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United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting ~~listing~~ ^{listing} for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Clarke, George Lawrence Jr., House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

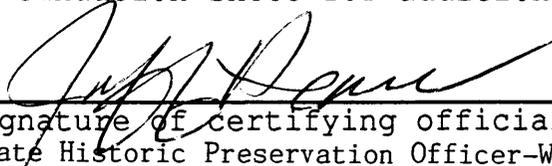
street & number 12810 West Hampton Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Butler N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Waukesha code 133 zip code 53007

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)


Signature of certifying official/Title
State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

1/17/95
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State of Federal agency and bureau _____

Name of Property _____ County and State _____

4. National Park Service Certification

Edson H. Beall Entered in the National Register 2/24/95
Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register. _____ See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. _____ See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register. _____ See continuation sheet.
 removed from the National Register. _____ See continuation sheet.
 other, (explain:) _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include listed resources within as the count)	Contributing/Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local buildings	<input type="checkbox"/> district		<u>2</u> <u>0</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state sites	<input type="checkbox"/> site		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-federal structures	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		
<input type="checkbox"/> objects	<input type="checkbox"/> object		
	Totals		<u>2</u> <u>0</u>

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is part of a multiple property listing.) _____ Number of contributing resources not previously listed in the National Register _____
N/A 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
DOMESTIC: secondary structure

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
DOMESTIC: secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)
from instructions)

(Enter categories

Greek Revival

foundation CONCRETE
walls WOOD: weatherboard
roof ASPHALT
other WOOD

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The George L. Clarke, Jr. House is located in a residential area on the outskirts of the Village of Butler. It fronts on a wide divided highway built-up with modern, multi-unit, two-story apartment buildings interspersed with single-family houses. Surrounding the house are one-story, 1950s, ranch style houses.

The Clarke House occupies a 145 by 106-foot, park-like lot with mature landscaping. It is sited well back from the road behind a tree studded lawn. To the side of the house in the northeast corner of the lot is a c. 1910 - 1920s-era, one-story, frame garage.

Description of the Exterior of the House

The house itself is a 1 1/2- and two-story, frame, gabled-ell, Greek Revival style farmhouse that was constructed in two or possibly three distinct stages. The oldest part of the house is the mid-nineteenth century, long, 1 1/2-story leg of the ell. Abutting that to the north is a shed-roofed rear lean-to addition that was probably constructed at the same time as, or not long after, the first part was built. The end-gabled, two-story,

X See Continuation Sheets

George Lawrence Clarke, Jr. House
Name of Property

Waukesha County, WI
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the
criteria qualifying the property for the
National Register listing.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from
instructions)
ARCHITECTURE
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

A Property is associated with events
that have made a significant
contribution to the broad patterns of
our history.

B Property is associated with the lives
of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive
characteristics of a type, period, or
method of construction or represents
the work of a master, or possesses
high artistic values, or represents a
significant and distinguishable entity
whose components lack individual
distinction.

Period of Significance

c. 1850-1930¹

D Property has yielded, or is likely to
yield, information important in
prehistory or history.

Significant Dates

1850-1856²
1910³

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

A owned by a religious institution or
used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or
structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age achieved
significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is
marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SIGNIFICANCE

See Continuation Sheets

George Lawrence Clarke, Jr. House
Name of Property

Waukesha County, WI
County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

X See Continuation Sheets

Previous Documentation on File (NPS):
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:
 State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State Agency
 Federal Agency
 Local government
 University
 X other
Name of repository:
 Brown Deer Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>1/6</u>	<u>4/1/2/7/4/0</u>	<u>4/7/7/2/8/4/0</u>	3	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	4	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

 See Continuation Sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

X See Continuation Sheet

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

X See Continuation Sheet

11. Form Prepared By

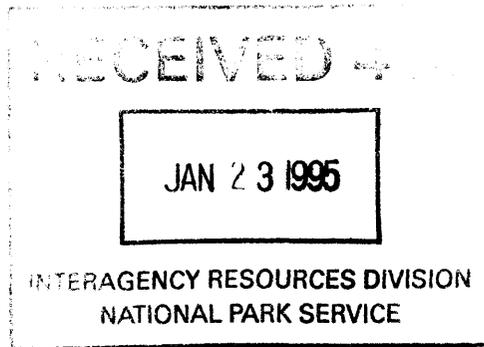
name Leslie J. Vollmert
title Historic Preservation Consultant
organization _____ date Dec. 10, 1993
street & number 2840 N. Stowell Ave. telephone 414/286-5705
city or town Milwaukee state WI zip code 53211

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 1/92)

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 1



**George L. Clarke, Jr. House
Butler, Waukesha County, WI**

Description (continued)

eastern portion of the house and the east end of the rear lean-to were built in 1910.

The L-shaped facade of the house faces West Hampton Avenue. It is composed of the projecting, two-story, end-gabled 1910 wing and the 1 1/2-story, flank-gabled c. 1850 wing unified by an L-shaped flat-roofed Tuscan columned porch built in 1910 that wraps around the inside of the ell to cover the first stories of both wings. The house is covered in clapboards and rests on a rusticated concrete block foundation. The early twentieth century, one-over-one, wooden windows are informally arranged to respond to floor plan requirements. A solitary, three-light, frieze window lights the upper story of the ell.

Three separate doors of different periods and styles lead from the porch into the various portions of the house. The westernmost door is a plain, four-panel, mid-nineteenth century type door. The middle door is a multipaned, fully glazed door of c. 1920s vintage, while the door that leads into the two-story gabled projecting wing is a paneled and half-glazed late Victorian style door dating from 1910. Flat board pilasters with moulded capitals accent the corners of the projecting gabled front wing terminating in wide boxed eave returns. Frieze boards, raking boards at the gable, and a plain watertable provide the sparse detailing. The porch features four Tuscan columns, paired corbels mounted at the soffits over the columns, lattice skirting, and two-by-two picket railings.

The west elevation consists of the gabled end wall of the mid-nineteenth century 1 1/2-story ell and the one-bay-deep side wall of the rear shed-roofed lean-to. The gabled end wall has wide, plain board pilasters with moulded capitals at the corners terminating in boxed eave returns. The gabled wing is fenestrated with four, symmetrically arranged, one-over-one, sash windows while the end wall of the lean-to has a single, one-over-

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Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 2

**George L. Clarke, Jr. House
Butler, Waukesha County, WI**

Description (continued)

one sash window. Raking boards at the eaves and a wide skirting board at the water table are the only other trim elements.

