

DATA SHEET

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wisconsin	
COUNTY: Winnebago	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 14 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:
Nevitt Site (47 Wn 162)

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Augustin Grignon Hotel *use this*

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Southeast corner of Main and Washington Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Butte des Morts

STATE Wisconsin 54927	CODE 55	COUNTY: Winnebago	CODE 139
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments <u>Antique Store</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Emma A. Nevitt

STREET AND NUMBER:
5700 I-Ah Maytah Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Oshkosh

STATE: Wisconsin	CODE: 55
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Winnebago County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
415 Jackson Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Oshkosh

STATE: Wisconsin	CODE: 55
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Archaeological and Historical Site Survey of the Middle Fox River Passageway

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

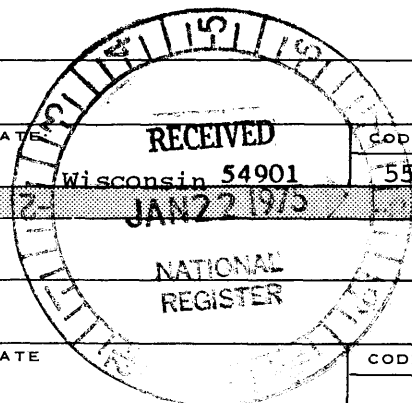
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Madison

STATE: Wisconsin	CODE: 53706
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Landscape

The Grignon Hotel lies at the base of the low hill "Butte des Morts" ("hill of the dead", French), on the north shore of Lake Butte des Morts. Apparently a low glacial kame, this hill was used as a cemetery by the Winnebago, Fox, and Menominee villages once located there. Later, in the mid 19th century, it became the nucleus of the white settlement of Butte des Morts. In 1852, when the present structure was built, the bank of the Fox River was fully two blocks away. With the damming of the Fox beginning around 1900, creating Lake Butte des Morts, the old waterfront running along what was once "Water Street" has been inundated, and the Hotel now lies only a block from the lake shore.

Structure

The Grignon Hotel retains its original outside dimensions and appearance (see photo). It is a rectangular, three story structure covering approximately 880 square feet, with a small single story wing on the east end for the hotel proprietor. Originally, the first floor of the hotel served as trading post, post office, and saloon. The second floor was divided into guest rooms, reached by a central stairway. Apparently at one time there was an attic, which could be reached by an extension of this stairway. There was also an outside stairway leading from the rear (lake side) of the building to the second floor. A shed (which at one time may have served as a stable) and an outhouse, now both gone, were known to have been on the property in 1890.

The present Grignon hotel shows no drastic modifications, and is structurally intact. Currently, the main floor serves as an antique store. The central staircase has been removed, and rebuilt along the north wall. Also the attic and outside staircase have been removed. A garage and driveway have been built onto the proprietor's wing facing Main Street. However, no other attempts have been made to "modernize" the building, save for the addition of electricity and indoor plumbing. Some original lumber from some past alterations of the building is still in the possession of the owner.

A thorough restoration of the site would require some stabilizing of the foundation and reinforcement of the second floor, as well as some minor cosmetic attention to the woodwork.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Erected in 1843

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) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Trading post,</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>Inn, and</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | <u>Ferry landing</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The earliest known post in the vicinity of Lake Butte des Morts was built in 1790 by Pierre Grignon, a French trader in a land which had recently come under Yankee control. Then this area around the Middle Fox River valley was primarily settled in small Menominee villages. Posts under control of the Grignon family sprang up near Dagget's Creek and in Oshkosh, in the first decades of the nineteenth century.

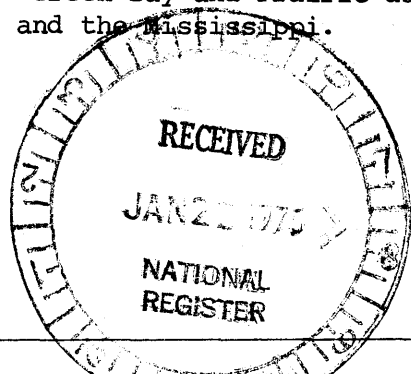
Apparently the first post on the Butte des Morts site was a temporary post built by Robert Grignon (grandson of Pierre) in 1839. At this time, Augustin Grignon (son of Pierre) located a farm and a ferry operation here, where the tomahawk trail connecting Green Bay and Prairie du Chien crosses the Fox River. In 1843, Augustin took over the post, building a new inn on the site. A small white settlement grew up in the old Menominee village, and by 1849, a post office was established at Grignon's inn.

It is this inn, dating from 1843, which survives as the oldest commercial building in Winnebago County, and one of the oldest wooden structures in Wisconsin. Augustin Grignon's establishment failed first, because John Jacob Astor (for whom the Grignon family were agents) lost the fur trade monopoly, and second, because the tomahawk trail was replaced by a Military route which crossed the Fox in Oshkosh. Grignon's death in 1860 left the establishment in bankruptcy, and in 1866 the building was sold at public auction. In 1867, the new owner used the inn to a general store. In 1953, the Nevitts acquired this property, and now lease it for use as an antique store.

Greek Revival

This simple/inn is a unique surviving example of the later trading posts which at one time dotted the Fox Valley passageway. It is valuable primarily in the fact that it has not been drastically altered, and might easily be restored to its original condition. For many years it served as a stopping point for traffic between Green Bay and Prairie du Chien, a major connection between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See attached continuation sheet.

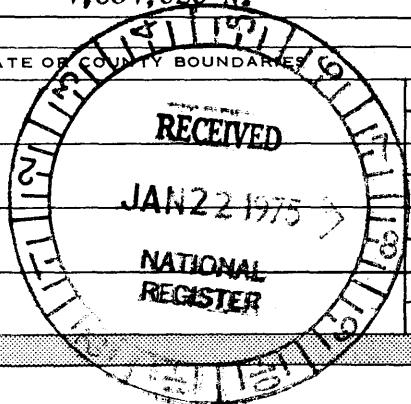
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		U.T.M.	Zone 16	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		367,660 E.		
SW	° ' "	° ' "		4,884,020 N.		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/8 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Dr. Alaric Faulkner with Ernest R. Lewis

ORGANIZATION: University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh DATE: 11/30/74

STREET AND NUMBER: Clow Faculty Building

CITY OR TOWN: Oshkosh STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 54901 55

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 Jan 15, 1975

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

A. R. Montrose
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/14/75

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date APR 8 1975

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Wisconsin	
COUNTY	Winnebago	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
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(Number all entries)

AUGUSTIN GRIGNON HOTEL

9. Bibliographical References--Augustin Grignon Hotel

Grignon, Augustin. "Seventy-two Years' Recollections of Wisconsin." Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Vol. III, ed. L.C. Draper. Madison: Democrat Printing Company, 1904 (reprint of 1857), 194-295.

Lawson, Publius V. History of Winnebago County, Vol. I. Chicago: G.F. Cooper & Company, 1908, 161-72.

Martin, Mitchell and Joseph H. Osborn. Geographical and Statistical History of the County of Winnebago. 1856.

Nevitt, Emma A. Butte des Morts: Grignon Trading Post. Butte des Morts, Wisconsin.

Nevitt, George. Conversation with on April 25, 1973. (ERL)

Oshkosh True Democrat, Vol. I, No. 24 (Aug. 3, 1849).

Sturtevant, Gene. "Butte des Morts." Files of Winnebago County Archaeological and Historical Society.

Titus, Senator William A. "Butte des Morts: A Hamlet with a History." Wisconsin Magazine of History, Vol. V (1922), 284-9

