

United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

207

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested.

If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Brown-Sewell House

other names N/A

2. Location

street & number 101 South Fifth Street N/A not for publication

city or town Stoughton N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Dane code 025 zip code 53589

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide x locally. (See continuation for additional comments.)

Alicia L. Cochran
Signature of certifying official/Title

February 19, 2003
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____ Date _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

State Historic Preservation Officer-WI _____

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

Brown-Sewell House
Name of Property

Dane
County and State

Wisconsin

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 ___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined eligible for the
National Register.
 ___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined not eligible for the
National Register.
 ___ See continuation sheet.
___ removed from the National
Register.
___ other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall

4-22-03

[Signature]

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as
as apply)

private
___ public-local
___ public-State
___ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

building(s)
___ district
___ structure
___ site
___ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources
in the count)

contributing	noncontributing
1	1 buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
1	1 total

Name of related multiple property listing:
(Enter "N/A" if property not part of a multiple property
listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources
is previously listed in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)
GREEK REVIVAL

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)
Foundation STONE

walls WEATHERBOARD

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 1

Brown-Sewell House
Stoughton, Dane County, Wisconsin

DESCRIPTION: INTRODUCTION

The Brown-Sewell House (see photo 1) is situated on the northeast corner of South Fifth and East North streets in the city of Stoughton. It is a Greek Revival residence and was erected for Lyman Brown in 1859; it may also have been built by him.¹ The house is of balloon frame construction, finished with clapboards and resting on a stone foundation. A small, hip-roofed addition is attached to the rear façade and probably dates from 1884.² The partially-enclosed, flat-roofed front porch was added between 1926 and 1930.³ The addition and the porch are non-contributing. All the roofs are surfaced with asphalt shingles. A non-contributing, side-gabled garage, erected c. 1990, stands behind the house.⁴

PRESENT APPEARANCE

The Brown-Sewell House sits on a small, half-lot in an area of single-family residences that date from the mid-to-late nineteenth century, just north of Stoughton's central business district. A low, wooden fence erected within the past ten years encloses the yard. A towering larch at the northwest corner of the property is said to have been a gift to Anne and Hebe Sewell, the unmarried daughters of the Reverend Robert Sewell and his wife, Elizabeth, who bought the property in 1864.⁵ A wooden deck (c. 1995), a brick patio (2001) and the side-gabled garage (c. 1990) occupy the small back yard.

¹ Village of Stoughton Tax Rolls, on file, Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin; and U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Seventh Census of the United States: 1860*, which lists an L. Brown who was a carpenter and joiner and may have been the same person for whom this house was built.

² City of Stoughton Tax Rolls, on file, Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin; and *Bird's Eye View of Stoughton, Wisconsin, 1883*, (Madison: J. J. Stoner, 1883).

³ *Map of Stoughton, Wisconsin*, (Pelham, New York: Sanborn Publishing Company, 1926); and City of Stoughton Tax Rolls.

⁴ Anton Ketterer, current owner, personal communication, 25 May and 11 June 2002.

⁵ Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 2

Brown-Sewell House
Stoughton, Dane County, Wisconsin

The Brown-Sewell House is composed of two sections: the two-story, Greek Revival, main block and the one-story, rear addition. The main block is gabled-ell in form and measures approximately 35 feet (north-south) by 20 feet (east-west). The rear addition is rectangular in plan, measuring about 18 feet (north-south) by 14 feet (east-west). The Brown-Sewell House faces west.

The west-facing (front) façade exhibits a front-facing gable and a side-gabled wing, with a one-story, flat-roofed porch tucked into the ell (see photo 1). The front-facing gable is two bays wide, with regularly-distributed, 6/6, double-hung sash at each story. Heavy corner pilasters with prominent capitals, a raking cornice, and a broad entablature with returned eaves identify the house as Greek Revival in style. The wing displays an off-center door and a pair of 1/1, double-hung sash windows at the first story, surmounted by two large frieze windows. Exactly when the wing was built is uncertain. It is possible that the wing was built along with the front-gabled section in 1859, or that the wing's first story was constructed with the front-gabled section in 1859, and the wing's second story was added in 1867, or that both floors of the wing were erected in 1867.⁶ However, because the clapboards of the wing do not match the main section, it appears that the side wing was added later. The wing contributes to architectural significance of the Brown-Sewell House in any case, because it possesses Greek Revival details.

