

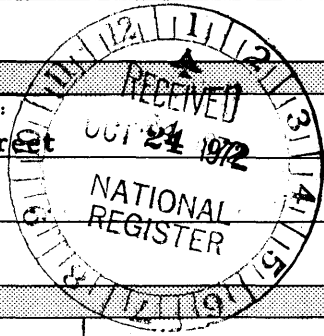
STATE: Wisconsin	
COUNTY: Fond du Lac	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER NOV 3 1972	DATE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME	
COMMON: Octagon House	Congressmen to be notified: Sen. William Proxmire Sen. Gaylord A. Nelson Rep. William A. Steiger (6th Cong. Dist.)
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 276 Linden Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Fond du Lac			
STATE Wisconsin	CODE 55	COUNTY: Fond du Lac	CODE 039



3. CLASSIFICATION					
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Not currently in use	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: State of Wisconsin, Dept. of Industry, Labor & Human Relations			
STREET AND NUMBER: 4802 Sheboygan Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Madison	STATE: Wisconsin	CODE 55	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Fond du Lac County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Fond du Lac	STATE: Wisconsin	CODE 55	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Wisconsin Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1972	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: State Historical Society of Wisconsin			
STREET AND NUMBER: 816 State Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Madison	STATE: Wisconsin	CODE 55	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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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 type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A modest-sized 1½ story octagonal house with hipped roof and four large gable-roofed dormers--one each facing north, south, east and west--and with a chimney rising through the apex of the roof, this structure was built, so far as is known, about 1856. There is a wing extending from the west side, containing the bathroom and possibly a woodshed, and a single story porch around approximately the northeast quarter of the house. The main portal and the front steps face northeast. Although the original appearance of the house can only be inferred, it seems that the addition of the wing and replacement of the front porch are the only alterations of any consequence, and the wing was apparently built with preservation of the house's integrity of design in mind. At least Perrin so concludes, stating "...even the bathroom was provided as an addition to the house in order to keep the original configuration intact."

While the exterior currently presents a somewhat run-down appearance, Perrin says of the fabric, "Its physical condition is excellent, reflecting good maintenance over the years and respect for the architectural integrity of its origin. The foundation walls are local limestone laid random ashlar and the outside walls above grade are grout as advocated by Fowler, furred and stuccoed rough cast on split wood lath on the outside and lathed and plastered on the inside. Interior partitions appear to be wood studs, lathed and plastered on both sides. Wood trim throughout is extremely simple but well joined and reminiscent of late Greek Revival with its crisp squared and bevelled profiles. Two bay windows and vestiges of the original front porch are somewhat more ornate with bracketting on the outside and curvaceously profiled moldings on the inside..."

"An examination of the basement discloses that it was very soundly built and evidently never had any water problems such as leaking walls or rising ground water. There is evidence that at the center of the octagon there was a stone-walled cistern adjoining the chimney...There are also indications that the house had a central heating plant, most probably a wood-burning furnace, right from the beginning. A very simple stairway adjoins, also at the center, in characteristic Fowler fashion.

"Both first and second floor plans are remarkable with respect to the usual alterations and 'modernizations' usually encountered in buildings as old as this and situated near the core of an urban community...The house has one fireplace, closed off, and the ceilings are quite high especially on the second floor where they are about twelve feet, and the second floor dormers ...are also so high above the floor that the windows can only be reached by ascending a small stair to a platform under each window. While this arrangement detracts esthetically on the outside, it is extremely functional on the inside inasmuch as the bedroom doors are provided with transoms, thus allowing true cross ventilation at a sufficient height without causing drafts, and still permitting complete privacy in each bedroom..."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **c. 1856**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input 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 Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Perrin states, "The house is an excellent specimen of the Octagon phase of American architecture during the mid-Victorian period - following much more closely the precepts of Orson Fowler than some of its more impressive Wisconsin contemporaries - although in a more naive, unsophisticated way."

The fact that it does not contain all of the features which Fowler advocated is more than offset by the fact that the walls are built of grout, the material whose use he especially espoused.

Perrin sums up the significance by saying, "From the standpoint of architectural history this house is an excellent and eminently important specimen which under any circumstances should be restored and preserved - the restoration appearing to be a readily and comparatively economical feat to achieve..."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Perrin, Richard W. E., Letter report of 22 January 1972 to the State Historical Society of Wisconsin on the Octagon House at Fond du Lac.

Perrin, Richard W. E., ^{APW} The Architecture of Wisconsin, The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, 1967, 34-35, 40-41.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		N 43°	46'	16"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		W 88°	26'	54"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Less than 1.0**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Donald N. Anderson, Asst. Director, Historic Sites & Markers Division

ORGANIZATION: **State Historical Society of Wisconsin** DATE: **June 14, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Madison** STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: James Morton Smith
James Morton Smith

Title: Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin
Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Date: _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 11/3/72

ATTEST:
William H. Huntley
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 11-1-72

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