

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wisconsin	
COUNTY: Brown	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-4-48-0004	DATE 4/28/70

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Tank Cottage

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Roi-Porlier-Tank Cottage

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
10th Avenue at 5th Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Green Bay

STATE Wisconsin	CODE 48	COUNTY: Brown	CODE 009
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
City of Green Bay

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Green Bay

STATE Wisconsin	CODE 48
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Green Bay

STATE Wisconsin	CODE 48
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
None

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

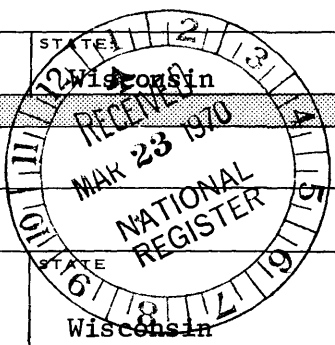
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:	CODE:
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Wisconsin	FOR NPS USE ONLY
COUNTY: Brown	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Elongated wood clapboard covered house with a four-columned veranda extending across the front of the central portion of the house. There is a main mid-portion which is the original building, with wings at either end. The architecture is of no conventional style, though the original central portion shows influences of early French construction in Canada and the United States.

The original house, built in 1776, is of wattle construction. It consisted of four willow trees set into the ground, one in each corner, with willow branches set between the corners as upright supports and between them a weaving of boughs, withes and twigs, plastered with mud or clay. Wide, split boards were used to cover the inside walls and provide both supporting strength and warmth. Clapboards or siding were later used to cover the outside.

The flooring of the middle section is original, clearly adzed by hand. Beams and ceiling forming the upstairs floor are also original.

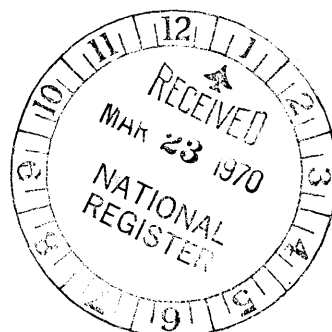
At first there was only a parlor on the left with a huge fireplace and with two small rooms opening off the parlor. On the right was the library from which two rooms lead off. The upstairs consisted of two small rooms at the right and one large one at the left. There is a single small, high dormer at the top of the stairs. In 1820 the house remained a simple cabin with a rough stone chimney at one end.

After purchasing the house in 1850, Niels Otto Tank added wings to both ends of the cottage. These were of conventional frame construction and covered with wood clapboards so that the house is so-covered in its entirety.

Following Mrs. Tank's death in 1891, the last occupant to own the house before it became city property, George Rice, put the house into excellent repair, carefully preserving all of the cottage's early characteristics.

In 1908 when the house was moved to its present location, the original building withstood the move without damage but the right wing that Otto Tank had added broke away. It has since been restored and the house today is authentically preserved, with the main central portion being the original 1776 cottage and the wings as they were after being added in the 1850's.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1776; 1812-1815; 1850-1891

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry            | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention           | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape           | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture        | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature          | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music               |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture: The Roi-Porlier-Tank Cottage is Wisconsin's oldest known surviving building. The basic wattled cottage was built in 1776 on the banks of the Fox River by Joseph Roi, a French voyageur. The wattled construction is unique and the house is believed to be one of no more than four or five such structures remaining in this country.

Military and political: In 1805 the house was purchased by Jacques Porlier and during the War of 1812 it served as a local headquarters for planning by the British, with whom Porlier's activities were aligned. After the end of the war, however, Porlier swore allegiance to the United States, was forgiven for his British alliances, and was active in public office. He was appointed Chief Justice of the Brown County Court by Governor Lewis Cass of the Michigan Territory in 1820 and served in that capacity until establishment of the Wisconsin territory in 1836.

Religion/Philosophy: In 1850 Niels Otto Tank, a wealthy Norwegian missionary, bought the house when he purchased a large tract on the west bank of the Fox River. A Moravian minister, he hoped to establish a communal society there. Disputes over leadership of the community led to the downfall of his plan.

