

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

For NPS use only

received AUG 27 1984  
date entered SEP 27 1984

**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 John Scott Horner House

and/or common Horner-Calden House

**2. Location**

street & number 336 Scott Street not for publication

city, town Ripon vicinity of

state Wisconsin code 55 county Fond du Lac code 039

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Anne Horner Calden (Mrs. R. H.)

street & number 336 Scott Street

city, town Ripon vicinity of state Wisconsin 54971

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Fond du Lac County Courthouse, Register of Deeds

street & number 160 S. Macy

city, town Fond du Lac state Wisconsin 54935

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date August 13, 1975  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin 816 State Street

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**

Situated on a hill, the John Scott Horner House originally permitted its occupants to overlook the Ripon mill pond and the village to the south. It is a two-story rectangular building with limestone masonry bearing walls of Wisconsin rubblestone construction, with an attached two-story block on the west side, set back twenty-one feet from the south front. The building design can be classed as a simplified Italianate style and measures forty-four feet wide by thirty-six feet deep; an attached block housing a kitchen on the first level with bedroom above measures eighteen feet wide by fifteen feet deep. The main block is three bays wide by two bays deep, which contain implanted wooden lintels and sills painted white. It is covered with a low pitched hip roof accented with a running simple and unadorned cornice. Two single stacked chimneys are located on the east-west axis of the main unit, with a single stacked chimney located in an offset position in the kitchen wing. A simple one-storied, two square columned stepped porch with a balustrade above, marks the major entry on the south side. On the north, or garden side, a deeply recessed entrance with narrow lights and simple pediment header contrasts sharply with the major portal entry.

An entrance hall located on the longitudinal axis and running the entire depth of the house, contains an open stairwell. It is flanked by a drawing room to the east side and a sitting room to the southwest corner, with the diningroom located in the northwest corner. Three bedrooms and a dressing room with bath flank the open hallway on the second story. A fourth bedroom is situated over the kitchen adjacent to the dressing room.

The original interior staircase is formed in walnut, birch, pine and oak and is in excellent condition. Flooring throughout is tongue and grooved six inch pine and in excellent condition. Fireplaces are original, except for the first floor kitchen, all of exceptional design, being handsomely proportioned and treated with exquisite paneling. The interior woodwork is of original pine and painted white. A number of ceilings are original lath and plaster and contain elaborate rosettes and moldings. Most of the present hardware throughout the house is original.

Structurally the house stands today in its original condition, with the exception of a roofed porch which fronted the south and a portion of the west side. The removal of this element is clearly delineated by the rough mortar work over the original course work.

Also on the property is a white frame, 2 car garage, built in 1962. It is located to the back of the property in the northeast corner, and is not included in the nomination of the Horner House.

# 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				association with significant person
<b>Specific dates</b>	1860 <sup>1</sup>	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	Unknown	
<b>Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)</b>	period of Significance: 1860-1883			

Recognized as the home of Ripon's co-founder, and admired for its enduring beauty inside and out, the John Scott Horner house is a locally significant historical and architectural landmark. It carries association with a significant person on the state level<sup>2</sup>, in that Mr. Horner was the first secretary of the territory of Wisconsin, and instrumental in the formation of the area that would later become the state of Wisconsin.

## Architecture

The John Scott Horner house, a mansion-like Italianate residence was constructed of materials native to the area, the date of construction not precisely known. The Horner house is similar in design and construction to East Hall of Ripon College, which was erected in 1851 by Mr. Andrew Gill of Dartford.<sup>3</sup> The gently sloping hip roof, unadorned cornice, implanted lintels and water table are alike, with exterior walls of both buildings of cut stone. A 1975 Wisconsin inventory of historic places indicates that Ripon has many historic homes, in a variety of styles and exterior construction materials - a number of them in the same lovely old neighborhood as the Horner house.<sup>4</sup> However, the John Scott Horner house is unique in being the finest surviving example of transitional Greek Revival-Italianate style of architecture, of rubblestone construction, in a Ripon residence.