The south end of the porch is enclosed with clapboards and a band of 6/1, double-hung windows. The north end forms an inset porch with a clapboarded, closed rail and a simple post. This is the third porch configuration. The original porch was similar to the existing one in form: it was one-story, tucked into the ell and composed of an enclosed south end and an inset portico in the north end. The original porch was replaced, probably in 1884, with one that was open and possessed turned posts.⁷ The existing porch followed between 1926 and 1930.

⁶ Village of Stoughton Tax Rolls.

⁷ Historical photograph, in possession of Anton and Amy Ketterer, current owners.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 3

Brown-Sewell House
Stoughton, Dane County, Wisconsin

On the north-facing façade of the main block, two double-hung sash windows in 6/6 configuration are found at the first story (see photo 2). This façade is enlivened with corner pilasters and a broad entablature matching those on the front-facing façade.

On the south-facing façade, the enclosed section of the front porch, the wing of the main block, and part of the rear addition can be seen (see photo 3). The enclosed section of the front porch and most of the first floor of the wing exhibit a group of 6/1, double-hung windows, installed between 1926 and 1930, when the kitchen (in the wing) was expanded and the existing, partially-enclosed front porch was added. In the gable end of the wing, a replacement window appears. A square, exterior brick chimney clings to the south-facing façade of the wing, east of the window. The chimney likely was added when the kitchen was remodeled, sometime between 1926 and 1930. At the east end of the south-facing façade, the rear addition projects slightly. The west face of the addition displays a pair of multipaned, casement windows and a boomtown front. The casement windows replaced a door, probably sometime between 1926 and 1930. The presence of the boomtown front on the addition is intriguing. During the nineteenth century, it was not unusual for a professional man to have a home office. Occasionally, a separate entrance into the office space was provided, marked by a boomtown front. The Reverend Robert Sewell, minister of the First Congregational Church from 1858 until his death, could have had a home office. Sewell died in 1874, and his widow and unmarried daughters continued to live in the house. The addition does not appear on the *Bird's Eye View of Stoughton, Wisconsin, 1883*, and the valuation for the property nearly doubles in 1885, strongly supporting an 1884 construction date. If the addition was a home office, it is uncertain for whom it was built.

On the east-facing (rear) façade, the front-gabled section of the main block exhibits a centrally-placed, 6/6, double-hung window at each of the first and second stories (see photo 2). Pilasters, raking cornice and returned eaves also appear. At the first story, south of the window, a small, flat-roofed, frame

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 4

Brown-Sewell House
Stoughton, Dane County, Wisconsin

addition can be seen. This houses a bathroom and was built sometime between 1912 and 1926.⁸ A multipaned, casement window appears on the north face of the bathroom addition. There are no openings on the east face, although there was a pair of French doors here during the 1980s.⁹ The east-facing façade of the 1884 rear addition features a polygonal bay window with a paneled wood base and 1/1 double-hung windows (see photo 4). A doorway also appears on this façade, cut c. 1995. The north face of the addition is largely hidden by the bathroom addition, but a 1/1 window is found east of the bathroom.

On the interior, the first floor plan of the front-gabled section is currently open, although it originally consisted of front and back rooms (see floor plan attached). An enclosed, straight, wooden staircase rises along the south wall of the front-gabled section. The staircase was reversed at some point, and then returned to its original location during the early 1990s.¹⁰ The bathroom, attached to the building sometime between 1912 and 1926, is entered from this section, by passing underneath the staircase.

The first floor plan of the side-gabled section is made up of a room (north) with a fireplace in its southeast corner, and a narrow kitchen (south). Since sometime between 1926 and 1930, the kitchen has occupied the entire south end of the house. The rear addition, which has two rooms that likely were an office (north) and a vestibule (south) originally, are now a dining room and part of the kitchen. An enclosed, straight, wooden staircase descends to the basement from the east end of the kitchen. The basement is unfinished and lies beneath the south sections only.

