### **United States Department of the Interior** National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received 3/4/85 date entered SEP | 3 1985

6

COBBLESTONE BUILDINGS
Continuation sheet OF ROCK COUNTY Item

Item number

7

Page

INVENTORY OF NOMINATED PROPERTIES (cont.)

Stark-Clint House	Owner:	James Clint
Creek Road		Route 3
LaPrairie Township		Janesville, Wisconsin

The Stark-Clint House is located on Creek Road, in LaPrairie township, northeast of the hamlet of Tiffany. Originally part of the 260 acre purchase of land by William H. Stark, the parcel has remained an active farm ever since. Stark, although born in Vermont, came to Wisconsin in 1846 from Tomkinsville, New York. He became a leading farmer in the area and was a member of the Wisconsin state legislature in 1858, 1867 and 1878.<sup>10</sup>

For purposes of this nomination the house is included in an area of less than one acre beginning at a point 10' east and 10' south of the southeast corner of the dwelling, thence northerly 74', thence 46' westerly, thence 74' southerly and thence 46' easterly to the point of the beginning. The limits of the boundary includes only the house as it is now built and excludes all farm buildings and other structures on the property from the nomination.

The Stark-Clint House is a 1 1/2 story residence with a one story "ell" wing to the north. The one tory "ell" wing is a more recent frame addition included in the boundary description of the parcel, but is not considered significant. This new addition replaces an earlier, small, cobblestone wing and a large frame wing which extended northward from the 1 1/2 story part of the house. The present cobblestone section of this house, closely approximates the original pre-Civil War condition of the site and is all that remains of a far grander late 19th century home pictured in the 1873 <u>Combination Atlas of Rock County.</u><sup>11</sup> That illustration shows the present structure with a large Italianate style wing to the west. The Italianate wing, apparently built between 1867-68, was completely destroyed by fire around 1894.<sup>12</sup> The current owners report charred rafters within the present structure. It is not known of what material the Italianate wing was constructed, but it is highly unlikely that it was built of cobblestones in that post-Civil War period.

Built in c.1846-47<sup>13</sup> the house is vernacular in style with a three-bay road-side facade. This south facade holds a main entrance centered between two regularly spaced rectangular windows that have modern one over one panes in double hung sash. The second story windows on this facade are narrow half-windows with a single pane of glass. Each of the side elevations also carries regularly spaced one over one windows. Continuation sheet

### **United States Department of the Interior** National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
8/4/0'
LOCSIAOD AI
data antened
date entered
Page 7

INVENTORY OF NOMINATED PROPERTIES (cont.)

COBBLESTONE BUILDINGS

OF ROCK COUNTY

The cobblestone construction, now painted white (probably as a result of the fire), has dressed limestone quoins at the corners of the structure. Scrapings have revealed that the cobblestones are grey and tan in color. They are laid in horizontal bands and between each row is a V-shaped mortar line. All of the window openings are framed with heavy limestone sills and lintels.

Item number

7

A central chimney, which shows in the 1873 Atlas print, has been removed and a new chimney has been built on the west side of the 1 1/2 story block.

The interior, remodelled following the 1893/94 fire, and again more recently, retains no significant details from the late 1840s.

UTM Reference: 16/342000/4716260 (Shopiere, Wis. 1:24000) Acreage: less than one

#### Significance

The Stark-Clint House is significant in its use of cobblestones as an exterior wall veneer; a distinctive and rare building construction method of notable significance in southeastern Wisconsin. Despite a destructive fire, the house is representative of the early Greek Revival period of construction in the state. Because the house was seriously damaged by fire in the 1890s, the surviving cobblestone section illustrates the durability of the cobblestone construction technique, and the visible cobblestone masonry contributes to the larger heritage of surviving cobblestone structures in Rock County.