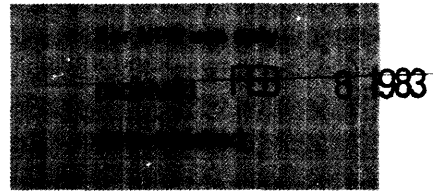


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 John Hustis House  
and/or common same

2. Location

street & number North Ridge Street (no assigned number)  not for publication  
city, town Hustisford  vicinity of congressional district  
state Wisconsin code 55 county Dodge code 027

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Greater Sinissippi Historical Society, c/o Mrs. Any Wegener, President  
street & number 203 N. Lake St., Box 98  
city, town Hustisford  vicinity of state Wisconsin 53034

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dodge County Courthouse  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_  
city, town Juneau  vicinity of state Wisconsin 53039

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date 1983  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street  
city, town Madison  vicinity of state Wisc.

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date 1916; 1973 (See Item 8)

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located in the Hustis Memorial Park (approximately 150' from its original location) and surrounded by a quiet residential neighborhood in the center of Hustisford, the John Hustis house is a two story rectangular frame structure (with shallow one story rear extension) measuring 42' x 22' and sided with basswood clapboards. Built in 1857 by local carpenter Merrit Wiltse,<sup>1</sup> and employing a vernacular Greek Revival style, the house has a gently pitched gabled roof, profiled cornice, and cornice returns. An unornamented frieze board underscores the cornice and thin corner boards frame the structure. The house now rests on a concrete block foundation, and a concrete block chimney (added in 1974) projects slightly above the gable ridge.

The west gable end is treated as the main facade, with a three unit arrangement of fenestration disposed symmetrically on both stories. The entry, offset to the right, is enframed by a transom and side lights. A porch, probably added sometime in the late 19th century, shelters the first story and is supported by unfluted columns. The south elevation is punctuated with four symmetrically arranged windows on the first story, while the north elevation has two windows on the first story and the rear elevation has two windows on either story. All windows have two-over-two double hung wooden sash and are surrounded by simple frames of white pine.

The interior plan of the house is as straightforward as the exterior. The first floor is three rooms deep, with a hall and stairwell running alongside the first two rooms (the parlor and dining room) and leading into the third (kitchen). A shallow one-story extension, divided into several small storage areas and one small bedroom, projects off the kitchen. On the second floor, two bedrooms in the front of the house and one in the rear are grouped around the stairwell, hallway, and central closets. Simple white pine trim frames all interior openings and the original cherry hand rail still graces the stairway. Maple floors on the first floor remain in excellent original condition as do the plaster ceilings. Hand hewn oak timbers, supporting the first floor, can be seen in the basement.

Today, the Hustis house sits in the northern end of the park, on lot 68, on land originally owned by Hustis. It is the only structure on lot 68. The park, which measures 240' x 120', also includes lots 65, 66, and 67 and contains only one other structure, a frame bandstand built in the early twentieth century and not included in the nominated property.

<sup>1</sup> Building contract between John Hustis and Merrit Wiltse, dated 1857, in the John Hustis Papers collection, Hustis House, Hustisford, WI.

# 8. Significance

<b>Period</b>	<b>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</b>			
<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 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 checked="" 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)
				assoc. with significant person
<b>Specific dates</b>	Date of construction: 1857	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	Merrit Wiltse (builder)	
	Period of sig.: 1857-1907			

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The John Hustis house is historically significant for its fifty-year association with the founder, promoter, and leading citizen of Hustisford, who made this house his permanent home and the center of his multifarious business activities from its construction in 1857 until his death in 1907. Beginning with his pioneering land claims in the region (which exceeded 400 acres by 1839),<sup>2</sup> Hustis oversaw the development of the community which bore his name, constructed a dam, sawmill, and grist mill,<sup>3</sup> platted the village,<sup>4</sup> and handled its real estate transactions. His frame house (the third but only permanent home he built in the community)<sup>5</sup> is located on land he had originally reserved for himself<sup>6</sup> (approximately 150' west of its original location) and is today part of a memorial park which commemorates his life. The house remains the only significant structure still associated with his presence in the community and his contribution to its welfare.

Born in 1810 in Philipstown, Putnam County, New York, Hustis graduated from Yale in 1829, studied law, and moved to Milwaukee in the fall of 1836.<sup>7</sup> In early 1837, Hustis travelled north, for the first time, to the Dodge County site of his future home, built a log shanty, and laid claim to land.<sup>8</sup> By 1839, according to federal land office records, Hustis had purchased over 400 acres of land in sections 9 and 10 of Town 10, Range 16E.<sup>9</sup> In 1845, Hustis erected a dam on the Rock River; the same year he built a sawmill, and in 1850 a grist mill (which operated until 1929).<sup>10</sup> In 1848, when the southeastern quarter-section of Section 9 was platted, the original plat map listed John Hustis as the "proprietor" and noted that "said premises are to be known as Hustisford."<sup>11</sup> Hustis himself reserved lots 65, 66, 67, and 68 for himself,<sup>12</sup> and it was upon that land that he erected his frame house in 1857. Built by local carpenter Merrit Wiltse with wood from the Hustis mill, the house was Hustis' third but most important residence in the county, and the only one extant.<sup>13</sup>