The second floor plan is composed of an ell-shaped hallway, with a bedroom in the front and a large bathroom in the back in the front-gabled section, and one room and a small closet (not original) in the side-gabled section.

⁸ *Map of Stoughton, Wisconsin*, (Pelham, New York: Sanborn Publishing Company, 1912 and 1926).

⁹ Ketterer.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 5

Brown-Sewell House
Stoughton, Dane County, Wisconsin

Various interior finishes are used. Narrow board flooring was installed on the first floor about 50 years ago, except in the current bathroom and kitchen, where there is asphalt tile. Original wide board flooring has been retained on the second floor. Plaster and drywall ceilings and walls are found throughout the house. There is wallpaper in the kitchen, and the second floor bathroom was finished with wooden wainscoting around 1995.¹¹

A few elements are of special note. In the front-gabled section, the windows in the front parlor exhibit shouldered surrounds with compound moldings (see photo 5). The rear parlor windows have surrounds that are similar in shape, but are plain. The windows in both the side-gabled section and the rear addition, not including the kitchen, display surrounds with compound moldings (see photo 6). Finally, the north room on the first floor in the side-gabled section features a corner fireplace with a simple, carved slate mantel said to have belonged to Anna Sewell (1820-1878), the English author whose only work was *Black Beauty* (1877). Whether the family of Reverend Robert Sewell was related to her is unknown. Although it is not impossible, it seems improbable that the mantel could have belonged to Anna Sewell.

To the rear of the house stands the non-contributing side gabled garage (see photo 7). Built c. 1990, the garage is finished with aluminum siding, rests on a poured concrete slab, and has an asphalt shingled roof. A garage door wide enough to accommodate two cars occupies the north-facing façade. A door and a small window appear on the south-facing (rear) façade.

ALTERATIONS

Exterior alterations to the Brown-Sewell House since the construction of its Greek Revival sections of 1859 and 1867, include the following: the erection of the rear addition in 1884; the removal of the original porch and the installation of 1/1

¹¹ Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 6

Brown-Sewell House
Stoughton, Dane County, Wisconsin

windows in the side-gabled section the same year; the addition of the small bathroom on the rear façade sometime between 1912 and 1926; and the expansion of the kitchen, creating the cutaway front portico, sometime between 1926 and 1930. The placement of both additions on the rear of the house makes them unobtrusive. The expanded kitchen and the inset portico recreate the form of the original, partially-enclosed front porch and are sympathetic to the house's Greek Revival character.

On the interior, the second-floor bathroom was originally a bedroom. A number of interior alterations were made when part of the house served as an art gallery during the 1980s: the creation of archways on the first floor between the side-gabled and front-gabled sections, and between the side-gabled section and the rear addition; the application of false ceiling beams on the first floor in the side-gabled section and the rear addition; a small hole cut in the ceiling above the front door; and the installation of French doors in the bathroom addition. Both bathrooms have been updated within the past 5-7 years. Additions of bathrooms and modernizing bathrooms and kitchens are typical changes made to historic houses and do not detract from the historic character of Brown-Sewell House. The alterations that took place during the art gallery's occupancy are less common, but are minimal and mostly cosmetic, rather than structural.

The c. 1990 garage is the sole non-contributing building on the site. It is set behind the house and at the back of the lot, such that it cannot be seen when viewing the front of the house, and from the side appears to be associated with the apartment building next door to the house.

Although the Brown-Sewell House has been altered over time, the alterations have a minimal impact on the house's historic character. Because Greek Revival style houses represent some of the earliest permanent houses in the state, they were usually very small as compared to later buildings. Therefore, Greek Revival houses have typically received additions over time. Overall, the Brown-Sewell House retains very good integrity.

Brown-Sewell House
Name of Property

Dane County, Wisconsin
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the
criteria qualifying the property for the
National Register listing.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from
instructions)
Architecture

A Property is associated with events
that have made a significant
contribution to the broad patterns of
our history.

B Property is associated with the lives
of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive
characteristics of a type, period, or
method of construction or represents
the work of a master, or possesses
high artistic values, or represents a
significant and distinguishable entity
whose components lack individual
distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to
yield, information important in
prehistory or history.

