERED

MAR 17 1979

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

Smith, Francis West, House

AND/OR COMMON

Addie Blackburn House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1002 West 2nd Avenue

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Brodhead

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Wisconsin 53520

CODE

55

COUNTY

Green

CODE

045

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

___DISTRICT

___PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

___AGRICULTURE

___MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

___UNOCCUPIED

___COMMERCIAL

___PARK

___STRUCTURE

___BOTH

___WORK IN PROGRESS

___EDUCATIONAL

X PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

___ENTERTAINMENT

___RELIGIOUS

___OBJECT

___IN PROCESS

___YES: RESTRICTED

___GOVERNMENT

___SCIENTIFIC

___BEING CONSIDERED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___INDUSTRIAL

___TRANSPORTATION

___NO

___MILITARY

___OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Joyce B. Condon

Mrs. Condon

STREET & NUMBER

1002 West 2nd Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Brodhead

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin 53520

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Green County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Monroe

STATE

Wisconsin 53566

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1975

___FEDERAL X STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Francis W. Smith house is a two-story Italianate house constructed of cream brick in 1877. It is located on a corner among churches and residences less than one block from downtown Brodhead, a small, rural community settled by Yankees. A two-story brick barn to the rear of the house and an empty lot next door to the house are included in the nomination. The owners purchased the lot many years ago to help protect the residential character of the area when a proposed livery stable threatened to extend the commercial core too close to the house.

The house has remained in the same family since it was built. Because of the family's pride in the building, it is in excellent condition and has suffered few alterations.

The main block of the house is sheltered by a very low, hipped roof. The front features four long and narrow windows arranged symmetrically. Similar windows pierce the side (north) facade in three bays, except for the center opening on the first floor which is blind with permanently closed shutters. All windows have green shutters, painted the original color, stone sills, two-over-two lights, and finely worked brick segmental arches flush with the walls.

Attached to the south side of this block is a slightly lower wing also covered with a low, hipped roof. The second floor windows on the wing are half-sized. A one-story brick bay window extends at the end of the wing. Attached to the rear of the wing is a one-story section and a large one-story woodshed, both also crowned with hipped roofs. A rear porch on the one-story section echoes the front porch across the front of the south wing, which features delicately jigsawed brackets along the cornice in a vine-like S-scroll. Similar brackets decorate the porch pillars which are bevelled at the corners. The bevelling is interrupted in the middle by applied, jigsawed ornaments which also trim the capitals and bases of each pillar. Between the large rectangular bases are solid wooden panels added in 1922 to accommodate screens. A photograph from ca. 1890 shows that the area between the bases was previously open. The use of appliquéd, jigsawed porch trim is unusual in Wisconsin. Very similar pillars and brackets occur in one other building in Brodhead four blocks down the street from the Smith house. Brackets similar to those on the porch decorate the wide cornices of the house and the bay window.

The original cream brick chimneys were replaced ca. 1967 by red brick ones and the original tin roof was covered with bitumen in 1970.

The front door contains a frosted window decorated with etching. The keyhole on the front door is in the shape of an "S." The door leads into the sitting room in the south wing. The other half of the wing is the dining room, in which the original interior shutters remain on the bay.

The main block contains a parlor in the front half. In the back a partition was removed in 1915 making one bedroom out of two. At that time, a bathroom was added. The back one-story wing contains a pantry and the kitchen, modernized in 1971. The hand water pump remains on the back porch. The second floor contains four bedrooms.

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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1877¹

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Francis W. Smith house is an excellent, intact example of an Italianate house, constructed for a middle-class merchant in a small community settled by Yankees.

It was built in 1877 for F. W. Smith, who was born in 1822 in Grafton, New York. He moved to Whitewater, Wisconsin, in 1854, and came to Brodhead in 1865. He opened a grocery store in downtown Brodhead which he operated until his death in 1882. His wife remained in the house with their daughter, who married Loudon Blackbourn. Blackbourn for several years operated a book, variety, and wallpaper store in the same building in which his father-in-law's grocery store had been.

Mr. Blackbourn's daughters own the house today.

Brodhead contains many fine Victorian commercial and residential buildings, most of which are constructed of cream brick. Of the brick residences, the Smith house is one of the best, both in the craftsmanship of the masonry and woodwork and in the preservation of its original fabric.

Smith built his house very close to his grocery store. Most of the block on which the Smith house sits is occupied today by commercial buildings in the downtown core of Brodhead. The Smith house property is zoned commercial. Two years ago the owners were approached by a prospective purchaser who wished to demolish the house for a parking lot. The owners have therefore requested nomination to provide some protection from the encroachment of the commercial district in future years.