The structure is significant for its antiquity, architectural value, and several prominent roles in Fox River Valley and Wisconsin history. It was moved to its present site in 1908 and is furnished mostly with authentic Tank pieces, many dating back to Mme. Tank's famous Dutch ancestors of previous centuries. The house is situated in a park given to the city by Mme. Tank.

Marked with an Official Wisconsin Historical Marker



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Perrin, Richard W. E., Historic Wisconsin Architecture, Wisconsin Chapter, American Institute of Architects, Milwaukee, 1960, p. 30.  
 Martin, Deborah Beaumont, The Porlier-Tank Cottage, Its History And The People Who Have Lived In It, Green Bay, 1925.  
 "Historical Data and Inventory of Roi-Porlier-Tank Cottage," n.p., Green Bay, Wisconsin, April 23, 1958.  
 "Early State Homes--High, Wide and Fancy," Milwaukee Journal, June 27, 1948.

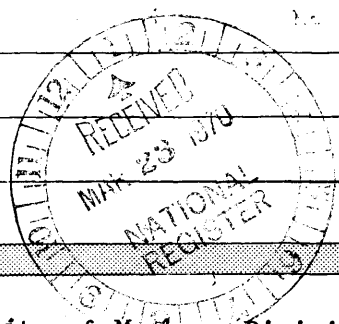
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		N 44° 30' 39"	W 88° 02' 05"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4.0

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**D. N. Anderson, Assistant Director, Historic Sites & Markers Division**

ORGANIZATION: **State Historical Society of Wisconsin**

DATE: **January 14, 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**816 State Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Madison** STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **48**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Richard A. Ermy

Title Acting Director  
**State Historical Society of Wis.**

Date March 18, 1970

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

Ernest Allen Connally  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date APR 28 1970

ATTEST:

William J. Stout  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date APR 13 1970

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

PH 0676586

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
APR 3 1979  
RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED *approved 6/6/79*

**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** *Tank Cottage*

HISTORIC

~~Roi-Perlier-Tank Cottage~~  
AND/OR COMMON

*Tank Cottage (preferred)*

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

*Heritage Hill State Park, 2640 South Webster Avenue*

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

*Green Bay*

*Allouez*

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

*Eighth*

STATE

*Wisconsin 54301*

CODE

*55*

COUNTY

*Brown*

CODE

*009*

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

*State of Wisconsin, Department of Natural Resources, Office of Lands*

STREET & NUMBER

*4610 University Avenue, P. O. Box 7921*

CITY, TOWN

*Madison*

VICINITY OF

STATE

*Wisconsin 53707*

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. *Brown County Courthouse*

STREET & NUMBER

*100 South Jefferson Street*

CITY, TOWN

*Green Bay*

STATE

*Wisconsin 54301*

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

*Historic American Buildings Survey*

DATE

*1960-61*

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS *Library of Congress*

CITY, TOWN

*Washington*

STATE

*District of Columbia 20540*

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE 1908, 1975
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built in 1776,<sup>1</sup> the Tank Cottage is an elongated, clapboarded 1½-story house with a four-columned, hip-roofed front porch. There is a main, gable-roofed midsection, which is the original building, with single-story shed-roofed wings at both ends. On the rear (east) slope of the roof is a single, centrally placed, narrow, gable-roofed dormer. Most of the first story windows are 8/12 double hung sash with heavy, vertical board shutters. All doors are single, 4-paneled, and enframed with architrave trim. The architecture is of no conventional style, although the small dormer is, to some viewers, reminiscent of old French dwellings in New Orleans and Quebec.<sup>2</sup>

