

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 4 1977
DATE ENTERED AUG 22 1977

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 Lathrop-Munn Cobblestone House
AND/OR COMMON Munn Cobblestone House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 524 Bluff Street
CITY, TOWN Beloit VICINITY OF First
STATE Wisconsin 53511 CODE 55 COUNTY Rock CODE 105

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS PRESENT USE
_DISTRICT _PUBLIC X OCCUPIED _AGRICULTURE _MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S) X PRIVATE _UNOCCUPIED _COMMERCIAL _PARK
_STRUCTURE _BOTH _WORK IN PROGRESS _EDUCATIONAL X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
_SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE _ENTERTAINMENT _RELIGIOUS
_OBJECT _IN PROCESS _YES: RESTRICTED _GOVERNMENT _SCIENTIFIC
_BEING CONSIDERED _YES: UNRESTRICTED _INDUSTRIAL _TRANSPORTATION
X NO _MILITARY _OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Miss Grace Munn
STREET & NUMBER 528 Bluff Street
CITY, TOWN Beloit VICINITY OF STATE Wisconsin 53511

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Rock County Court House
STREET & NUMBER 51 South Main Street
CITY, TOWN Janesville STATE Wisconsin 53545

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Rock County Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings
DATE 1975 _FEDERAL _STATE X COUNTY _LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Rock County Historical Society
CITY, TOWN Janesville STATE Wisconsin 53545

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Lathrop-Munn house was built ca. 1848 as a 1 1/2 story 26' x 30' cobblestone block in Greek Revival style, with gabled roof and returned cornices. Walls are only 1' thick, suggesting a probability of brick infill. The cobblestones are well matched and relatively small, probably creek bed stones. Across the east front they are arranged in alternating bands of tan and black stones, 3-4 courses deep, giving a pronounced striped effect. Selection of color is more random on the south side, but here too stones are well matched for size and shape. The larger and more irregular stones were reserved for the north side. Throughout, they are set in rows in mortar which is raised in pronounced horizontal ridges between the courses of stones. Mortar bands also surround the buff limestone quoins and lintels. Rough-cut limestone was used for foundations, water table and quoins; the heavy straight lintels were tooled to create a dotted texture.

Later additions to the rear of the house and interior remodeling add to the livability of the house and enhance its usefulness and chances for preservation. About the 1870's, a frame, gable-roofed wing was added flush with the north side to the rear; this 18' x 34' wing provides an ell extending 8' to the south. In the late 19th century three dormer windows were added to the cobblestone block, one window penetrating through the roof and frieze; and a first story bay was added on the south side creating a window frame 2' thick, rather than the foot thick frames of the cobblestone walls.

Interior walls are plastered; moldings date to ca. 1880 in the frame wing and approximately turn-of-the-century in the two parlors and the front hall, which utilize the cobblestone block. The installation of the oak entrance stairway resulted in the shuttered closure of a first story window on the north side. A fireplace with a fine copper grate (of Arts-and-Crafts and Japanese motifs) and beveled glass at the lights at the front doorway also seem to date from this period. A flat-roofed porch to the rear was enclosed and remodeled as a kitchen and porch about 1955.

The house is sound and very well maintained. There is an old metal tie rod near the front. A 19th century veranda was removed years ago. The stone work was tuckpointed and the back wing and the trim were painted in 1975. The house is presently operated as a rental property adjacent to the frame house of its owner.

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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1848

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lathrop-Munn cobblestone house is one of the two best preserved cobblestone houses remaining in the City of Beloit. (The other is the Hinman-Rasey house.) The 1870 census of Beloit listed 25 cobblestone houses;¹ by 1976 there were only six buildings remaining in the City of Beloit which were all or partially constructed of cobblestone.² It is a fine example of the cobblestone architecture imported into Wisconsin by settlers who came mostly from New England or New York, and is noteworthy for the fine matching of smooth pebbles, creating a striped pattern of tan and black across the facade of the house. Additions do not seriously detract from the cobblestone fabric of the building.

The house was built on Lot 104 of Hackett's Addition on the west side of the Rock River. John Hackett (1808-86), was the first store owner (1837-38) and postmaster (1839) of Beloit. With his father-in-law, Caleb Blodgett, he had been one of the first permanent settlers of Beloit. He became a prominent businessman, landowner, and mayor (1879). In 1848 Hackett sold the lot for \$700, with the house possibly already constructed, to Frederick A. Lathrop, who apparently then retained ownership until 1864. In the latter part of the 19th century the house was owned by an inventor and a physician, and in the first half of the 20th century, by a plumber.

1. M. Burkhart, "Cobblestone Heritage in Beloit," Beloit Daily News, June 14, 1969.
2. Douglas and Hartung, Rock County Historic Sites and Buildings, 1976, p. 14.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Book of Beloit, (Beloit, 1936)
Burkhart, M., "Cobblestone Heritage in Beloit," Beloit Daily News, June 14, 1969. Illus.
"Cobblestone Architecture," file in Rock County Historical Society Library
Douglas, Nancy B. and Hartung, Richard P., Rock County Historic Sites and Buildings,
(Janesville, 1976), 195-197
Shedd, N. S., "Cobblestone Buildings in Southern Wisconsin," Antiques Journal, April,
1974, p. 21, fig. 2

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.2
UTM REFERENCES

A	1 6	B	3 2 2 1 0		4 7 0 7 1 9 0	B							
	ZONE		EASTING		NORTHING		ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING
C						D							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Nancy Belle Douglas, Preservation Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

Rock County Historical Society

DATE

December 3, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 896

TELEPHONE

608/756-4509

CITY OR TOWN

Janesville

STATE

Wisconsin 53545

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 W. Kuncy

TITLE Acting Director,
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

1/25/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

Shelby

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles W. ...

DATE

2/18/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER ^{See} Below PAGE 1

6. Wisconsin's Historic Preservation Plan, Volume II: The Inventory
1975
State Historical Society of Wisconsin
Madison
Wisconsin 53706
11. Donald N. Anderson, Historian & Registrar, Historic Preservation Division
State Historical Society of Wisconsin
816 State Street
Madison
7 December 1976
608/262-0746
Wisconsin 53706