The north, or rear, elevation of the house, is mostly composed of the lean-to addition with its two asymmetrically arranged, one-over-one, double hung windows, and a fully glazed rear door leading into a sun porch glazed with a bank of three six-over-one window units. The exceptionally wide, plain frieze board that trims the eaves of the nineteenth century lean-to narrows over the glazed sun porch behind the 1910 two-story wing. At the second story level of the main house, a wide board frieze fills the narrow space between the lean-to roof and the eaves of the mid-nineteenth century 1 1/2-story wing. This frieze is pierced by two long, low, horizontal, three-light frieze windows separated by a mullion. The rear gabled wall of the 1910 two-story wing is windowless except for a small rectangular, three-light attic window in the gable. The house's single chimney, a twentieth century rectangular brick shaft lacking ornamentation, rises from the peak of the roof of the 1 1/2-story mid-nineteenth ell at the point where it intersects the two-story 1910 gabled wing.

The east elevation consists of the east wall of the 1910, two-story wing. Like the north elevation, it is somewhat utilitarian in character. A variety of different sizes and types of windows are randomly located to respond to floor plan requirements. A half-glazed side door located at half-level between the basement and the first floor provides access to the basement. Abutting the north end is the side of the glazed sun porch with its bank of three six-over-one windows. This was originally an open porch, but apparently it was glazed in the 1920s.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 3

**George L. Clarke, Jr. House
Butler, Waukesha County, WI**

Description (continued)

Description of the Interior of the House

The interior of the Clarke House is divided into two distinct portions each with its own character. These divisions reflect the two distinct building stages, in the 1850s and in 1910, although some remodeling was undertaken in the 1850s portion in 1910 to make it blend better with the new east wing.

From the front porch, two doors lead into the 1850s, 1 1/2-story portion. The right hand door leads into the large, maple-floored, living-dining room, the principal space in the house and evidently always its functional heart. This room reflects the results of improvements made in 1910 when the house was enlarged. It is circumscribed by an Arts and Crafts style, shoulder height plate rail below which the plastered walls are divided by closely-spaced stiles into numerous tall narrow panels. A built-in wooden buffet with a drawer section below a serving shelf fitted with an ingenious, revolving, circular lazy Susan compartment is topped by an upper china closet with a latticed leaded glass door. From this main room, five separate four-panel doors provide access to adjoining rooms and passages. All of the woodwork is now painted.

The left hand door from the porch leads into a room that has retained more of its 1850s finish. This room is known as the "old parlor." Nineteenth century family photographs indicate that this space was used by the family as a formal parlor and sometimes as a bedroom before the house was moved in 1909. After 1910 it appears to have continued in use sometimes as a parlor, and sometimes as a bedroom. It is plastered with simple, beveled and molded, 1850s door and window casings and flush baseboards. It retains two original four-panel doors from the 1850s, one with a white porcelain doorknob. The raised panel door to the living/dining room and a very narrow door to the back hall, however, date from the 1910 renovation and afterwards respectively.

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Section 7 Page 4

**George L. Clarke, Jr. House
Butler, Waukesha County, WI**

Description (continued)

Across the rear of the 1850s portion is the lean-to. It is divided into three rooms and a passage. The westernmost room behind the old parlor is a simple plastered bedroom with plain 1850s wood trim. The easternmost room adjacent to the living/dining room also retains its plain 1850s style woodwork. It is now used as a mudroom/storage room and has a door leading directly out to the glassed-in rear porch. Family records indicate that this room was used for storage and as a washroom for the hired farm hands. It is furnished with an ancient drawer base cabinet of primitive design and has peghooks on the walls.

Between these two rooms runs a narrow passage that has a door to the living/dining room, a narrow door to the old parlor, and a door to the bathroom. The bathroom fills the space between the storage room and the rear bedroom. Its features mostly date from 1910. It has high matchboard wainscoting and old white porcelain bathroom plumbing fixtures of early twentieth century vintage.

The 1910 east wing of the house consists of two rooms on each floor separated by a stairhall. On the first floor, the eastern door from the porch leads into a small stair hall. Directly opposite the front door is the enclosed staircase to the second story flanked by a closet. To the left of the front door, another door opens to the living/dining room in the old part of the house, while to the right, a door opens into the front room, which was originally intended to be the "new parlor/library." The entrance hall has stained oak floors, dark stained pine casings and four-panel doors. Behind, or to the north of, the stairhall, but not accessible from it, is the kitchen.

After the living/dining room in the old part of the house, the new parlor/library is the grandest room in the house in terms of its level of finish. It is the only room with an oak door, woodwork, a picture molding at the ceiling, and oak floors, all

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**George L. Clarke, Jr. House
Butler, Waukesha County, WI**

Description (continued)

stained dark and varnished. A turned oak corner bead protects the corner of the projecting plaster wall next to the door.

The kitchen is only accessible from the living/dining room. It has linoleum floors and plaster walls. Several wooden wall hung cupboards appear to date from 1910 or the 1920s. An original wooden door with two panels topped by a four-light window opens to the rear sun porch. Over the old wall-hung, porcelain cast-iron kitchen sink, a two-over-two window in the north wall also looks into the sun porch. The principal alteration to this room is the 1950s, fixed, one-light window that has been cut into the east wall in place of the original double hung window.

The glazed rear porch, or sun porch, was originally open or screened. It was glazed in the 1920s with six-over-one, double hung sash. It has car siding on the ceiling and clapboard walls. A door opens from its west wall into the mudroom/storage room in the 1850s portion of the house. Another fully glazed door leads to the back yard.

The second floor consists of four bedrooms and a passage with three clothes closets and a linen closet filling the remaining spaces. It is reached from the house's only staircase in the 1910 portion of the building. The staircase rises halfway to a landing lit by a pair of six-over-six windows before reversing on itself and continuing to the second floor. At the top of the stairs, doors to the right and left lead to the two bedrooms in the 1910 portion of the house. A narrow passage continues west to provide access to the two rooms in the 1850s portion of the house. This passage has a ceiling that slopes to follow the line of the low roof and is lit by a three-light sash located at floor level at its west end. The four-panel doors and woodwork in the hall are pine, stained dark brown. The doors in the older portion of the house have flat panels and brown marbled pottery knobs. The doors in the 1910 portion have

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**George L. Clarke, Jr. House
Butler, Waukesha County, WI**

Description (continued)

raised panels, iron knobs, and door casings with cap boards on the top.

The large front room in the 1910 section has dark stained woodwork and maple floors. The plaster walls are papered. The casings are plain, flat boards. It has no closet.

The rear bedroom has the same woodwork, except that it is painted white. It also has maple floors and papered walls. Unlike the front bedroom, the rear room has a closet. A pair of widely separated one-over-one windows in the east wall light the room.