Period of Significance
1859-1867

Significant Dates
1859

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is
marked above)
N/A

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

A owned by a religious institution or
used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed resource.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the sources used in preparing this form on continuation sheet(s).)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 1

Brown-Sewell House
Stoughton, Dane County, Wisconsin

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: SUMMARY

The Brown-Sewell House is locally significant under Criterion C. It is a good and intact example of a Greek Revival residential design, and may have been built by Lyman Brown. The period of significance begins with the date of construction of the original section, 1859, and extends to 1867 to include the indicated date of the wing's construction. Because of its detailing, the wing contributes to our understanding of the Greek Revival style.¹²

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The city of Stoughton was founded by Luke Stoughton, a native of Vermont who migrated to Wisconsin in 1837. Stoughton and his wife, Eliza, spent the next ten years in the Janesville area, farming at first and then moving into town, where he operated a store. Stoughton also speculated in real estate, and in 1847, bought 800 acres of undeveloped land on a bend in the Yahara (then called the Catfish) River, which he thought would be ideal for a town. He immediately had the original plat of Stoughton laid out straddling the river bend, and erected a dam and a sawmill (not extant) at the foot of Fourth Street. Stoughton then built a general store (not extant) on the northwest corner of Main and Division streets. Alvin West erected the first inn (not extant) on the southwest corner. By 1848, the hamlet boasted its first brick commercial block (not extant).¹³

By 1850, the surrounding countryside was a patchwork of farms, most of them planted in wheat. To serve area farmers, DeWitt Davis built a grist mill adjacent to the sawmill. By 1853, Stoughton included the sawmill, the gristmill, several stores, a blacksmith shop, and a public school. When representatives of the Milwaukee and Mississippi Railroad (later a part of the

¹² Tax records.

¹³ Ferd Homme, *Oak Opening: The Story of Stoughton*, (Stoughton: The Stoughton Centennial History Committee, 1947), p. 20; *History of Dane County*, (Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1880), p. 842.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 2

Brown-Sewell House
Stoughton, Dane County, Wisconsin

Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul system) came looking for a route through the area, Luke Stoughton donated a large parcel of land at the base of the ridge east of Seventh Street, then the east edge of town. The rail line reached Stoughton from Milwaukee in December 1853, and was extended to Madison in May 1854. Rail connections brightened the community's future prospects, inducing Luke Stoughton to plat an addition in 1855.¹⁴

The community of Stoughton continued to develop as an agricultural support community through the 1860s, incorporating as a village in 1868.¹⁵ In 1870, the village had a population of 965, about two-thirds of whom were Yankees from New York and New England, while most of the rest were European immigrants. An 1871 bird's eye view shows that Stoughton had not yet extended beyond its original and 1855 plats. The commercial area was concentrated between Forest and East Water streets, but growing east toward the railroad tracks; residences were widely scattered on both the east and west sides of the river; and small industrial areas had sprung up on Main Street just west of the railroad tracks, and along South Street north of the dam.¹⁶

Stoughton's expanding industrial sector spurred the village's growth during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and transformed it from a Yankee enclave into a city with a decidedly Norwegian flavor. The T. G. Mandt Wagon Works was the prime factor in this evolution. Established in 1865, the enterprise struggled through its first ten years. Mandt was determined to succeed, however, and by 1882, the year in which Stoughton incorporated as a city, he was operating a thriving factory with 225 employees. Although Mandt left the business in 1889, the enterprise continued as the Stoughton Wagon Company. Mandt opened another wagon factory in Stoughton in 1896. That business was sold to the Moline Plow Company in 1902. The Stoughton Wagon Company and the Moline Plow Company prospered until the very early 1920s, when motorized vehicles permanently

¹⁴ Homme, pp. 29-30.

¹⁵ Ibid., p. 33.

