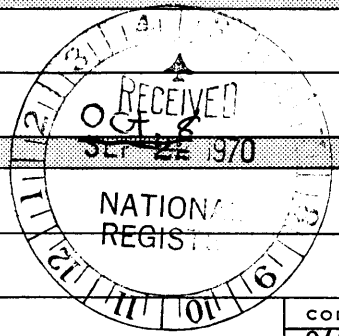


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Wisconsin</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Iowa</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>71.1.55.0001</b>	DATE <b>1/25/71</b>



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Pendarvis**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**114 Shake Rag Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Mineral Point**

STATE <b>Wisconsin</b>	CODE <b>55</b>	COUNTY: <b>Iowa</b>	CODE <b>049</b>
---------------------------	-------------------	------------------------	--------------------

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Specialized restaurant</u>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Edgar Hellum and Robert M. Neal**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**114 Shake Rag Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Mineral Point**

STATE:  
**Wisconsin**

CODE:  
**55**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Iowa County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Dodgeville**

STATE:  
**Wisconsin**

CODE:  
**55**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Historic American Buildings Survey**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1941**     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Library of Congress**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Washington**

STATE:  
**D. C.**

CODE:  
**11**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

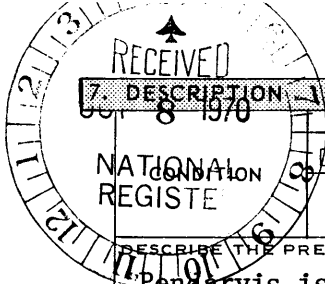
STATE: **Wisconsin**

COUNTY: **Iowa**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: **71.1.55.0001**

DATE: **1/25/71**



7. DESCRIPTION  
8 1970

(Check One)

Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated  Ruins  Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered  Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved  Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Pendarvis is a site along the base of a bluff-like limestone outcrop in Mineral Point which made it possible for early Cornish miners to choose home-sites where they could quarry the stone for their houses from their own back yards. Three restored Cornish houses stand on the portion of the site which fronts on Shake Rag Street, with the houses facing the hillside on which the miners dug pits into the surface to obtain lead ore. All the houses are on their original locations and have been restored with the utmost care. Bedrock, which is an extension from the base of the quarry, serves as the foundation, and all three houses are set directly upon it. At the rear, gardens, walks and courtyards connect the three houses and provide outdoor resting places for the visitor. The first restoration, a one-story stone cottage, was named Pendarvis House; Pendarvis is now the name of the entire site.

Pendarvis House was built c. 1835. The name of the builder is unknown. It is a small stone cottage with a gable roof shingled with wood shakes and has a chimney at each gable end. The style is that of the typical Cornish cottages the immigrants had built in their native land. The front is faced with carefully fitted native buff limestone laid coursed ashlar with minimal amounts of mortar; some blocks are fitted together so tightly that one cannot force a knife blade between them. Stone on the sides and back is laid random ashlar, much freer, with more copious use of mortar. Exterior restoration was done with as little alteration as possible, but water damage had been so great that the wall of one gable end had to be almost completely rebuilt. This was done with the same kind of craftsmanship as that of the original builder and with stone from the same quarry. The roof was reshingled with redwood shakes laid over heavy tarred felt. Enough original hand-split white pine shakes had remained to serve as patterns for the redwood replacements. "Many of the windows were replaced and floors relaid. In every possible case of repair or replacement throughout the restoration [of the three houses] we used materials of the same color, texture, and period."

All walls are 18" to 20" thick. Where face stones are not that deep, the thickness is maintained by use of rubble filling. Originally the interiors of walls were plastered directly on the rubble, but water damage of long duration had caused cracks and discolorations that could not be repaired or corrected and maintained satisfactorily. For that reason wood and metal lath, or insulating board, were nailed to furring strips which had been fastened to wedges driven into the repaired wall, and plaster was then applied. Doors, window seats, and interior woodwork were replaced, where necessary, with native Wisconsin white pine.<sup>2</sup>