In the 1850s portion of the house, the middle bedroom halfway along the passage, has a sloping ceiling that drops down to a low north wall pierced by the pair of narrow horizontal, three-light, frieze windows visible from the exterior on the north elevation. This room has plain board casings and baseboards painted white. The walls are papered. There is a closet on the east wall.

Farther down the passage on the right is a walk-in linen closet with some old built-in drawers and shelves. A scuttle in the ceiling provides access to the low attic.

At the end of the hall, a door opens into the largest bedroom in the 1850s portion of the house. It extends the full depth of the house and has a ceiling that slopes at either end to follow the line of the roof. The original plain board casings and flush baseboards are painted white. This room retains its original wide, plank floors. A pair of windows in the west wall light the room. A door leads to a closet in the east wall.

Description of the Garage

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Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 7

**George L. Clarke, Jr. House
Butler, Waukesha County, WI**

Description (continued)

The only other building on the property is the garage. It is a long, narrow, rectangular, clapboard-sided, hip-roofed, c. 1910-1920s era structure. It was moved to its present location in the 1950s when the parcel of land on which it originally stood behind the house was subdivided and sold off as a house lot. The garage is a contributing structure. Its former site is now a portion of the backyard of the modern house immediately behind the Clarke House.

The south elevation facing Hampton Avenue has its original pair of wooden, paneled, swinging doors. Plywood has been nailed over the face of these doors. The west elevation, facing the back yard, has a window and a paneled and glazed pedestrian door leading into the automobile storage space. The western rear portion of the building is partitioned into a separate space, possibly intended for use as a potting shed or a tool room. It has a shed door and a pair of grouped six-over-six double hung windows. The east elevation has one window lighting the garage. At the rear, backing up to the west facing "potting shed" space are two side-by-side privies, each with its own door. Each still retains its two-hole toilet seat. The north elevation of the garage is blank.

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Section 8 Page 1

**George L. Clarke, Jr. House
Butler, Waukesha County, WI**

Significance (continued)

SIGNIFICANCE

The George L. Clarke, Jr. House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. It is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of pioneer settlement as the last remaining pioneer farmhouse to recall the agrarian roots of what is now the industrial Village of Butler. It is also locally significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture as an example of a vernacular Greek Revival farmhouse that has grown by accretion over time reflecting the changing tastes and residential aspirations of succeeding generations of the same family.

The Wisconsin Cultural Resource Management Plan lists Greek Revival style houses as a subject worthy of study for National Register listing. The Greek Revival style was the predominant architectural mode during the territorial period in Wisconsin. The style typifies the first generation of permanent buildings constructed in most of the southeast portion of the state. The Clarke House is interesting as a pioneer-era Greek Revival style house that was enlarged in the early twentieth century in a matching style under the influence of the Colonial Revival movement.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS

Ordinarily moved structures are not eligible for listing in the National Register. The Clarke House was moved from its original site in 1909-1910, within its period of significance, to save it from demolition when its site was redeveloped as a railroad yard. The house was moved by the same family that had long owned it to a new site with a similar rural character within the same community. Since being moved was a common occurrence in the life cycle of many nineteenth century buildings in Wisconsin,

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Section 8 Page 2

**George L. Clarke, Jr. House
Butler, Waukesha County, WI**

Significance (continued)

rather than detracting from its significance, this episode actually adds to the historical interest of the Clarke House by highlighting this interesting, but now largely forgotten, aspect of nineteenth century life in Wisconsin.

Architectural Significance

The George L. Clarke, Jr. House is locally architecturally significant under Criterion C as an example of a rural, vernacular Greek Revival farmhouse reflecting growth and change over time. Its oldest portion is interesting as an example of a once-prevalent type of mid-nineteenth century rural residence that originally reflected the floor plan of a traditional pioneer farmer's cottage.

Before 1910 it was a plain, two-room structure with a low upper story and a lean-to section adjoined to the rear for extra sleeping rooms and storage. The lean-to may have been constructed a few years after the first part of the house was built as its first owner's family grew, or may have been part of the original construction. The upper floor may have originally had one finished room and a dormitory type loft space, since this was a common arrangement in pioneer homes, but it was reconfigured in 1910, and its original layout is now only conjecture. Each of the two main floor rooms had its own entrance to the front porch. The large eastern room was apparently the family kitchen and living/dining room, while the smaller west room was the best bedroom and sometimes parlor. The house reflected the preferred heating and cooking technology for cold climates in the mid-nineteenth century, in that it never had fireplaces, which were then considered to be inefficient and old fashioned, but rather was built to be heated with stoves.⁴

After being moved to its new site, the house was remodeled in 1910 to reflect the architectural tastes of the late Victorian

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Section 8 Page 3

**George L. Clarke, Jr. House
Butler, Waukesha County, WI**

Significance (continued)

period and the recently elevated social and economic status of the Clarke family. Enriched by the sale of their old farm to the railroad, the Clarkes added a parlor/library and a formal entrance hall to their modest cottage, as well as a separate kitchen, to give it the attributes of a proper middleclass house. This not only provided the family with a rational circulation system of halls and stairs and the socially mandated "best" parlor for the first time, but also enabled the former multi-purpose living/dining room/kitchen of the old pioneer house to become a proper family living/dining room when a new kitchen was built. The rear lean-to was also repartitioned to provide an indoor bathroom for the family. Finally, a generous porch with handsome columns was built to afford the Clarkes the ubiquitous and socially desirable front verandah that was considered to be so indispensable at the turn-of-the-century.

Although the builder no doubt attempted to provide the Clarke family with up-to-date features, such as the Arts and Crafts paneled wall treatment and plate rail in the dining room, the remodeling was actually somewhat old-fashioned in spirit, as such features as formal parlors were then already passing from fashion. The "new parlor" no doubt reflected the conservatism of life in the country where Victorian social customs survived longer than in the city. The thrifty nature of the Scotch-Irish Clarkes is reflected in the careful retention and reuse in the remodeling of as many original features of the old 1850s house as possible.

The exterior of the Clarke House is interesting for its careful blending of the old and new by mimicking the details of the 1850s house in the major addition constructed in 1910. By this time, the Colonial Revival movement was firmly established in the United States, and in Wisconsin, as a major design force. It is interesting that in enlarging their home, the Clarkes, or their builder, chose to draw upon the pioneer Greek Revival design of their old house -- which at that time would have been

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**George L. Clarke, Jr. House
Butler, Waukesha County, WI**

Significance (continued)

considered to be vaguely "Colonial" -- as the design inspiration for the new wing which would double its size. The almost seamless blending of the old and new on the exterior using the gabled-ell format so typical of rural Wisconsin created the impression that the entire house was "old." This may or may not have been a conscious decision made by the educated and socially ambitious Jennie Clarke to aggrandize her husband's old homestead and belie its -- and the Clarke family's -- very modest origins as part of her campaign to establish the now prosperous family as local gentry. This is one possible explanation for not giving the house an entirely new look in 1910 in a more up-to-date style, such as the Craftsman mode, as happened to many other pioneer farmhouses in Wisconsin. Of course, it may also have simply been cheaper to retain the old house intact and mimic its simple detailing in the new addition.