¹⁶ H. H. Bailey, *Stoughton, Wisconsin*, (Chicago: Chicago Lithographing Co., 1871).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 3

Brown-Sewell House
Stoughton, Dane County, Wisconsin

displaced wagons as everyday transportation. Stoughton's wagon factories flourished between 1880 and 1920, coinciding with a period of intense Norwegian immigration to the area. Initially drawn by the presence of compatriots who had been farming in the area since the 1840s, many Norwegians settled in the city, filling the wagon factory jobs, which provided steady work at a decent wage.¹⁷

The second leading industrial enterprise in Stoughton during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was tobacco shipment. Tobacco cultivation had succeeded wheat farming as the principal agricultural endeavor in a small area of southern Dane and northern Rock counties during the 1870s. The first tobacco warehouse in the community was built on the west side of the railroad tracks in 1877. By 1898, Stoughton had 17 tobacco warehouses, concentrated along the railroad corridor. However, after World War I, tobacco production in the area dropped, due to soil depletion and steep reductions in the price of tobacco. By the early 1920s, most of Stoughton's tobacco warehouses had closed.¹⁸

Stoughton's population had reached 5,101 in 1920, but the decline of the wagon manufacturing industry and tobacco shipment sent the city into economic recession in the 1920s. The population fell to 4,497 in 1930. During the late 1930s, the city acquired the land and buildings of both the Stoughton Wagon Company and the Moline Plow Company, and brought in two new businesses to take over the plants. The Highway Trailer Company (later, Stoughton Trailer Company) and the Stoughton Cab and Body Company employed many local people in the manufacture of trailers and car parts, products that were in great demand during World War II and the post-war years. Tobacco cultivation rebounded following World War II. By 1950, Stoughton numbered 4,833 residents.¹⁹

¹⁷ Homme, pp. 44-49.

¹⁸ Ibid., p. 63; and *Map of Stoughton, Wisconsin*, (Pelham, New York: Sanborn Publishing Company, 1898).

¹⁹ Rebecca Sample Bernstein, "City of Stoughton, Wisconsin, Intensive Survey Report: Commercial Architectural and Historical Survey," report for the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 4

Brown-Sewell House
Stoughton, Dane County, Wisconsin

Stoughton continued to expand through the latter half of the twentieth century. Since 1980, new development has concentrated west of the Yahara River adjacent to USH 51, the route to Madison, attracting residents who work in the capital city but prefer to live in a smaller community. Stoughton remains a lively community with healthy commercial and industrial sectors, and takes great pride in its Norwegian heritage.

HISTORY OF THE BROWN-SEWELL HOUSE

According to the tax rolls, this house was constructed for Lyman Brown in 1859. The 1860 census lists one L. Brown living in Stoughton. L. Brown (1822-?) and his wife, Emeline (1828-?), as well as their three children (ranging in age from 9 to 13 years old) were all born in Vermont. L. Brown was a carpenter and joiner by trade, so if he is the same man who owned the Brown-Sewell House, then he may also have built the home.

Although the tax roll lists Lyman Brown as the owner of the property through 1863, when Robert Sewell acquired the house in 1864, he bought it from Luke and Eliza Stoughton, who had owned the property before Brown (when it was a vacant lot).²⁰ Robert Sewell (1798-1874) was a Congregationalist minister who had been born in Halstead, England. He immigrated to Canada, then relocated to Madison, New Jersey, and settled in Wisconsin in 1853. Sewell ministered in Fulton (Rock County) and Cooksville before taking up a post in Stoughton in 1858. He served as pastor of the First Congregational Church in Stoughton until his death. Sewell and his wife, Elizabeth (?-1888), had two unmarried daughters, Anne and Hebe, who continued to live in the house after their parents died.²¹

In 1867, the assessment on the property rose by two-thirds, indicating improvements were made that year. A portion or all of

Stoughton Landmarks Commission and Downtown Revitalization Association, July 1991, p. 9; *Wisconsin Blue Book*, (Madison: Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau, 1891; 1921; 1940; and 1952.

²⁰ Village of Stoughton Tax Rolls; and Dane County Deeds, 60:539.