The original house was long thought to be of wattle and daub construction,<sup>3,4</sup> but during the cottage's most recent move it was found that the walls are of a French-type construction common to that period, built of heavy, horizontal planks. Where chinking was needed, the builder filled spaces with a mixture of clay and straw.<sup>5</sup> Personal testimony of Joseph Roi, the builder, indicates that he "built his...dwelling in 1776, sawed his uprights and perhaps the rough enclosing boards with a whipsaw, as was the custom of the time and lived in it until Judge Porlier purchased the property in 1805. The neat clapboarding was put over the entire building doubtless by Mr. Tank, when he purchased the place in 1850, and at the same time he enlarged the house by adding a wing at either end."<sup>6</sup> Wide split boards were used to cover the inside walls and provide both supporting strength and warmth. The flooring of the middle section is original, clearly adzed by hand. The beams supporting the ceiling and upstairs floor are also original. Before Tank enlarged the house, there was only a parlor on the left with a huge fireplace and with two small rooms opening off the parlor. On the right was the library, from which two rooms led off. The upstairs consisted of two small rooms at the right and one larger one at the left.

Following Mrs. Tank's death in 1891, George Rice, the last occupant to own the house before it became city property, put the structure into excellent repair, carefully preserving all of the cottage's early characteristics.<sup>7</sup> About 1907, when the house was in danger of demolition to make way for an industrial development, Rice offered it to the city, provided that the South Side Improvement Association and the Green Bay Historical Society "would unite in saving the century old home from destruction."<sup>8</sup> This they did, securing an appropriation of \$350 from the city council to move the old cottage to Union Park, a property which Mme. Tank had donated to the city before her death. The house was moved there in 1908. During the move the original part of the house and the left wing remained undamaged but the right wing which Otto Tank had added broke away. It has since been rebuilt. The building had originally stood on the west bank of the Fox River in what is now part of Green Bay's industrial area not far upstream from the original site of Fort Howard. Its new siting was on higher ground a few blocks west of the river. It became a National Register property April 28, 1970.

Members of the Brown County Historical Society had been thinking for some time of moving a number of their historically significant buildings to a common site, specifically a portion of state reformatory land in the Town of Allouez which possesses significance itself as the site of Camp Smith in the early days of Fort Howard (c. 1820). In 1960 the Green Bay Press Gazette reported that at a meeting on February 3, the county historical society's proposed historical park received the endorsement of the Brown County Historical Commission. It was stated that "The Historical Society would like a mall development from Webster Avenue to the Fox River. Among the buildings which

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Association with historically significant persons
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1776<sup>1</sup>; 1812-1815<sup>2</sup>; 1850<sup>3</sup> BUILDER/ARCHITECT ~~Joseph Roi~~ Joseph Roi

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Roi-Porlier-Tank Cottage is significant for its antiquity, architectural value, and several prominent roles in Fox River Valley and Wisconsin history through association with historically important personages.

Architecture: The Tank Cottage is Wisconsin's oldest existing house.<sup>4,5</sup> The basic cottage was built in 1776 on the west bank of the Fox River by Joseph Roi, a French-Canadian voyageur. The construction is typical of cabins built by early French fur-traders. A second unusual, similarly constructed cabin was found in Green Bay in a recent year.

Military, Politics, Law: In 1805 the house was purchased by Jacques Porlier and during the War of 1812 it served as a local headquarters for planning by the British, with whom Porlier's activities were aligned and in whose forces he served as a Captain of Militia and Commissary.<sup>6</sup> After the war's end, however, Porlier swore allegiance to the United States, was forgiven for his British alliances, and became active in public office. He was appointed Chief Justice of the Brown County Court by Governor Lewis Cass of the Michigan Territory in 1820 and served in that capacity until establishment of the Wisconsin Territory in 1836.

Religion/Social/Humanitarian: In 1850 Niels Otto Tank, a wealthy Norwegian missionary, bought the house when he purchased a large tract of land on the west bank of the Fox River. A Moravian minister, he tried to establish a communal society there. Disputes over leadership of the community and ownership of land led to the downfall of his plan.<sup>7</sup>

1. Martin, 4
2. Ibid., 5-6
3. Ibid., 4
4. Perrin, Historic Wisconsin Architecture, 34
5. --- Wisconsin Architecture, 46
6. Martin, op. cit., 5
7. Ibid., 10-11