## Association with Significant Person

John Scott Horner was born on December 5, 1802 at Fauquier Court House (now Warrenton), Virginia. He was educated in Virginia and Pennsylvania, graduating in 1819 from Washington College in Pennsylvania. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in Virginia, where he became a well known advocate and criminal lawyer.<sup>5</sup>

In 1835, Horner was commissioned by President Andrew Jackson as secretary and governor of the territory of Michigan, with headquarters in Detroit.<sup>6</sup> In 1836, by direction of President Jackson, Governor Horner took up residence on the Mississippi River, near Cassville. At that time the Winnebago Indians were hostile and had surrounded Fort Winnebago (Portage), apparently determined to capture the fort and its supplies. When Governor Horner arrived at the fort, he met with the Indians and found that they were not receiving annuities long past due, and also were in dire need of food. He promptly issued the order to deliver to the Indians one-half of the pork and flour stored at the fort. An Indian war was averted and for his actions Governor Horner received the approval of President Jackson, and congress granted him \$1000 in recognition of his services.<sup>7</sup>

(continued)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Proceedings of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin 1905, Madison  
published by the Society, 1906

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Ripon

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UTM References

A 

1	6	3	5	2	6	0	0	4	8	5	6	1	5	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot #46, City of Ripon, approximately 165 ft by 136 ft., north side of Scott Street, 291 ft. west of Shepard Street, W $\frac{1}{2}$  of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 21, Town 16N, Range 14E.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Beverly J. King (Mrs. Alfred D.)

organization Ripon Historical Society date 1/14/84

street & number 741 Woodside Avenue telephone (414) 748-2178

city or town Ripon state Wisconsin 54971

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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 *J. P. Dean*

title Director, Historic Preservation Division date AUG. 17, 1984

For NPS use only

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

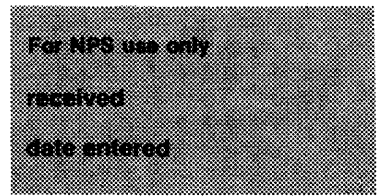
*Joyce M. Sammons* Entered in the date 9-27-84  
for Keeper of the National Register National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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

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



John Scott Horner house, Ripon, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin  
Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page

1

In 1836, Horner became secretary of the new territory of Wisconsin.<sup>8</sup> He devised and had engraved the first territorial seal of Wisconsin,<sup>9</sup> and on July 4, 1836, he organized the territory by administering the oath of office to Governor Henry Dodge and the judges of the supreme court.<sup>10</sup> He held that office until June of 1837, when he became register of the Green Bay land office, a position he held for 11 years. At that time he resumed his law practice in Green Bay and in 1838 purchased agricultural land west of the city of Fond du Lac.<sup>11</sup> He owned a large farm on the south shore of Green Lake, and was also a probate judge of Marquette County.<sup>12</sup>

In 1849, with David Mapes, Horner founded the village of Ripon, which he named for his ancestral home in Yorkshire, England. He named a number of Ripon streets after family members, political friends, etc., including Watson, Blackburn, Jefferson, Cass, Houston, Washington, Hennie, Spaulding and Doty.<sup>13</sup> In 1850 John S. Horner was one of the founders and directors of Ripon College, then called the Lyceum. He chaired the first meeting on November 23, 1850, at which time the corporation was formed and seal adopted. It was at this meeting it was resolved to contract for the erection of a building in the village of Ripon, of stone, 50 feet square, two stories high, with hip roof, etc. to be used for the purpose of education.<sup>14</sup> That building is known today as East Hall. Politically he was a Democrat, but there is no record of him being politically active in Ripon. The 1860 Federal Census lists Horner's occupation as lawyer and land speculator, and living in Ripon's 2nd ward.<sup>15</sup> A life long Episcopalian, he gave the land on which Grace (now St. Peter's) Episcopal church was built. On January 7, 1861, the Vestry of the church voted to allow \$100 to be applied toward payment of the seat that he (Mr. Horner) may select, in consideration of Horner's donation of lots to said church.<sup>16</sup> Governor Horner chose pew #2, and the family today continues to use that same numbered seat during worship. A prominent settler of this area, Horner and his wife, Harriet Watson Horner, were the parents of 3 sons and 2 daughters. The last years of Governor Horner's life were spent here in retirement. Erect, even in age, his presence was dignified and winning. It is said that the poor were never turned away from his door unfriended, and his hospitality to strangers was generous and free. His death occurred at his home in Ripon, on February 3, 1883.<sup>17</sup> A great granddaughter, Anne Horner Calden, resides in the home.