²¹ *History of Dane County*, p.849.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 5

Brown-Sewell House
Stoughton, Dane County, Wisconsin

the wing may have been built at this time. Alternatively, an addition might have been built that has since been removed. In 1884, the value of the Brown-Sewell House nearly doubled, while the assessments on neighboring properties increased by less than one-third, suggesting that improvements were made to the house that year.²² The rear hip-roofed section, with its paneled, polygonal bay window was probably added at this time. The front-facing façade of the side-gabled section was remodeled when the rear section was built, as the window configuration (1/1 double-hung sash) and surrounds match those in the rear section. It seems logical that the original front porch would have been replaced when the front-facing façade of the side-gabled section was remodeled; in any case, by 1898, the original front porch had been replaced with another that extended across the front of the side-gabled section and displayed turned posts.²³

In 1915, Hebe Sewell died. In 1918, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur McKercher moved in with Anne Sewell.²⁴ After Anne died in 1926, the house passed to the McKerchers. Sometime between 1912 and 1926, the small bathroom on the rear façade was added, and the front porch was reduced in size.²⁵ The McKerchers remodeled and expanded the kitchen in the side-gabled section, and constructed the existing cutaway, closed-rail portico, sometime between 1926 and 1930.²⁶

The Brown-Sewell House belonged to the McKerchers until at least 1955. The McKerchers were succeeded by Charles and Jean Gunderson. By 1962, Jean Lacey had acquired the property. In 1964, Lacey subdivided the lot, and had a four-unit apartment building constructed on the east half of Lot 1.²⁷ During the early 1970s, Lacey leased the house to a series of renters; it

²² Village of Stoughton Tax Rolls; and City of Stoughton Tax Rolls.

²³ *Map of Stoughton, Wisconsin, (1898)*; and historical photograph, in the possession of current owners, Anton and Amy Ketterer, showing Queen Anne-influenced front porch.

²⁴ Mrs. McKercher's cookbook/diary, in possession of current owners, Anton and Amy Ketterer.

²⁵ *Map of Stoughton, Wisconsin, (1912 and 1926)*.

²⁶ *Map of Stoughton, Wisconsin, (1926)*; and City of Stoughton Tax Rolls.

²⁷ City of Stoughton Tax Rolls.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 6

Brown-Sewell House
Stoughton, Dane County, Wisconsin

may have served as a home for unwed mothers during part of this period.²⁸ By 1978, Paul Bruhn had acquired the house, owning it until at least 1989.²⁹ Bruhn and his wife operated the first floor of the wing and part of the 1884 addition as an art gallery. The Brown-Sewell House belonged to Paul Cleven from c. 1990 to c. 1994; he built the existing garage.³⁰ The current owners, Anton and Amy Ketterer, bought the property from Derek Cole and Kelly Steele in 1999.³¹ Cole and Steele had owned the Brown-Sewell House for about five years.³²

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Brown-Sewell House is locally significant under *Criterion C* as a good example of the Greek Revival style, with very good integrity. Built in Wisconsin between 1830-1870, the Greek Revival style is characterized by a rectangular plan, regular fenestration, low-pitched gable roof, and broad cornice with returns. The window configuration is 6/6, double-hung sash. The front door is often framed with sidelights, and frieze windows are typical.³³ The Brown-Sewell House is gable-ell in plan, a variant common in Wisconsin. The house possesses a regular fenestration pattern, frieze windows, low-pitched roofs with returned eaves and retains most of its original, 6/6, double-hung sash windows. The integrity of the Brown-Sewell House is very good: the present cutaway portico and the kitchen addition on the front facade together recreate the original partially-enclosed porch configuration. The portico's clapboarded closed rails and the 6/1 windows in the kitchen addition mark it as Craftsman era, but other than these elements it is compatible with the Greek Revival appearance of the house.

²⁸ Stoughton Telephone Directories; and Ketterer.

²⁹ Stoughton Telephone Directories.

³⁰ Ketterer.

³¹ Dane County Deed Document No. 3129391, 30 June 1999.

³² Ketterer.

³³ Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1985), pp. 178-84; and Barbara L. Wyatt, editor, *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), II:2-3.

7NPS Form 10-900-a
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Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 3/87)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 7

Brown-Sewell House
Stoughton, Dane County, Wisconsin

The Architecture/History Inventory maintained by the Wisconsin Office of Historic Buildings contains only seven Greek Revival residences in Stoughton. This is not surprising given that the Greek Revival mode was popular in the years before and immediately after the Civil War, which was the early settlement era in Stoughton's history. Five of the city's Greek Revival homes have been altered with incompatible additions, replacement windows and/or aluminum or composition siding. Only the Parker House at 600 West Main Street, erected in 1854, is a better and more intact example of the Greek Revival style than the Brown-Sewell House. The Parker House is a front-gabled, frame building, clad with clapboards and accented with corner pilasters, a broad cornice with returns, and a front door recessed within a classical surround (see photo 8). Listed in the National Register as a contributing resource in the North West Side Historic District in 1998, the Parker House retains all of its original, 6/6 windows.