In summary, in its melding of old and new, the Clarke House exemplifies the changing domestic needs of a Wisconsin farm family as their basic, functional, half-century-old, pioneer dwelling was conservatively transformed after the turn-of-the-century to reflect the more formal and expansive lifestyle of a prosperous late Victorian middleclass family striving to live up to their new status as social leaders of their rural community.

The garage is also of architectural interest as a rare, if not unique, example of an automobile garage adapted to rural life by incorporating privies into its design. Although usually thought of as an urban building type, the automobile garage was also added to the array of agricultural outbuildings found on many Wisconsin farms in the early twentieth century.

As the ownership of automobiles became more common in rural areas in the 'teens and 'twenties, farmers confronted the problem of where to store their motorcars. Although many opted, at first, to keep them in wagon sheds or cow barns, it soon became apparent that this had significant drawbacks. For one thing,

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**George L. Clarke, Jr. House
Butler, Waukesha County, WI**

Significance (continued)

barns were frequently located quite far away from farmhouses, making easy access to a car inconvenient. More importantly, automobiles, and the supplies of gas and oil that had to be stored with them, were noisy, smelly and dangerous. Not only were farm animals disturbed by the noise and noxious fumes associated with cars, but the frequent servicing required by early automobiles and the storage of highly flammable fuel was a fire hazard that could destroy a barn with its valuable contents of crops and livestock. A barn fire could virtually put a farmer out of business.

Another consideration was the care of the costly automobile itself. Manufacturers and motoring magazines recommended strongly against storing automobiles with livestock because the humid environment caused by horses or cows inside a barn could promote the corrosion of a car's mechanical parts. Horseless Age, the first magazine written for "automobilists," reported as early as 1906 that in terms of storing a motor car, "A dry, well-lighted and ventilated stable or barn will answer, but on the whole a house specially built for the purpose is money well invested."⁵

When George L. Clarke, Jr. was constructing his new farmstead on his father's old farm, he included an automobile garage, but adapted it to its agrarian environment by incorporating a pair of privies into it. As originally sited, these privies would have faced north, away from the house, toward the fields and the complex of farm buildings. They would have served the needs of the farmer and his family as well as hired hands working in the farmyard and fields. They may have also initially served the Clarke family if the house was not originally provided with an indoor toilet, which would not have been unusual for a house in the country in 1910.

To summarize, as a rare surviving example of an early automobile garage incorporating privies, the Clarke garage is of

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**George L. Clarke, Jr. House
Butler, Waukesha County, WI**

Significance (continued)

architectural interest as an adaptation of an essentially urban building type to a rural environment.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: Exploration and Settlement

The George L. Clarke, Jr. House is historically significant as one of the last surviving, intact, architectural remnants of Butler's roots as a farming community. The Clarke House remains as a tangible link to the community's pioneer past before the construction of the Butler railyards lead to the creation, in 1910, of a "new town" where there had only been farms before. The house is closely associated with the founding of Butler since it relinquished its original site for the construction of the huge railyards that were the *raison d'être* for the now thriving industrial town. Eventually the growth of Butler even swallowed-up the Clarke family farm, where the house stands today, to provide room for the construction of a subdivision of single family houses. As the Butler area continues to urbanize, the Clarke House will be of increasing historical importance as the home of a pioneer family that played a significant role in the history of the community for over one hundred years.

Background History

The history of the George L. Clarke, Jr. House begins in 1847 when Simeon F. Barnes of New York State migrated to the Town of Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. Barnes was listed in the 1847 census, but not in the 1846 census, so it is likely he came here about 1847 when he was 31 years old.⁶ He had evidently established a claim on the entire NW 1/4 section of Section 6, Town 7 North in Range 21 East by at least 1849. In that year, he filed a deed selling the south half of the NW 1/4 of Section 6 to his older kinsman, Abel Barnes.⁷ In March of 1850, Simeon received a patent from the U.S. Government confirming his ownership of the NW 1/4 of

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**George L. Clarke, Jr. House
Butler, Waukesha County, WI**

Significance (continued)

Section 6, even though he had already sold the south half to Abel four months earlier.⁸

Simeon and his wife, Miranda, were settled on their farm in the north half of the NW 1/4 of Section 6, comprising at various times 78 1/2 or 88 1/2 acres, by 1850 when they were recorded in the Federal Census.⁹ The 34-year-old farmer, his 26 year-old wife, and their one-year-old child, David, lived in a house on the southern portion of their property facing what is now North 124th Street. The location of the house appears on the 1858 H. F. Walling Map of Milwaukee County.

It is often very difficult to accurately pinpoint the construction date of rural farmhouses, but it is especially so in the old Town of Wauwatosa in Milwaukee County because the tax records only survive from 1856 onwards. Since the value of the real estate in the tax rolls for the Barnes' farm never increased significantly after 1856, it is likely that the modest Greek Revival style farmhouse that is the core of the present Clarke House was built between 1849 and 1856 by Simeon Barnes. Stylistically, the house appears to belong to the 1840s or early 1850s.

The tax rolls indicate that in 1864 Simeon and Miranda Barnes sold the 88 1/2 acre farm to the heirs of Elias Cowles, who kept it until 1868.¹⁰ In 1868 the Cowles heirs sold the property to John N. Van Nortwick and his wife, Lucy.¹¹ The Cowles heirs were to figure in the history of the property again several years later when they granted a mortgage to the Clarke brothers to help them buy the farm.

John and Lucy Van Nortwick were natives of New Jersey and New York respectively. They had settled in the Town of Wauwatosa between 1850 and 1860. They first appear in the 1860 census when John was 41 and his wife was 49. The couple was childless and

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**George L. Clarke, Jr. House
Butler, Waukesha County, WI**

Significance (continued)

are not listed as owning any real estate, perhaps suggesting that they may have only recently arrived in Milwaukee County.¹² They are listed as owning the Simeon Barnes farm for the first time in the 1868 tax rolls. It is likely they purchased the property, which was valued at \$3,950 in the 1868 tax rolls, for cash and by taking a mortgage from the Cowles heirs for several thousand dollars. By July of 1870 the Federal Census indicates that John and Lucy were living on their farm with a 53-year-old female relative and two servants: Susan Ersagaard, a 17-year-old Dutch born domestic, and James King, a 50-year-old English-born farmhand.¹³

In October of 1870 the Van Nortwicks sold the farm to three brothers, Thomas Francis, John Michael and George Lawrence Clarke, Jr., for \$1,000.¹⁴ The Clarke brothers also took out a \$2,500 mortgage from the Cowles heirs to be paid in full by 1876.¹⁵ It is likely this was the balance due on a mortgage that the Cowles heirs had earlier granted to the Van Nortwicks when the latter had bought the farm from the Cowles family in 1868.