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



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

TANK COTTAGE, Green Bay, Wisconsin

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

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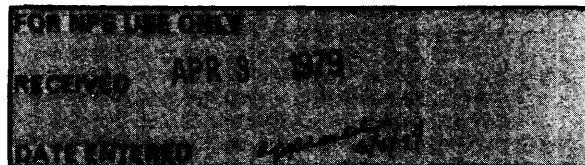
Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places  
1970  
State Historical Society of Wisconsin  
Madison

State

Wisconsin 53706

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



TANK COTTAGE, Green Bay, Wisconsin

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

have been recommended for transfer...are the Henry Baird Law Office on the courthouse lawn, East Moravian Church, and the Fort Howard buildings."<sup>9</sup> (The Tank Cottage was later added to the list.) Two important considerations were the facts that except for the Moravian Church, all of the buildings had been moved at least once in order to save them, and that they were not receiving adequate care, maintenance, and protection from vandalism. As the historical park concept developed further, it won approval in a local referendum. It also received the support of the State Historical Society<sup>10</sup> and of the Wisconsin governor. Governor Patrick Lucey referred specifically to the advantages of moving the historic structures to the park "in which their interpretation, operation, maintenance and security can be handled more efficiently," and said he hoped that community residents who had expressed reservations would give the park "the support which will make it a major cultural resource of the Green Bay community and the state."<sup>11</sup>

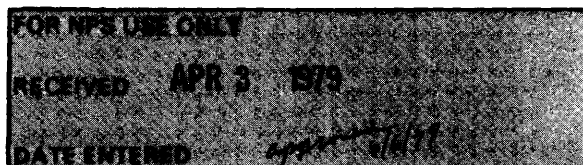
A series of events and cooperative efforts between state agencies and both local government and private agencies in Green Bay and Brown County made possible and gave impetus to the establishment of a permanent site for Green Bay's historic buildings, to be known as Heritage Hill State Park. In 1971 the Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services transferred ownership of the needed acreage of state reformatory property to the Department of Natural Resources, which operates the state park system. Governmental and historical agencies of Green Bay and Brown County formed Heritage Hill Foundation, Inc., which worked cooperatively with the Bureau of Parks and Recreation of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in the planning and development of Heritage Hill State Park as a Wisconsin American Revolution Bicentennial project. During 1975 and 1976, ownership of the Baird Law Office, Cotton House, Tank Cottage, and the Fort Howard buildings (hospital, ward building and officers quarters) was transferred to the State and those buildings not already on the park site were moved there. The Cotton House, which overlooks the entire park from the top of the hill, did not have to be moved. The historic Roi-Portier-Tank Cottage was moved from Union Park to the Fox River and then successfully barged about four miles south to Heritage Hill State Park.<sup>12</sup> It was sited at the lower end of the park where it faces westward toward the river.

A small, single-story structure called the bakeoven house, which had been presented to the city by descendants of the Christian Schwartz family in 1938 and placed on the Tank Cottage grounds in Union Park, was moved to Heritage Hill along with the house. Although this is an authentic, perhaps locally important building in its own right as a structure associated with an early Green Bay family, it has no historical relationship to the Tank Cottage. After the move to Heritage Hill State Park, however, this structure was physically attached to the rear of the left wing in such a way that a small part of the front gable end fits against the back wall of the left wing, and one of its verges intersects the edge of the wing's shed roof (see photos). A doorway was made in the rear wall of the wing to open into the bake oven house.

While this intrusion cannot be justified, it can be explained on the basis of ill-advised opinions given to the Department of Natural Resources in response to their inquiring whether the bake oven house should be attached to the Tank Cottage. Although

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TANK COTTAGE, Green Bay, Wisconsin

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ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Tank Cottage's architectural the two structures will probably be left as they are, the intrusion on the/integrity is confined to a very small area and is relatively minor. Mr. Tank originally constructed the left wing as a dining room and kitchen,<sup>13</sup> and old photographs of the cottage on its original site show a separate structure at the left rear corner of the house that may have served as a summer kitchen. The current situation is not entirely bad, therefore, since it closely approximates a historically correct visual effect. The bay window at the north end of the cottage, which obstructs part of the view of the small building at the northeast corner, is part of the original wing construction of the early 1850s.