In conclusion, the Brown-Sewell House is one of the best and most intact Greek Revival residences in Stoughton, of which only seven representatives remain. Exterior alterations to the house are either confined to the rear, where their impact is minimized, or sympathetically recreate the form of the original porch configuration.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 9 Page 1

Brown-Sewell House
Stoughton, Dane County, Wisconsin

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 9 Page 2

Brown-Sewell House
Stoughton, Dane County, Wisconsin

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Brown-Sewell House
Name of Property

Dane County, Wisconsin
County and State

Previous Documentation on File (NPS):
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:
 State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State Agency
 Federal Agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository:
Stoughton Public Library

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>1/6</u>	<u>3/1/9/1/0/0</u>	<u>4/7/5/3/9/0/0</u>	2	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
3	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	4	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth L. Miller, Historic Preservation Consultant
organization Stoughton Landmarks Commission date 5-25-2002
street & number 4033 Tokay Blvd telephone 608-233-5942
city or town Madison state WI zip code 53711

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 10 Page 1

Brown-Sewell House
Stoughton, Dane County, Wisconsin

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Brown-Sewell House is located on the west 100 feet of Lot 1, Block 40, in the Original Plat of Stoughton, Dane County, Wisconsin. The area encompassed totals less than one acre.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the Brown-Sewell House encompass those resources historically associated with it that coincide with the current legal boundaries of the parcel on which the house sits.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section	Photos	Page	1	Brown-Sewell House	Stoughton, Dane County, Wisconsin
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Photo 1 of 8

Brown-Sewell House

Stoughton, Dane County, WI

Photo by Elizabeth L. Miller, May 2002

Negative on file at the Wisconsin Historical Society

View of the west-facing (front) façade, looking northeast.

Photo 2 of 8

View of the north- and east-facing facades, looking southwest.

Photo 3 of 8

View of the south-facing façade, looking northeast.

Photo 4 of 8

View of the east-facing (rear) façade, looking southwest.

Photo 5 of 8

View of the front room, front-gabled section, looking west.

Photo 6 of 8

Close up of interior of bay window, rear addition, looking south.

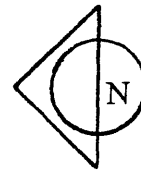
Photo 7 of 8

View of c. 1980 garage, looking southeast.