His pioneering efforts in Hustisford, however, did not preclude an active role in the affairs of Milwaukee. An adamant supporter of the ill-fated Milwaukee and Rock river canal project, Hustis delivered an impassioned Fourth of July oration in Milwaukee in 1839 (popularly believed to be the first such holiday address in that city) in which he heralded the proposed canal as the tie which would "connect and blend the interests of the eastern and western portions of Wisconsin, speeding the settlement of the interior" and bringing commerce to the "counties by the lake."<sup>14</sup> (The hand-written draft of this speech remains in the Hustis house.) By 1840, the state legislature appointed Hustis register of the canal project.<sup>15</sup> In that same year, Hustis erected a substantial brick commercial block on a downtown Milwaukee corner (although that early structure was destroyed by 1880).<sup>16</sup>

But it was the Dodge County village which attracted most of Hustis' attention and time. After the construction of the house in 1857, Hustis remained a permanent resident and spent considerable time there supervising his mill and real estate holdings.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1.0

Quadrangle name Hustisford, WI (7.5)

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>2</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>
	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

The nominated property is lot 68, original plat of Hustisford, Hustisford, Wisconsin.

### 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 Leonard T. Garfield/Historian

organization State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 19 November 1982

street & number 816 State Street telephone 608/262-2970

city or town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

# 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

*Richard Mearns*

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

date 2/1/83

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date 3/10/83

*Shelene Byers*  
Keeper of the 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 Hustis House, Hustisford, Dodge County, Wisconsin

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Day books from the John Hustis collection clearly reveal that Hustis took a daily interest in his businesses,<sup>17</sup> and a nineteenth century county history claimed that Hustis indeed considered Hustisford home.<sup>18</sup>

For a few years after his death in 1907 (at the venerable age of 96),<sup>19</sup> the Hustis house remained in his family, but in 1916 the house was moved to a rural location. In the same year, the city created a memorial park on the Hustis property on North Ridge Street, and in 1974, the Greater Sinissippi Historical Society moved the house back to the Hustis Memorial park, where it now rests near its original location.<sup>20</sup> Currently, the house serves as a museum for the society and the repository for many of the papers and other mementos of John Hustis' life.

Exception to the Exclusion of Moved Properties: The John Hustis house was originally built on lots 65 and 66 of the Original Plat of Hustisford. Together with lots 67 and 68, these four adjacent lots were reserved by Hustis for the site of his house and property.<sup>21</sup> In 1916 (after his death), the house was moved to a rural location and the property itself was given to the city, which created the Hustis Memorial Park. When the Greater Sinissippi Historical Society purchased the house in 1974, they moved it back to the original Hustis land. Today, the house rests on lot 68, some 150' north of its original location and oriented toward Ridge Street rather than Juneau Street. But this most recent move has returned the house to the original Hustis property where it has regained integrity of site and historical association and is now assured of proper preservation.

<sup>1</sup>Building contract between John Hustis and Merrit Wiltse, dated 1857, in the John Hustis Papers collection, Hustis House, Hustisford, WI.

<sup>2</sup>Records of the General Land Office: Local Office Tract Book, Wisconsin, Vol. 32. Sales to Hustis dated February 27, 1839.

<sup>3</sup>History of Dodge County (Chicago: Western Historical Society, 1880), p. 726.

<sup>4</sup>"Map of Hustisford (Original Plat), 1848," Hustis House, Hustisford, WI.

<sup>5</sup>Letter from Herbert E. Neuenschwander to Leonard Garfield, June 10, 1982, "Hustis House Site File", Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Mr. Neuenschwander has made a fifty year study of the papers of Hustis.

<sup>6</sup>"Plat Map of Hustisford, March 28," Hustis House, Hustisford, WI.

<sup>7</sup>History of Dodge County, p. 726.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

John Hustis House, Hustisford, Dodge County, Wisconsin

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

<sup>8</sup>Homer Hubbell, Dodge County, Past and Present (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1913), p. 398.

<sup>9</sup>Records of the General Land Office: Local Office Tract Book, WI, Vol. 32.

<sup>10</sup>History of Dodge County, p. 726.

<sup>11</sup>"Map of Hustisford (Original Plat)," 1848.

<sup>12</sup>"Plat Map of Hustisford," 1851.

<sup>13</sup>Building contract between John Hustis and Merrit Wiltse, John Hustis Papers.

<sup>14</sup>Handwritten draft of speech, dated July 4, 1839, John Hustis Papers, Hustis House, Hustisford, WI.

<sup>15</sup>William Smith, History of Wisconsin (Madison: Beriah Brown, 1854), p. 379.

<sup>16</sup>History of Dodge County, p. 726. See also Built in Milwaukee.

<sup>17</sup>John Hustis, Day Books, John Hustis Papers, Hustis House, Hustisford, WI.

<sup>18</sup>History of Dodge County, p. 726.

<sup>19</sup>"Death of Dodge County's Venerable Pioneer," Horicon Reporter, September 20, 1907.

<sup>20</sup>Interview with Mrs. Any Wegener, President, Greater Sinissippi Historical Society, Nov. 11, John Hustis House, Hustisford, WI

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

John Hustis House, Hustisford, Dodge County, Wisconsin

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

9. Major Bibliographic References

History of Dodge County. Chicago: Western Historical Society, 1880.

Hubbell, Homer. Dodge County, Past and Present. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1913.

John Hustis Papers. Hustis House, Hustisford, WI.

"Map of Hustisford (Original Plat), 1848." Hustis House, Hustisford, WI.

Neuenschwander, H. E. Pictorial History Album, Hustisford, Wisconsin. Hustisford: Greater Sinissippi Historical Society, n.d.

"Plat map of Hustisford, March 28, 1851." Hustis House, Hustisford, Wisconsin.

Records of the General Land Office: Local Office Tract Book, Wisconsin. Vol. 32.