Thomas F., John M., and George L. Clarke were the adult sons of the late George L. Clarke, Sr., who had emigrated to Wisconsin in 1850 from Scotland with his wife, Mary, and their three young boys. In Scotland, the Clarkes had lived near Glasgow where George had worked for a railroad and his wife had run a small grocery and public house. George, Sr. had been born in Scotland to a family of Irish descent, while his wife, Mary, was Irish born. Clarke came to the United States in July of 1850, traveling directly to Wisconsin where his two brothers had already settled a few years before.¹⁶ The Clarkes settled in northeastern Waukesha County where a small Irish farming enclave had developed in Menomonee Township around the farm of the town's first resident, Irish immigrant Patrick Rafferty.¹⁷ After boarding alternately with his brothers, Thomas and John, and working on building the Lisbon Plank Road, George was able to move to the farm where the present Clarke House now stands in the

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**George L. Clarke, Jr. House
Butler, Waukesha County, WI**

Significance (continued)

fall of 1850. The family apparently first lived in a log house. In 1860 George acquired an adjacent 10-acre parcel with a better house, which the family moved into. George, Sr. pursued the life of a farmer until his untimely death from blood poisoning in 1863. His wife, Mary, thereafter capably managed the small family farm while raising her three teenage sons.¹⁸

In 1870, the three Clarke boys pooled their resources and assumed the \$2,500 mortgage from the previously mentioned Cowles family to buy the Van Nortwick place on the southeast corner of what is now North 124th Street and West Hampton Avenue. Although the purchase price in the deed was listed as only \$1,000, it was probably several times that amount since the farm was valued at \$3,950 for tax purposes in 1869.¹⁹ The boys apparently bought the place as an investment and to provide a better livelihood for their mother, Mary. In February of 1871, the three boys leased the farm to their mother for the remainder of her life for \$500. The lease specified that the farm was not to be sublet.²⁰

Subsequently each of the three Clarke boys chose to develop careers other than farming. The eldest son, Thomas Francis, was working as a school teacher in Butler in 1876, while still farming at least part-time.²¹ About 1882 he moved to Milwaukee where he taught for a while at the Excelsior Business College, before switching careers to become a sales representative for a variety of different companies. He remained in Milwaukee into the early 1900s as a traveling salesman.²²

John Michael Clarke left the farm in the 1870s and trained as a lawyer. By 1878 he had his own law practice in Milwaukee, a career he pursued until his death in 1928.²³ He achieved a minor footnote in history as the District Attorney who in January of 1883 conducted the inquest into the disastrous Newhall House fire, one of the deadliest hotel fires in American history.²⁴

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**George L. Clarke, Jr. House
Butler, Waukesha County, WI**

Significance (continued)

George Lawrence Clarke, Jr. stayed on the farm with his mother, Mary, until about 1890 or 1891. By 1891 he and his mother were living in Milwaukee together, where he worked as a deputy sheriff, a job his brother John Michael, the former District Attorney, may have helped him secure. The farm out in Butler must have been rented during this period, because the Clarkes continued to own and pay taxes on it. George was apparently unemployed for a while in 1893, but he was working in real estate in 1894, as was his brother Thomas. After his mother's death in July of 1894, George moved in with his brother John.²⁵ It was probably while living with John and his wife, Anna, that George was introduced to Anna's friend, Jennie Kelley of Stockbridge, Wisconsin.

George, Jr. married Jennie Kelley in 1896 in Kaukauna, Wisconsin. He was 47 years old at the time, while she was 29. It appears from city directory listings that George was not prospering in the city like his brothers. George seems to have been unemployed frequently after 1893 and possibly for that or other reasons, George and Jennie decided to leave Milwaukee and reside on the old family farm.²⁶ Less than three months before her death in July of 1894, Mary Clarke had relinquished her lease on the farm in Butler to George, who was listed as the sole owner.²⁷ Apparently he had acquired his two brothers' interest in the farm at some point during the 1880s or 1890s, although there are no recorded deeds to document when this occurred.

George and Jennie moved into the old Barnes house on the farm on 124th Street south of Hampton and made a few improvements. Their first child was born there in July of 1897. Eventually they had seven more children, five of which survived infancy. The small, old house must have been bursting at the seams with the seven Clarkes and Jennie's aged widowed father, Owen Kelley, who had come to live with them in the early 1900s.²⁸

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Section 8 Page 11

**George L. Clarke, Jr. House
Butler, Waukesha County, WI**

Significance (continued)

The Clarkes pursued the life of a farm family on 124th Street until September of 1909, when they sold the west 45 acres of their farm to the Milwaukee, Sparta and Northwestern Railway Company, a division of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Company, for the generous sum of \$18,000.²⁹ George deeded the remaining east 43 3/4 acres of the farm to his older brother, John, for \$1.00.³⁰ John subsequently subdivided that parcel into building lots.³¹ The railroad quickly constructed a major railyard and repair facility on the site of George's farm. The site is still used as a railyard today. George and Jennie Clarke reserved in the sale the right to move their house off the land before March of 1910. They subsequently hauled the old Barnes house on rollers down Hampton Avenue to the 40-acre ancestral family farm where his father and mother had first lived. That is where it is located today. According to family legend, the house was placed on the site of the old George Clarke, Sr. house. It is not known what became of that house, or even if it was still standing in 1910, although the 1891 Plat Book of Waukesha County does not show a house on the site.

After the house was moved, a builder was contracted to enlarge and modernize it. The result is the present structure. A new east wing was built, all of the windows were replaced, a large L-shaped porch was constructed, and some of the interiors of the old house were updated, most notably the living/dining room. Because the 40-acre tract was too small a farm to support his family, George, Jr. bought additional land adjacent to the north of his parcel to increase his acreage to about 76 acres.³²

George continued as a farmer until about 1930. By this time, his children were working at other occupations, including his son John who worked at the railyards. George Clarke, Jr. died in 1934 leaving his widow, Jennie, and his son John living on the farm.

