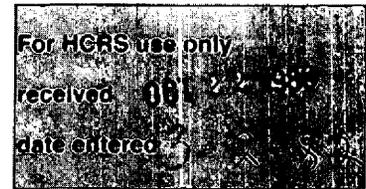


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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** Ahrens, Frederick C., House

historic Cobb, George N., House

and/or common Ahrens, Frederick C., House (preferred)

**2. Location** S of Oconomowoc at

street & number 1505 North Golden Lake Road \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Oconomowoc mi.  vicinity of congressional district Ninth

state Wisconsin code 55 county Waukesha code 133

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mrs. Mary Ahrens

street & number 1505 North Golden Lake Road

city, town Oconomowoc  vicinity of state Wisconsin 53066

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Tax Assessor's Office, City Hall

street & number 174 East Wisconsin Avenue

city, town Oconomowoc state Wisconsin 53066

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1979  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Frederick C. Ahrens House is located in the rural landscape south of the city of Oconomowoc. Tall shade trees and low shrubs enclose the house, set back well from the road on the well-groomed two-acre property. A paved drive runs along the north of the site, winding to the rear of the house and to the garage. Farther west of the house and drive stand a frame corn crib, chicken coop, and barn with silo, no longer in use.

The two-story brick farmhouse with its one-story wings at the north and south ends sits parallel to North Golden Lake Road. Wide wood fascias and cornice underline the medium-height gable roof. Tall brick exterior chimneys bisect the end walls. Although three regularly-spaced double-hung windows on the second story of the front (west) facade suggest a three-unit system of fenestration, openings in the first story and rear are non-conforming. Each of the end walls contains two openings above and three in the wing extensions below. Wide stone lintels and wood sills enclose the rectangular, double-hung openings. The two-story portion of the front elevation and northern end of the rear are fronted by open porches composed of a plain-post "arcade" on the ground level with a cross-frame balustrade above. The current porches were constructed in 1974, duplicating those shown in early photos. Principal entrances to the house from the front porch are center doors to the kitchen and dining rooms, with a single window to either side. In the rear, three doors open to the living room (at the north end), kitchen and dining rooms; single windows intervene.

The interior of the house is undistinguished. The present owner removed interior walls in the north wing to create a large living room, and added a fieldstone fireplace and pine paneling. An original fireplace in the present dining room was closed up. Walls were added in the south wing to create a closet space between the parlor and bedroom. The enclosed stair still divides the symmetrical plan from back to front. Halls flanking the run of the stair on the second story parallel the bedrooms at the north and south ends. Painted pine moldings and window frames trim the plaster walls.

## 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. 1850<sup>1</sup> **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Maintained by a series of six different families as simply-constructed and unadorned, the Frederick Ahrens house is a rare extant example of the character of construction in the area, predating by several decades the "discovery" and settlement of the city of Oconomowoc as a lakeside resort. The stark design of the building and its location in the farmlands to the south of the city contrast with higher-style post-Civil War construction in town. The rectangular brick form, wide wood fascias, and returning cornices mark the house as a classic, Greek-Revival-influenced farmhouse characteristic of early settlement in Wisconsin. The history of the Frederick Ahrens House can be traced to the original transfer of title from the Territory of Wisconsin to George N. Cobb in 1847; that document suggests that the Ahrens House was constructed shortly afterwards.

<sup>1</sup> There are no tax records or other documentation available for the building. Construction dates of houses of this type would suggest that the present structure dates from the time of ownership of the property by George N. Cobb, commencing in 1847.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Lake Country Reporter, September, 1978

Title Abstract

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED  
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property c. 2.0

Quadrangle name Oconomowoc West, Wisc.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 

116	3715	91410	417	617	31610
Zone	Easting		Northing		

B 

Zone	Easting		Northing		

C 

Zone	Easting		Northing		

D 

Zone	Easting		Northing		

E 

Zone	Easting		Northing		

F 

Zone	Easting		Northing		

G 

Zone	Easting		Northing		

H 

Zone	Easting		Northing		

## Verbal boundary description and justification

The North 1/2 of that part of the SE 1/4 of Section 19, T-7-N, R-17-E which lies west of the public highway running north and south through said 1/4 section and formerly known as the Jefferson and Delafield Road.

## 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 Mrs. Mary Ahrens (continued)

organization

date November, 1979

street & number 1505 North Golden Lake Road

telephone 414/593-8889

city or town Oconomowoc

state Wisconsin 53066

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Richard Kearney*

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

date 10/3/80

For HCERS use only

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

*[Signature]*

date 3/2/82

Keeper of the National Register

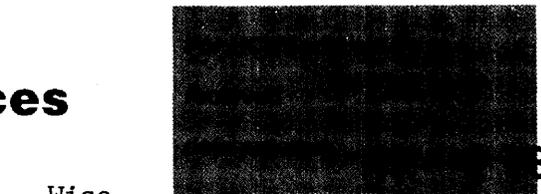
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



FREDERICK C. AHRENS HOUSE, Oconomowoc vic., Waukesha Co., Wisc.

Continuation sheet

Item number 8.

Page 1.

Statement of Significance (cont.)

Among the large number of Greek Revival houses executed in frame, brick, and stone in Waukesha County, the Ahrens House is one of a smaller number of non-formulaic designs with an irregular system of fenestration and unadorned entry. With its attached wings, simple but elegant portico, and quality masonry construction, the building is a refined version of such derived farmhouses, maintained in exemplary fashion by the present owner.

D. Filipowicz  
Amended 12/12/80

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FREDERICK C. AHRENS HOUSE, Oconomowoc vic., Waukesha County, WI.  
Continuation sheet Item number 11.

Page 1.

FORM PREPARED BY:

Diane H. Filipowicz, Architectural Historian  
State Historical Society of Wisconsin  
816 State Street  
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

June, 1980  
(608)262-2970