1. Brodhead Independent, August 31, 1877; September 21, 1877; November 16, 1877.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brodhead Independent, 6-23-1876; 9-15-1876; 9-29-1876; 11-10-1876; 8-31-1877; 9-21-1877; 10-26-1877; 11-16-1877; 2-17-1882.

Condon, Gregg A., "Home Formerly Used for Births, Weddings and Funerals," Brodhead Independent-Register, January 15, 1976.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .36

QUADRANGLE NAME Brodhead West

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 305000 4721200
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 2, Block 88; and the N 22 ft, the W 100 ft of the S 22 ft of the N 44 ft, and the W 82 ft of the S 22 ft of Lot 4, Block 88, Original Plat of Brodhead, Wisconsin.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Joyce B. Condon

ORGANIZATION

DATE

March 9, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

1002 West 2nd Avenue

TELEPHONE

608/897-2025

CITY OR TOWN

Brodhead

STATE

Wisconsin 53520

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

Richard K. Munn

TITLE

Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

2/27/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles M. ...

DATE

4-17-79

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

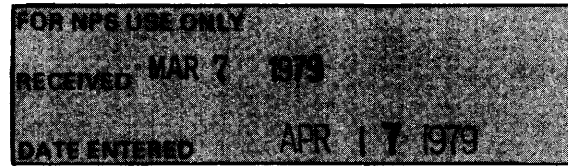
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

4-16-79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



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ITEM NUMBER

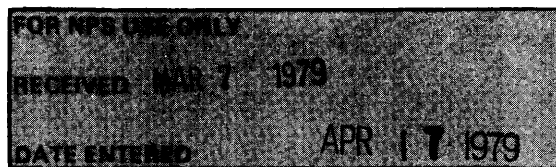
PAGE

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Mrs. Rosamond Plichta ✓
8611 West Cleveland Avenue
West Allis, Wisconsin 53227

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Originally the interior walls of the house were covered with plaster in which sparkling marbledust had been mixed. These subsequently have been covered with wallpaper. All woodwork is painted white, a scheme which the owner says is original.

A white picket fence and wooden sidewalks originally surrounded the house. Now maple and plum trees, barberry bushes, and a privet hedge decorate the property. The carriage house behind the house is contemporary with the house and is also of cream brick, two-stories high with a flat roof and a cornice composed of angled bricks. It is the only brick carriage house in Brodhead.

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Katherine E. Hundt, Architectural Historian
State Historical Society of Wisconsin
816 State Street
Madison

June 28, 1978
608/262-2970
Wisconsin 53706

COMMENTS TO BE INCLUDED WITH THE NOMINATION FORM

The Francis W. Smith house, 1002 West Second Avenue, Brodhead, 101 years old, has interest for people on the local, state, and national level, because of its architecture. This building has beauty and dignity and is in a state of excellent preservation.

Five types of architecture are exemplified in the structure: 1) The High Victorian style (cream-colored brick); 2) the North Italian Renaissance Revival in the United States in 1850 (symmetrical elevations of the bay window, the wing, and the upright sections); 3) the Italian Villa style, 1820-1860 (slightly pitched roof, projected eaves supported by brackets, round-headed windows and grouped in two's, and bay window); 4) the Eastlake style in America, 1870 (knobs at bases of brackets and circular perforation in carvings especially visible on the front and back porches); and 5) the Renaissance Revival: the Romano-Tuscan style (bricks at tops of windows perpendicularly fan-shaped, smooth and plain walls, and carved pillars of the porches).

The exterior of the house has sufficient integrity in its architecture to show the result 101 years ago of the combination of the 5 types. The light and dark colors make striking contrasts-the shadows of the carved brackets with knobs on the white trim and the cream-colored brick and the green shutters. They make a rich, overall effect.

The interior of the house with its white woodwork, high ceilings, openness of the length of the house because of the triple and double doorways and the extension of the bay window, and the antique furnishings makes the atmosphere one of age to carry out the exterior appearance. It is a veritable museum with some furniture and bric-a-brac brought from New York state by the builder, Francis W. Smith, and his wife in 1863.

Also the 2-story barn at the back of the lot is unique and rare. The design of the bricks at the top of the building makes an unusual pattern showing how much attention to detail in the beauty of construction was paid 101 years ago.

The state of excellent preservation of the house and barn is explained by the fact that descendants of Francis W. Smith, except for one year- March, 1913-March, 1914- have always lived here. That time includes 4 generations. There has always been interest and pride in and love for the place by the family. The youngest member to live here is my son, now associate professor at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

The house and barn are in imminent danger of being razed for a parking lot because of the downtown location. Two years ago I was given an offer to sell the house which would have

been removed for the space to be used for a parking lot. Another building, a rooming house more than 100 years old, was razed by the city 2 years ago and the lot stands empty. This was a block away. This house would be more likely to be saved if it were listed in the National Register of Historic Places.