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**George L. Clarke, Jr. House
Butler, Waukesha County, WI**

Significance (continued)

Considerable change had occurred in the vicinity of the Clarke farm by 1934. For one thing, the construction of the huge railroad yards led to the plotting of George's easterly neighbor's farm into the Village of New Butler in 1910. The new town was called New Butler to differentiate it from the old pioneer hamlet of Butler, located nearby at the intersection of N. 124th Street and Capitol Drive. Eventually, the post office was moved from Butler to thriving New Butler, and the old village disappeared. New Butler was thereafter known simply as Butler. The new community developed a flourishing little commercial strip on Hampton Avenue west of 124th Street surrounded by blocks of modest dwellings housing railroad workers. Industry located in the village to take advantage of the railroad access and supply of workers.

Over the years, the Clarkes played a significant role in the development of Butler. One of its more lasting memorials is St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church, built on land donated by the Clarkes which was named in honor of the Clarkes eldest daughter, Agnes.³³ In the 1950s, John Clarke and his mother, Jennie, sold most of the farm for subdivision into house lots, reserving only the present parcel for themselves. The house was annexed into the Village of Butler in 1958. To accommodate the construction of ranch houses, the remaining outbuildings were all razed except for the garage, which was moved to its present location. Jennie Clarke died in 1960, and her son John, who never married, died in November of 1992 having lived his entire life in the house.

The Clarke house is locally significant for its contribution to the settlement history of Butler. The building has important ties to both the agricultural and industrial development of the community and reflects, both architecturally and historically, the early agricultural settlement and later railroad-influenced settlement of the community of Butler.

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**George L. Clarke, Jr. House
Butler, Waukesha County, WI**

Significance (continued)

Footnotes

¹ These dates define the historic period in which the house was built, relocated, enlarged and altered to its present appearance.

² Town of Wauwatosa, Milwaukee County, Tax Rolls 1856-1860; Milwaukee County Deeds; Walling, H. F., Map of the County of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1858.

³ Hansen, Frances Clarkes. "George Lawrence Clarke, Jr. (1849-1934," unpublished manuscript in the possession of Frances Clarke Hansen.

⁴ Historic photographs taken on the interior and the exterior of the original portion of the Clarke House in the 1890s now in possession of Frances Clarke Hansen.

⁵ Horseless Age, April 11, 1906, p. 528.

⁶ 1846 and 1847 Federal Censuses of Milwaukee County, Wisconsin.

⁷ Milwaukee County Register of Deeds, Deeds, Vol. 73, p. 467, dated 11/7/1849.

⁸ Milwaukee County Register of Deeds, Deeds, Vol. 52, p. 83, dated 3/1/1850.

⁹ 1850 Federal Census of Wisconsin, Milwaukee County, p. 497.

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**George L. Clarke, Jr. House
Butler, Waukesha County, WI**

Significance (continued)

¹⁰ Town of Wauwatosa, Milwaukee County, Tax Rolls 1856-1865.

Note: The deeds transferring this property between the years 1850 and 1870 were apparently never recorded, so one must rely on the Tax Rolls, Census data and Atlases to establish ownership during these years.

¹¹ Town of Wauwatosa, Milwaukee County, Tax Rolls 1867-1868.

¹² 1860 Federal Census of Wisconsin, Milwaukee County, Vol. 3, p. 86.

¹³ 1870 Federal Census of Wisconsin, Milwaukee County, Vol. 4, p. 328.

¹⁴ Milwaukee County Register of Deeds, Deeds, Vol. 119, p. 143 dated 10/18/1870.

¹⁵ Milwaukee County Register of Deeds, Mortgages, Vol. 90, p. 357 dated 11/25/1871.

¹⁶ Clarke, Thomas Francis, "History of Mr. T. F. Clarke," unpublished manuscript written between October and November, 1917, in the possession of Frances Clarke Hansen.

¹⁷ History of Waukesha County, Wisconsin, Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1880, p. 752.

¹⁸ Clarke, Thomas Francis, "History of Mr. T. F. Clarke," unpublished manuscript written between October and November of 1917, in the possession of Frances Clarke Hansen.

¹⁹ Town of Wauwatosa, Milwaukee County, Tax Rolls, 1869.

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**George L. Clarke, Jr. House
Butler, Waukesha County, WI**

Significance (continued)

²⁰ Milwaukee County Register of Deeds, Deeds, Vol. 140, p. 597, dated 2/25/1871.

²¹ Belden, H. & Company, Illustrated Historical Atlas of Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, Chicago, 1876, p. 47.

²² Wright, Alfred G., Milwaukee City Directories, 1882-1904.

²³ Hogg, William. Milwaukee City Directories, 1878-1880.
Wright, Alfred G., Milwaukee City Directories, 1882-1904.

²⁴ Buck, James S., Milwaukee Under the Charter, Milwaukee, 1886, p. 211.

²⁵ Wright, Alfred G., Milwaukee City Directories, 1890-1896.

²⁶ Hansen, Frances Clarke. "George Lawrence Clarke, Jr. (1849-1934)." Unpublished manuscript in the possession of Frances Clarke Hansen.

²⁷ Milwaukee County Register of Deeds, Deeds, Vol. 322, p. 602 dated 5/4/1894.

²⁸ Wright, Alfred G., Milwaukee City Directory, 1907.

²⁹ Milwaukee County Register of Deeds, Deeds, Vol. 589, p. 300 dated 9/17/1909.

³⁰ Milwaukee County Register of Deeds, Deeds, Vol. 613, p. 206 dated 9/24/1909.

³¹ Atlas and Plat Book of Wauwatosa Township, 1924. No publisher.

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Significance (continued)

³² Ogle, George A. & Company. Standard Atlas of Waukesha County, Wisconsin. Chicago: 1914, p. 59.

³³ Schultz, Marilyn J., ed. St. Agnes Parish Diamond Jubilee 1915-1990. Butler, Wisconsin, 1990.

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George L. Clarke, Jr. House
Butler, Waukesha County, WI

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George L. Clarke, Jr. House
Butler, Waukesha County, WI

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Section 10 Page 1

George L. Clarke, Jr. House
Butler, Waukesha County, WI

Geographical Data (continued)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LOT 21, BLOCK 6 OF ASSESSORS PLAT NO. 2 PT SW 1/4 OF SE 1/4
OF SECTION 36, TOWN 8 NORTH, RANGE 20 EAST.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes the entire parcel of land on which the house now stands. This, the last portion of the George L. Clarke, Sr. farm to remain in the Clarke family, owned by the Clarkes since 1850.

