

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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RECEIVED	APR 12 1978
DATE ENTERED	SEP 11 1978

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Elijah's and Polly's daughter Caroline kept a diary which documents much of the building on this site. For instance, on June 25, 1850 the family obtained cut stones for the "granery" (sic.), i.e., the grout wheat warehouse. From June 27-July 2 the family "scraped the cellar." On July 11 Abel and Elnathon Bond began to lay up the cellar wall. The grout walls were under construction in the fall of 1850, and the building was documented in use to store wheat by the spring of 1851.

Elijah and his wife also drew the plans for the large (30' x 38") two-story brick house in January 1851. He contracted for Whitewater brick, his uncle Anson Goodrich's stone (presumably from his Newville quarry about six miles northwest of town), Fort Atkinson lumber, and Jefferson fireplace brick. Workmen included a Mr. Cox who laid the cellar limestone wall, and Messrs. Saunders and Buten who constructed the house with three thicknesses of brick, and with lumber and plaster. The family moved in December 15, 1851.

Elijah died in May 1853, leaving the house and granary to his widow and daughters. One daughter received another part of the original lot; by 1894 the remaining 8.75 acres, including the house and grout warehouse, was known as the Polly Goodrich homestead.

(Caroline Goodrich Diary, 1850-51, ms. in the collections of the Milton Historical Society; D. R. Collins, "Wisconsin Claims America's Oldest Concrete Community," Concrete Products, Aug. 1924, p. 42; Douglas and Hartung, Rock County Historic Sites and Buildings, pp. 126-27; Interviews with Lois Westlund, 1976-77, including report on an inspection of the grout warehouse by Dr. William Saul, Chairman, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Robert H. Lindsay, PE, Associate Director, Division of Physical Plant, UW-Madison, and Gordon D. Orr, Jr., AIA, Campus Architect, UW-Madison, December 1, 1977.)

Owner: Mrs. Emah M. Snyder  
602 East Madison Avenue ✓  
Milton, Wisconsin 53563

Abram Allen House

205 East Madison Avenue  
Part of outlot 33, less than one acre  
UTM: 16/340610/4737910

Description:

This story-and-a-half vernacular Greek Revival grout house, whose main block measures 25' x 18', is unique among the Milton grout houses in that its facade is on the long side, with a center entrance and double-hung sash windows placed

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symmetrically on either side. Three low eyebrow windows appear above at the second story. Returned cornices embellish the gables at both sides (the gabled portion of the walls is grout, continuous with the mass of wall below). This block was built ca. 1853 over limestone foundations by early settler Abram Allen. Allen sold the 205 East Madison house soon after completion.

There were several owners from 1857 to 1867, when K. W. Tanner bought the house. He added the frame rear wing and inscribed the date 1874 in the new basement mortar. Longtime 20th-century owners were the Elwood Shumways, who added two side porches and cemented the floor of the rear basement after 1933, and remodeled the interior, adding a fireplace and a modern kitchen. The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. David Henning, have repainted the smooth grout surface a light tan. They obtained the 1860's front door from a razed (Burdick) house. The house and a frame horse barn to the rear are well maintained.

Significance:

205 East Madison Avenue is primarily significant for its grout construction, in modified Greek Revival style. It is the only grout building which is attributed to early settler Abram Allen, who migrated from Joseph Goodrich's original neighborhood in Allegany County, New York, to Lima, east of Milton, in 1842, then settled in Milton in 1846. Before he built 205 East Madison, he also built a grout house on the southwest corner of Parkview and Madison Avenue, now razed. A first story grout and second story frame building nearby was also attributed to him; it was nicknamed the "Old Palace," which was said to have held Milton Academy overflow classes. It was razed in 1902.

(Ezra Goodrich, information in the Milton Historical Society files, 1902; Collins, "Wis. Claims America's Oldest Concrete Community," Concrete Products, Aug. 1924, p. 42; "Is this the Oldest Concrete Community?", Cement and Engineering News, 1924 (house dated 1850); Douglas and Hartung, Rock County Historic Sites and Buildings, pp. 126-27; Bicentennial...Milton, 1976, pp.7, 62; interview with Mrs. David Henning, Sept. 1977.)

Owner: Mr. and Mrs. David Henning  
205 East Madison Avenue  
Milton, Wisconsin 53563 ✓

Gifford House

308 Vernal

Lot 74 and part of Lot 75, Morgan's Addition, less than one acre

UTM: 16/339680/4738140