Although the Tank Cottage is not as close to the Fox River as it was originally, its new, permanent siting more closely simulates the original than did that at Union Park. The house faces the river, albeit from the opposite bank, and, since it had already been moved once, it suffers no greater adverse effect on its historical integrity than it did when first moved in 1908.

Whereas the new setting of the Tank Cottage is on land that possesses historical significance as part of the site of Camp Smith, a short-lived military post begun in 1820 as an offshoot of Fort Howard, the intrusion of the cottage and other historic buildings cannot be said to have an adverse effect. For many years prior to the establishment of Heritage Hill State Park, the area of onetime Camp Smith which the Tank Cottage now occupies was a hay field of the Wisconsin State Reformatory. The area immediately surrounding the house is now lawn. At the rear of the house is a cover of tall grass which is left in a more or less natural state, with rail fences zigzagging through some of the grass.

What now remains of the old Camp Smith site slopes westward from a crest along South Webster Avenue down to the east bank of the Fox River, a distance of some 2600 feet. Before the creation of Heritage Hill State Park, the Cotton House, which is situated at the eastern (upper) area of the park and faces westward, had an imposing view of the river. (See aerial photograph of the park site before development.) While creation of the park did not obstruct this view, it did introduce a visual intrusion. Mitigating against the seriousness of this intrusion is the fact that the Cotton House itself was moved to its present site in 1941, taking it out of its own original context. On its original location about a mile north of Heritage Hill, the Cotton House did not have the clear overview that it has now. Like the other historically significant buildings moved to Heritage Hill State Park, the Cotton House was saved from eventual loss by destruction, neglect, or vandalism.

1. Martin, 1,2,4
2. Ibid., 7
3. Ibid., 2
4. Perrin, Wisconsin Architecture, 46
5. Personal observation
6. Martin, op. cit., 2,4
7. Ibid., 18

8. Ibid.
9. Press-Gazette, Feb. 4, 1960
10. Resolution, State Historical Society, Feb. 24, 1974
11. Lucey to Wendels and Rood, Sept. 9, 1975
12. Exchange, July 1976, 4
13. Martin, op. cit., 12

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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DATE ENTERED

TANK COTTAGE, Green Bay, Wisconsin

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Martin, Deborah Beaumont, The Porlier-Tank Cottage - Its History and the People Who Have Lived in It, (Green Bay, 1925), passim.