George Lawrence Clarke, Jr. House
Name of Property

Waukesha County, WI
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Wauwatosa Quadrant 7.5 minute series.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

28 black and white glossy (5 x 7) photographs labeled:

1. Name of property
2. Location
3. Photographer
4. Date photographed
5. Repository for survey negatives
6. View
7. Photo number

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mrs. Frances Clarke Hansen, Personal Representative

Estate of John E. Clarke

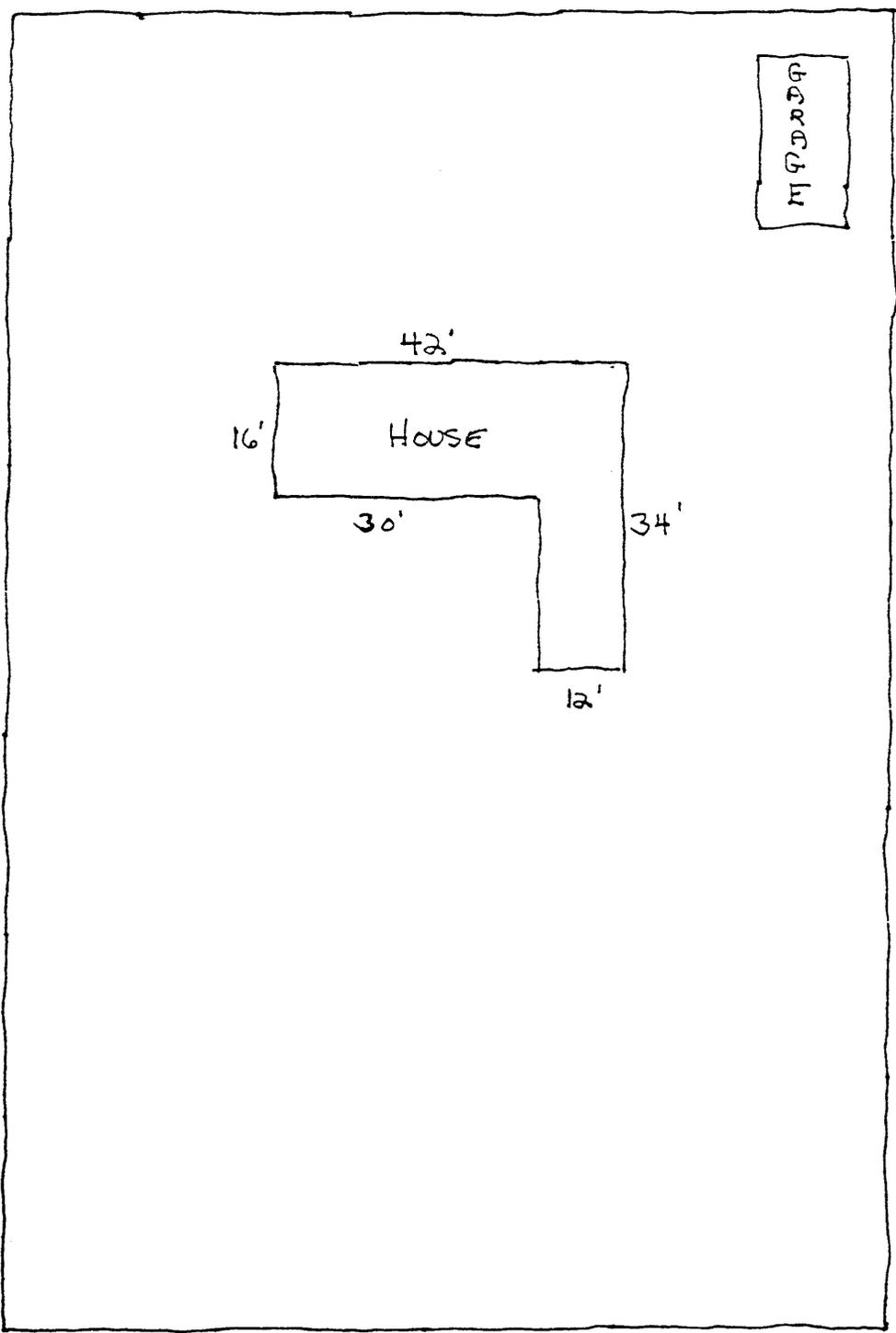
street & number 6001 N. Menard Avenue telephone 312/774-4097

city or town Chicago state IL zip code 60646

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NORTH ↑



GARAGE

- = CONTRIBUTING
- ▨ = nonCONTRIBUTING

not to scale

WEST

EAST

SOUTH

HAMPTON AVENUE

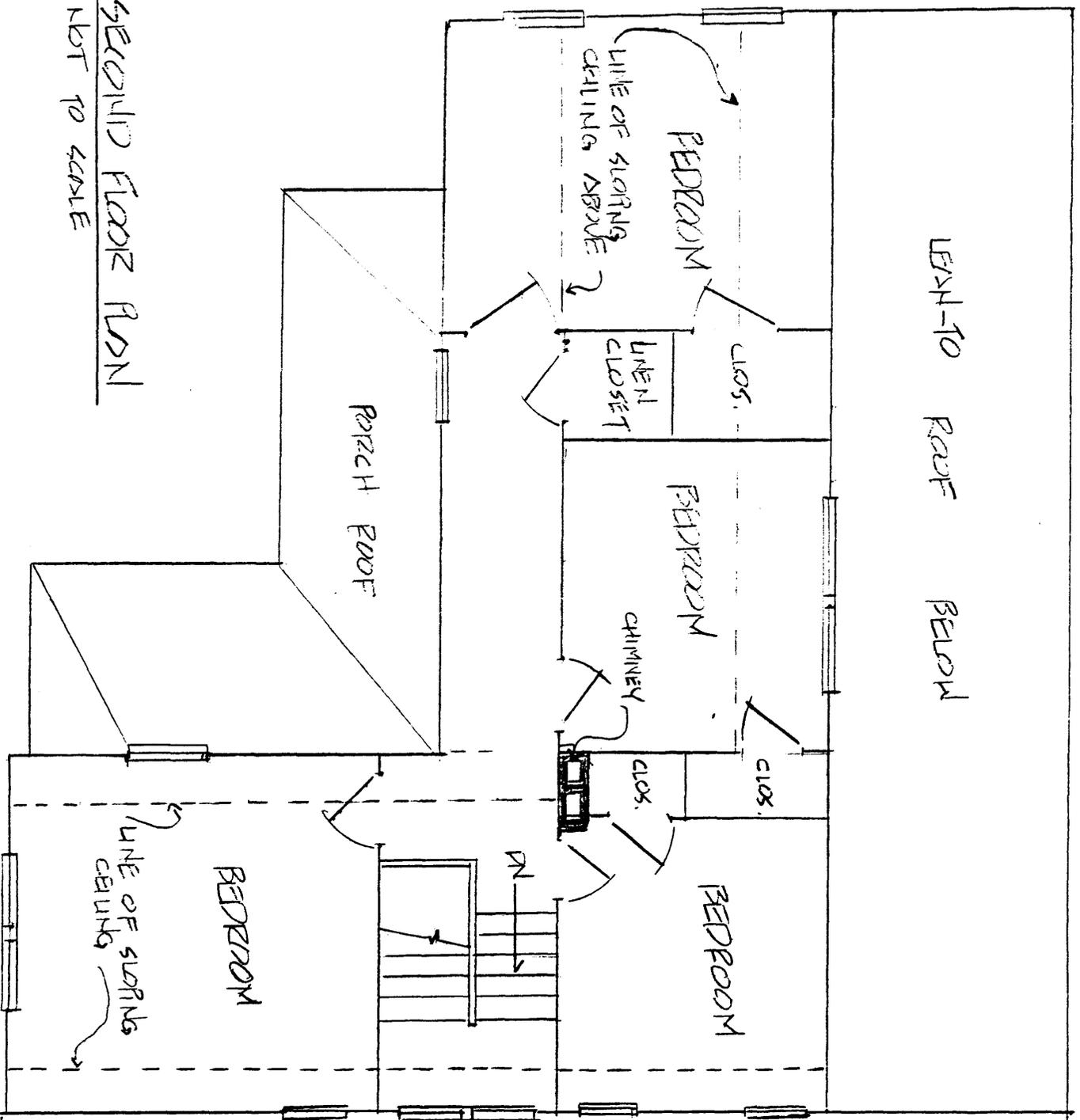
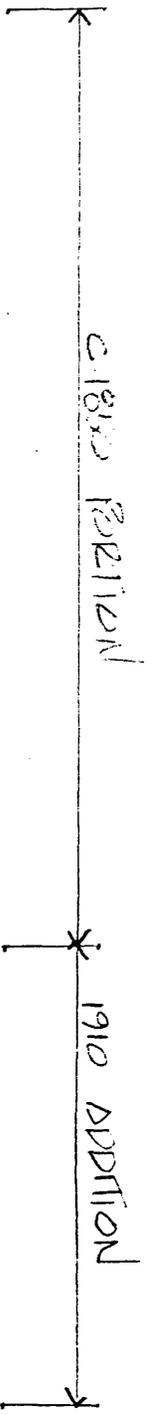
WISCONSIN

