

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 12 1978
DATE ENTERED	SEP 13 1978

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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

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Description:

This two-storied gabled vernacular grout house is locally known as the Howland house, after Mr. and Mrs. William Howland, the present owners and restorers. In 1941 they purchased the house, whose exterior they admired but whose interior they had never seen after the house had been vacant for 20 years. It is now a well-maintained rental property managed by their children, who are aware of the historic value of the house.

308 Vernal and its nearby neighbor at 27 Third are much alike. Both are constructed of grout, reputedly hardened in blocks and set up tight, with narrow mortar bands, like stone. The grout is covered with a stucco-like surfacing, so thin that the grooves are indented. Where the rose-tan surface of the Howland house has worn away, the mortar grooves do appear to penetrate into the fabric of the walls. Both houses are also of similar proportion and elevation of the facade. In both, a tall door on the left is topped with a flat wooden lintel, though there is a transom light in the Howland house but simply a door in the Third Street house. There are in each case two first story windows to the right, with tall windows aligned above them in the second story, also topped with straight wooden lintels.

The Howlands found their house without electricity or plumbing, which they added. They also remodeled the attached "summer kitchen" to the rear, which is still there. They replaced some of the six-over-six windows with windows they obtained in Milwaukee, removed a partition between the stairway and the front parlor, replastered, converted a large closet upstairs into a bathroom, and added an enclosed porch on the west side of the summer kitchen. They replaced the front stoop, which had been a block of limestone, but made few other changes to the house, which remains much as it was when restored by the Howlands.

Significance:

308 Vernal is architecturally significant as one of the two Milton grout houses which were built of grout block, about 15-20 years after the monolithic grout buildings built or influenced by Joseph Goodrich. Both houses were built about a mile to the west, in Milton Junction.

This house and its similar neighbor at 27 Third Street were built in Morgan's Addition in West Milton or Milton Junction, platted in 1863. Silas Crandall, son of original Milton Junction settler Henry Beebe Crandall, in 1862 sold 34 acres of land to Thomas and his brother Isaac Parsons Morgan. Through the subdivision of the land, I.P. Morgan earned himself the reputation of being the founder of Milton Junction.

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Carl Gifford bought Lots 74-75 in 1868 and took out a mortgage for \$700.00. Whether the Morgan brothers built these houses for speculation or they were built by the first owners is not known. Mr. A. Sowle and/or Frank Smalley, masons, were considered to be the builders of these two houses.

(Milton and Milton Junction Courier, Feb. 7, 1957; Story of Milton Junction, 1951, p. 13; Douglas and Hartung, illus. p. 11; pp. 126-27; Bicentennial...Milton, 1977, pp. 62, 72; interview with Harriet Hillestad, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Howland, Sept. 1977.)

Owner: Mr. and Mrs. William Howland
c/o Mrs. Donald Hillestad
500 Golden Lane
Milton, Wisconsin 53563 ✓

De Jean House
27 Third Street

Lot 70 and North 5/8 of lot 71, Morgan's Addition, less than one acre
UTM: 16/339730/4738210

Description:

27 Third was presumably built about the same time as the Howland house, between the platting of Morgan's Addition in 1863 and the first sale of Lots 70-71 to Julian De Jean in 1868, with mortgages to him of \$450 and \$90. It, like its near neighbor, is a gable-roofed vernacular grout block building with straight wooden lintels and sills, and the builders were reputedly A. Sowles and Frank Smalley, as is the case with the Howland house. This house, previously owned by Lawrence Astin and presently owned by K. Spencer Howard, is whitewashed and shuttered. The main block is 20' x 26', with a one-story early-20th-century addition to the south side, which extends back in an ell from the main block.

Significance:

The significance of 27 Third is architectural, as one of the two grout buildings in Milton which were built up of grout blocks, in the 1860's, in former Milton Junction. It is similar to its near neighbor at 308 Vernal.

(Story of Milton Junction, 1951, p. 13; Douglas and Hartung, Rock County Historic Sites and Buildings, pp. 10, 126-27; Bicentennial...Milton, 1977, pp. 62, 72; interview, K. Spencer Howard, Sept. 1977.)

Owner: K. Spencer Howard
27 Third Street
Milton, Wisconsin 53563 ✓