

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wisconsin
COUNTY: La Crosse
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE DEC 30 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Hixon, Gideon C., House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
429 North Seventh Street

CITY OR TOWN:
La Crosse

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Third

STATE
Wisconsin 54601

CODE
55

COUNTY:
La Crosse

CODE
063

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

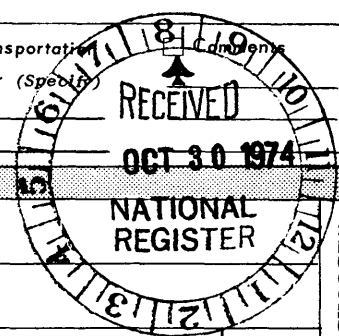
OWNER'S NAME:
La Crosse County Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
429 North Seventh Street

CITY OR TOWN:
La Crosse

STATE:
Wisconsin 54601

CODE
55



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
La Crosse County Court House

CITY OR TOWN:
La Crosse

STATE
Wisconsin 54601

CODE
55

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Heritage Tour of La Crosse

DATE OF SURVEY: **1972** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
La Crosse County Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
429 North Seventh Street

CITY OR TOWN:
La Crosse

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Gideon C. Hixon house is a two-story Italianate house. The land on which it stands was acquired by Hixon in 1858 and the house was begun in 1859. Various additions were made during the 1870's and the house as it stands today was substantially completed by the end of the decade.

The house is of clapboard, painted blue with white trim. It has a shingled roof with a rather shallow pitch and the roof line is broken by four chimneys and a skylight. The heavy overhanging cornice is supported by carved wooden brackets. There is a small wooden entrance porch and a long side porch of white wood supported by white columns. In the front, toward the street, are an entrance hallway, the library, and the parlor. There is an entrance from the side porch into a side wing which contains the family room which has a "Turkish corner." The back of the house contains the family dining room which looks onto the garden through a large, modified Palladian sash window and the kitchen. Next to the kitchen is a large pantry, a scullery and a storage room. There is one downstairs bedroom off the kitchen hall and there are five bedrooms upstairs. In back of the house is a combination wash house and stable with an upstairs school room in which the five Hixon sons were tutored. The wash house is of clapboard, painted blue, and has a shingled, gambrel roof. Around the yard and garden of the Hixon house is an iron fence which dates from 1865 and bears the name Hixon on each gate.

The interior of the Hixon house is far richer than its fairly modest exterior would lead the viewer to expect. It is furnished with the Hixon family's own furniture and household goods, many of which were purchased by Hixon during trips around the United States or abroad. The quality of many individual artifacts in the house is extremely high. In the parlor an Empire-style sofa is covered with a silk Persian prayer rug. In the "Turkish corner" is a three-panel harem screen in good condition which Mr. Hixon brought back from a trip to the Near East. In the dining room the walls are covered with canvas hand-painted with autumn leaves. And in the library a carved teakwood desk with flower-petal carved ivory handles holds a Tiffany desk lamp and Tiffany glass stamp box. There is a variety of Chippendale and Morris furniture and also excellent glass, porcelain and china. The over-all effect of the house gives a good idea of the tastes of its day.

The house now belongs to the La Crosse County Historical Society and is open to the public for part of the year. The old wash house serves as a county museum containing maps, Indian artifacts, portraits of early citizens and some decorative arts.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1859, 1870's**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Association with <u>Historic Personality</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Gideon C. Hixon house is important as an excellent, intact example of Victorian art and architecture. It is one of the finest Italianate houses in La Crosse.

Its wealthy builder was born in Vermont and came to La Crosse in 1856. He went into the lumber business with his brother-in-law, W. W. Crosby, and the firm of Crosby and Hixon had sawmills at the mouth of the Black River. Eventually Hixon formed another company with mills in Hannibal, Missouri. It was the growth of the lumber mills along the Mississippi in this area which caused the rapid growth of La Crosse during the 1850's. Hixon later became a founding member and president of the La Crosse National Bank and served as its president until his death in 1892. He served in the state legislature several times and was a founder of the Episcopal Church in La Crosse. His second wife Ellen Pennell Hixon, was a school teacher and a founder of the La Crosse Hospital and the La Crosse Orphan Home. Their five sons all became prominent men in La Crosse.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Gideon C. Hixon," Biographical Dictionary and Portrait Gallery of Prominent Men of Chicago and Wisconsin. Chicago, 1895, pp. 230-2.
 "Gideon C. Hixon," The Columbian Biographical Dictionary, Wisconsin Volume, 1895, pp. 250-4.
 Sanford, Albert H. and Hirshheimer, H. J. A History of La Crosse, Wisconsin. La Crosse, La Crosse County Historical Society, 1951, pp. 190, 210.
 "Hixon House," Brochure, La Crosse County Historical Society.
 "Hixon House," Fact Sheet and Catalogue, La Crosse County Historical Society.
 Personal visit, Charlene Stant Engel, July 17, 1974.
 Interview with Mr. Harold Weisse, July 17, 1974.

413
 15 / 4852720
 640980

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Charlen Stant Engel, Preservation Planning Assistant

ORGANIZATION: State Historical Society of Wisconsin DATE: 23 July 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN: Madison STATE: Wisconsin 53706 CODE: 55

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name James Morton Smith
 Title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin
 Date Oct. 23, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 12/30/74

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date DEC 27 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Wisconsin	
COUNTY	La Crosse	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		DEC 30 1974

(Number all entries)

HIXON, GIDEON C., HOUSE

6. Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings (state)

1974

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

816 State Street

Madison

Wisconsin 53706

Code: 55