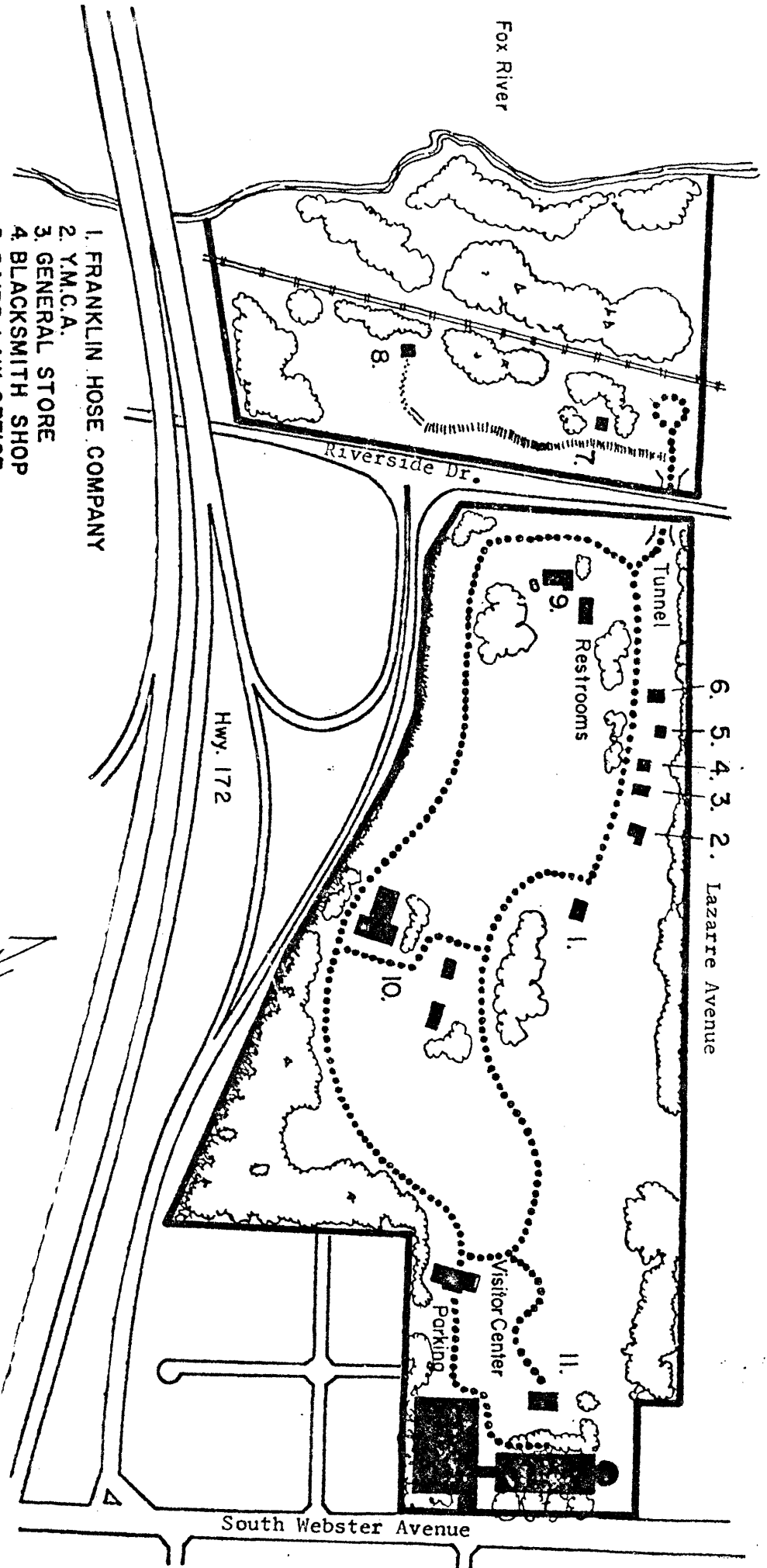
Perrin, Richard W. E., Historic Wisconsin Architecture, 1st. Rev. Ed. (Milwaukee, 1976), 34

Perrin, Richard W. E., (Narrative), Wisconsin Architecture, Historic American Buildings Survey (Washington, 1965), 10, 46

Resolution, Board of Curators, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Feb. 23, 1974

Richardson, Harry, "The Porlier-Tank Cottage at Green Bay," Wisconsin Journal of Education, Feb., 1930

- 1. FRANKLIN HOSE COMPANY
- 2. Y.M.C.A.
- 3. GENERAL STORE
- 4. BLACKSMITH SHOP
- 5. BAIRD LAW OFFICE
- 6. ALLOUEZ TOWN HALL
- 7. WISCONSIN'S FIRST COURTHOUSE
- 8. FUR TRADERS CABIN
- 9. TANK COTTAGE
- 10. FORT HOWARD BUILDINGS
- 11. COTTON HOUSE

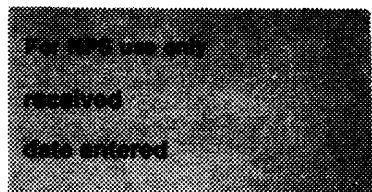


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 APR 3 1979  
 NATIONAL REGISTER

HERITAGE HILL STATE PARK

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

PROPERTY NAME Tank Cottage

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REFERENCE NUMBER

W	I
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STATE

0	0	9
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COUNTY CODE

New street address is 2640 South Webster Avenue

2/13/86

SIGNED, SHPO OR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

DATE