CLARKE FARMHOUSE

WAUKESHA COUNTY

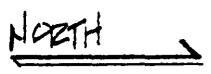
12810 W. HAMPTON

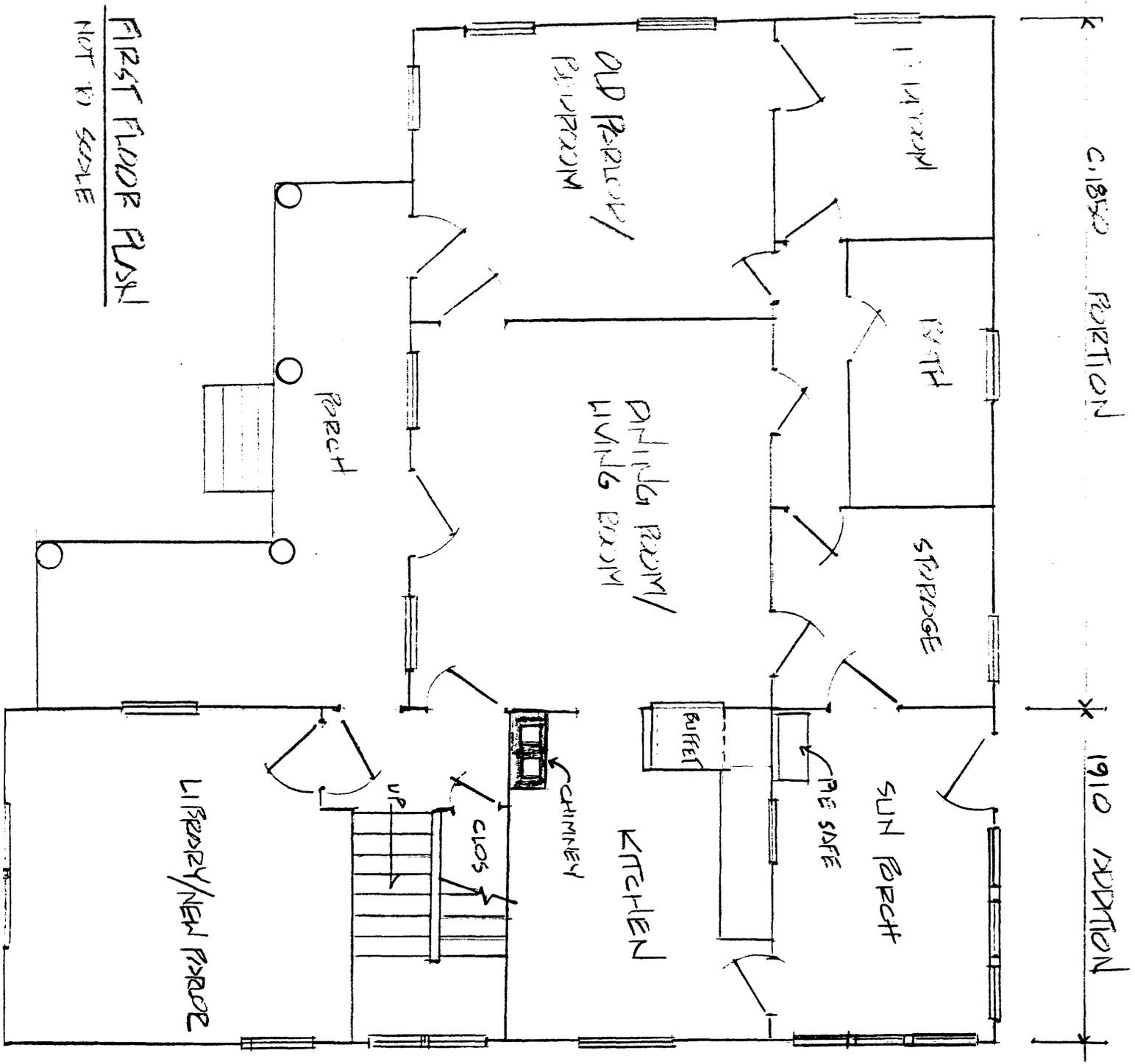
- BUTLER



SECOND FLOOR PLAN
NBT TO SCALE

GEORGE L. CUSPKE JR
HOUSE
12810 N. HUNTON RD.
BUTLER, WAUKESHA CO,
WISCONSIN





FIRST FLOOR PLAN
 NOT TO SCALE

GEORGE L. ADERKE JR.
HOUSE
 12810 MILHAMP RD.
 BUTLER, WISCONSIN