---

1 Although records indicate that the land was acquired in 1838, and family tradition holds that this house was built in 1847, it is not known precisely when the house was built. The 1860 Federal Census is the first recorded indication that the Horner's resided here.

2 Proceedings of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin 1905, published by the society, 1906, Democrat Printing Company, Madison, p.219

3 The Ripon Commonwealth, Column by Atty.S.M. Pedrick, Early Ripon History, October 25, 1935 and November 1 and 8, 1935

(continued)

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

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

John Scott Horner house, Ripon, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin  
Continuation sheet

Item number

8

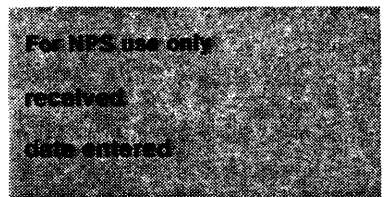
Page

2

- 4 Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places, August 13, 1975, State Historical Society of Wisconsin
- 5 Proceedings of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin 1905, published by the society, 1906, Democrat Printing Company, Madison, p. 214, 215
- 6 Ibid. p. 215
- 7 Ibid. p. 218, 219
- 8 Ibid. p. 219
- 9 Wisconsin Magazine of History, The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Vol. 63 No.2, Winter, 1979-1980, p. 92, 93
- 10 Proceedings of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin 1905, published by the society, 1906, Democrat Printing Company, Madison, p. 219
- 11 Ibid. p. 222
12. Ibid. p. 224
- 13 Ibid. P. 224, 225
- 14 The Ripon Commonwealth, Column by Atty.S.M. Pedrick, Early Ripon History. October 25, 193 and November 1 and 8, 1935
- 15 1860 Federal Census, City of Ripon, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin V.1, p.110
- 16 Vestry minutes, January 7, 1861, Grace Episcopal Church, Ripon, Wisconsin
- 17 Proceedings of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin 1905, published by the society, 1906, Democrat Printing Company, Madison, p. 225, 226

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

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



John Scott Horner House, Ripon, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 3

Addendum to Historical Significance

Horner's tenure as Governor of the Michigan Territory (and later Secretary of the Wisconsin Territory) was short-lived and controversial. When President Jackson appointed Horner to the Michigan post, the eastern part of the territory was preparing for statehood. To insure the orderly administration of the western reaches of the territory (including present-day Wisconsin), the Michigan legislature provided for the election of a western council to convene at Green Bay on January 1, 1836. Although this administrative mechanism was in place before Horner's appointment, the new Governor unilaterally advanced the meeting date to December 1, 1835—a change in schedule that made it impossible for newly-elected and far-flung representatives to arrive on time. Indeed, not one representative appeared at Green Bay for the December meeting—and, more surprisingly, Horner himself did not arrive or announce plans for an alternate meeting. In a show of independence (and perhaps hostility), the western representatives did convene on the January date. Although the "rump council" had no legislative authority without Horner's presence, several resolutions were passed, including a strongly worded condemnation of Horner's administrative skills and a call for his removal. When Congress officially established the new Wisconsin Territory later that year, Horner was again appointed Secretary (essentially transferred from Michigan). Within a year, Governor Dodge replaced Horner and transferred him to the office of Register of the Green Bay Land Office.

---

<sup>1</sup> For information on the rump session, see Joseph Schafer, ed., "The Rump Council," Proceedings of the State Historical Society, 1920 (State Historical Society of Wisconsin: Madison, 1921), pp. 6-155.

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

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

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

John Scott Horner house, Ripon, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin  
Continuation sheet

Item number

11

Page 2

Item 7 - DESCRIPTION, prepared by

Dr. E. M. Breithaupt, Professor of Art, Emeritus 1983, Ripon College  
844 Ransom Street  
Ripon, Wisconsin 54971

Telephone (414) 748-5920

Date 1/14/84