Photo 8 of 8

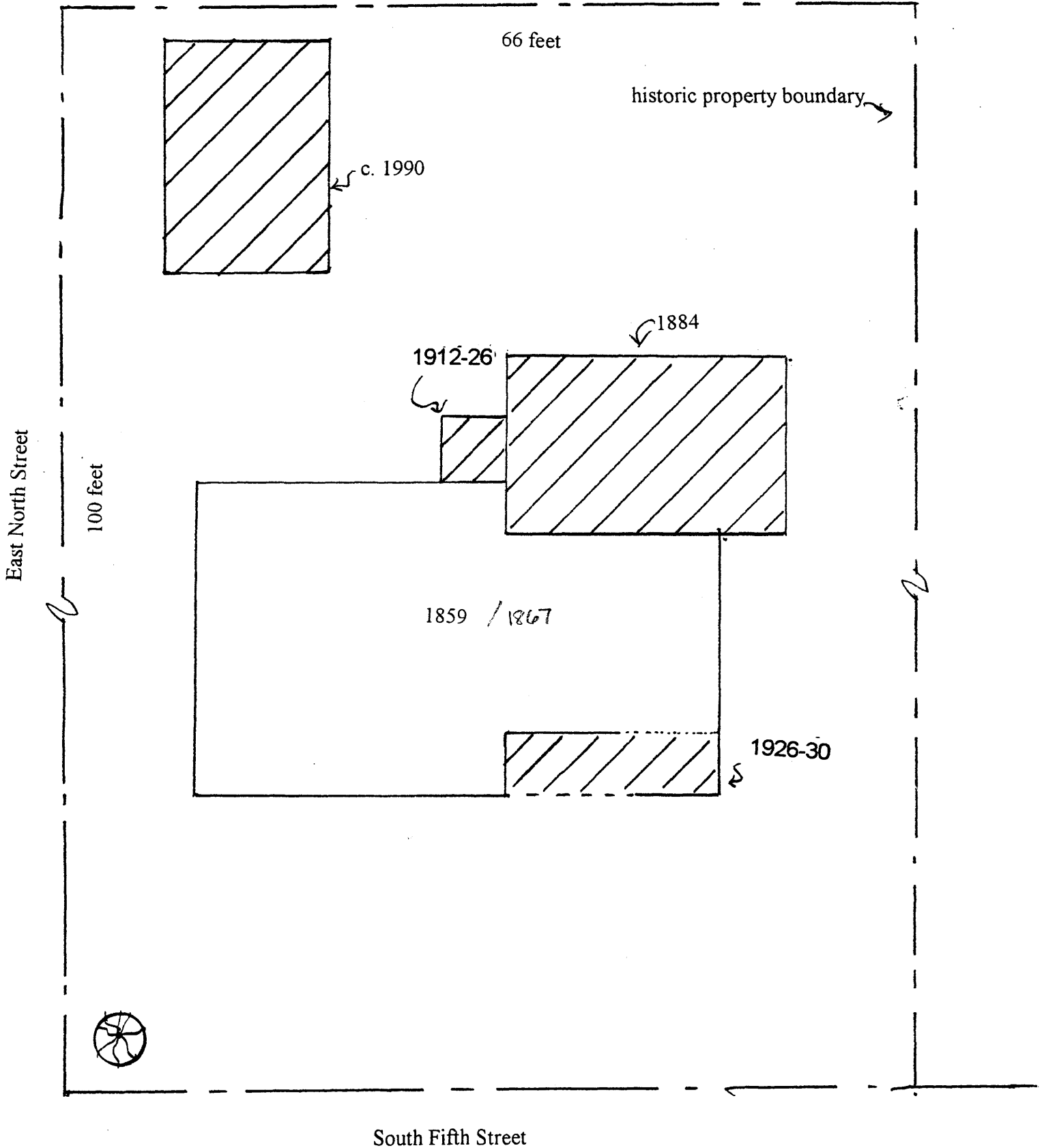
View of 600 West Main Street, a comparison property, looking northwest.

Brown-Sewell House
101 South Fifth Street
Stoughton, Dane County, Wisconsin

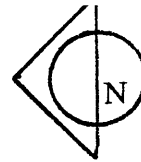


not to scale

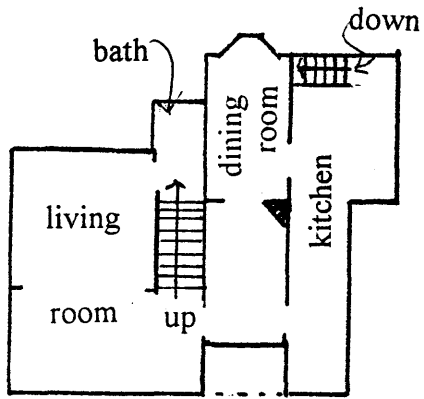
-  Contributing
-  Non-Contributing



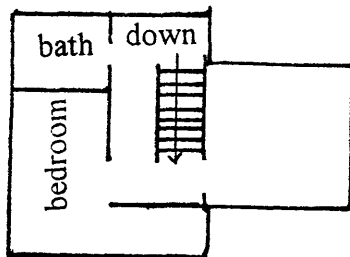
Brown-Sewell House
101 South Fifth Street
Stoughton, Dane County, Wisconsin



not to scale



First floor



Second floor

Brown-Sewell House
Name of Property

Dane County, Wisconsin
County and State

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.

Name Ketterer, Anton and Amy
street & number 101 South Fifth Street telephone 608-877-1498
city or town Stoughton state Wisconsin zip code 53589

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.