NPS Form #10-900

OMB NO. 1024-0018 EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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 Jonathan Clark House

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & numb	er 13615 N.	Cedarburg	g Road			not for publication
city, town M	equon		vicii	nity of	congressional district	
state W	isconsin	code	55	county	Ozaukee	code 089
3. Cla	ssificati	on				
Category district X building(s structure site object	both Public Acqui in process being con	5	Status _X_occupied unoccup work in Accessible yes: res Xyes: unr no	oied progress tricted	Present Use agriculture X commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residen religious scientific transportation other:
	N/A					
4. Ow	ner of Pi	roper				
4. Ow						
	Gregory E.	Custer	ty			
name	Gregory E.	Custer	ty Road	nity of		Wisconsin 53092
name street & numbe city, town	Gregory E. 13857 N. G	Custer reen Bay	ty Road vicin		state	
name street & numbe city, town 5. Loc	Gregory E. Gregory E. Mequon	Custer reen Bay	Road vicin	riptio	state	Wisconsin 53092
name street & numbe city, town 5. Loc	Gregory E. Gregory E. T 13857 N. G Mequon Ation of gistry of deeds, etc	Custer reen Bay Lega	Road vicin	s, Ozaul	state O N	Wisconsin 53092

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined elegible? ____ yes X__ no

date 1975

____ federal ____ state ____ county ____ local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison

state Wisconsin 53706

7. Description

Condition

	excellent
X	good
	fair

	Check one
deteriorated	unaltered
ruins	_X_ altered
unexposed	

Check one X original site moved date .

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located in Ozaukee County Between the centers of Mequon and Cedarburg, the Jonathan Clark House is a one-story-plus-attic coursed fieldstone Greek Revival building with one-story rear wing. Limestone blocks form quoins at the corners of the main block. beneath wide wood fascias and returning cornices. Lintels and sills are of limestone, enclosing regularly-spaced six-light double-hung sash.

The principal facade of the house, on the south gable, is simple: the single center door is flanked by a single window to each side and topped by two smaller windows centered in the attic overhead. The only decorative element is the primitive inscription stone/lintel ("1848/Jonathan Clark") over the door. Three windows mark each side wall, and a pair of attic-level windows look out over the north wing. The rear entrance to the main block fills the north side of an included porch in the northeast angle of the juncture of the rear wing. Recently-constructed blond brick chimneys, both on the main block of the house, rise from the north end of the ridge and west slope. Originally of cedar shingles, the roofs are now covered with asphalt.

Although few substantial changes have been made on the interior (evidence indicates early removal of dividing walls, in addition to recent reduction of another, on the first floor), there are no features of particular note. The surfaces of the thick walls are plastered, as are the ceilings, and openings are framed by thick profiled moldings. Wood floors (hardwood or pine plank) are visible throughout the first and Alterations made to the first floor to accomodate the present use (a attic story. dentist's office) were designed to be reversible: non-bearing dividing walls, counters, and equipment can be removed. The two small bedrooms to the south of the large dormitory space on the attic level are currently used for storage.

A split rail fence encloses the site along the Bonniwell Road on the south and Cedarburg Road on the west, and natural vegetation forms a screen to the north and east. A one-story log building, moved and reconstructed on the property nine years ago for use as a garage, is not included in the nomination. (The fieldstone barn across the road to the east, once associated with the Clark House, is no longer a part of the property.)

8. Significance

1400–1499 1500–1599	0, 1	 community planning conservation economics education 	Iaw Iiterature Iiteratury III music	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1848 ¹	Builder/Architect	Jonathan Clark ¹	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Said to be among the finest fieldstone Greek Revival houses in Wisconsin,² the Jonathan Clark House in Mequon is a fine representative of its period of construction. Thickly set with mortar, the variegated fieldstone walls are neatly joined with tooled-limestone quoins. With its low gable roof, hallmark returning cornices, and regularly-spaced openings, and unornamented except for the inscription stone over the front door, the building is a clean and simple statement of domestic taste of the mid-nineteenth century in Wisconsin.

Early Mequon settler Jonathan Merrill³ Clark, whose original ownership is documented on the inscription stone of the house, was said to have walked from his native Vermont⁴ to stake his claim to land in the Wisconsin Territory. Clark and his wife Mary Turck (daughter of the operator of one of the town's first saw mills,⁵) and family retained ownership until 1872, when the property was purchased by John Doyle.⁶ The Doyles held their claim well into the twentieth century (1946), after which the house and farmlands passed through several hands. Restored to fine condition by previous owners Mr. and Mrs. William Welty, the Jonathan Clark House was named a Mequon Landmark in 1981.

¹ Inscription stone.

² Richard W. E. Perrin, The Architecture of Wisconsin, 1967, p. 65.

³ Although Clark's middle name is consistently noted as Morrell in documents and histories, great granddaughter Eleanor C. Wanger of Portage, Wisconsin, in a letter of September 16, 1976 to former owner William Welty, insisted Merrill was actually correct. The letter is in possession of current owner Gregory Custer.

⁴ Mrs. Wanger, in the aforementioned letter, gave Jonathan Clark's state of origin as Vermont, and not New Jersey, as had been previously believed.

⁵ Walter D. Corrigan, Sr., History of the Town of Mequon, 1951, p. 9.

^b Property abstract.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Perrin, Richard W. E., the <u>Architecture of Wisconsin</u>, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1967.

UTM

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state	code	county	code	
state	code	county	code	
	lipowicz/Architectur storical Society of		12/81 one 608/244-8087	
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city or town Madison			Wisconsin 53706	
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NPS Form 10-900-a (7-81)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

JONATHAN CLARK HOUSE, Mequon, Ozaukee Co., Wisc. Continuation sheet Item number



REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS:

Richard W. E. Perrin, <u>The Architecture of Wisconsin</u>, State Historical Society of Wisc. date: 1967 state (selective)

6.

H. Russell Zimmermann, <u>The Heritage Guidebook</u>, Inland Heritage Corporation, Milwaukee date: 1976 regional (SE Wisc.)

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Item number



11.

1. Page

FORM PREPARED BY (cont.):

Research	Assistance	By:
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Dr. Gregory E. Custer 13857 N.Green Bay Road Mequon, Wisconsin 53092

August, 1980 414/377-1071