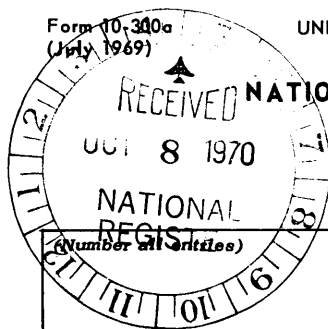
The interiors of Pendarvis House and the other two Cornish houses are furnished with antique period items obtained largely from the Mineral Point locality. "The general effect...is not that of the Cornish of the old country nor probably that of the early Cornish houses in this locality, but a blending of the old country with the pioneer Cornish dwellings, combining beauty with usefulness." Pendarvis House was put to adaptive use as a specialized restaurant serving only Cornish food, prepared from authentic old recipes, on tables set with "red cloths...of the early years, bone handled knives and forks, English ironstone dishes, old goblets and other

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Wisconsin	
COUNTY	
Iowa	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71,155,0001	1/25/71

PENDARVIS

7. (add. 1)

glassware."<sup>3</sup> Addition of a small wooden ell, built as a lean-to on approximately the north half of the back of the house, was necessary to provide a butlers kitchen from which to serve food.

The second Cornish house on the site is a two-story, gable roofed cottage, with a saltbox profile and a lean-to at the rear built into the rock hillside. Like Pendarvis House, its front is "cut limestone laid with very small joints"<sup>4</sup> and the sides and back are random ashlar. Restoration was performed with the same techniques, craftsmanship and materials as those used in restoration of Pendarvis House. In adaptive use, the first floor of this house serves as the visitor center and waiting room. Upstairs are the living quarters of the current owners and the kitchen in which the meals are prepared for serving in Pendarvis House.

The third Cornish house, which is the Pendarvis site's principal museum, is a handsome three-and-a-half story building with the first story of stone, surmounted by a two-and-a-half story log structure. It has a stone lean-to addition set into the rock hillside at the rear. Like the other two houses, this was also built c. 1835, but unlike the other two, all stone is laid random ashlar without the especially careful fitting and dressing of the cut face stones on the front side. The less formal treatment of the stonework in front is more harmonious with the use of logs for the upper stories, however. There is a large stone chimney built on the outside of the wall at the right (northeast) gable end, while chimneys in the other two houses are internal structures.

Over the years, the third house had undergone the most numerous alterations, although the original structure was intact with the exception of the chimney. A two-story addition had been built on in the mid-1890's, the log walls of the upper two-and-a-half stories had been covered with clapboard siding, the two fireplace openings had been closed, the chimney removed, and two windows had been made into doors and another window opening closed with rock.

In restoration, the building was returned to its original state. The addition was removed as was the clapboard covering of the walls. The closed window was reopened and those that had been made into doorways were restored as windows. The fireplaces were reopened also. The only major reconstruction necessary was that of replacing the chimney. The two owners rebuilt the stone chimney under the tutelage and close supervision of Charles Curtis, "an eighty-five-year-old stonecutter and mason who learned his trade in Cornwall and who for more than half a century had been practicing his art in this part of the state. He suggested, if not insisted, that we personally select and lay most of the rock in this chimney so that, as trained apprentices, we could later supervise or do our own rock work..."<sup>5</sup> The reconstruction of the chimney, therefore, as well as all the necessary stonework--repairing,

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Wisconsin	
COUNTY	Iowa	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	711.55.0001	DATE
		1/25/71

(Number all entries)

PENDARVIS

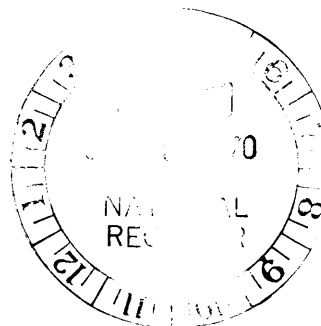
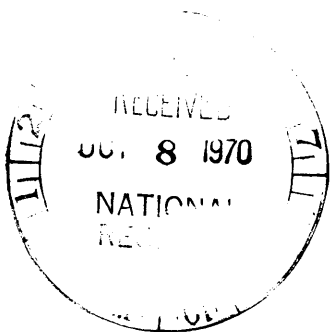
7. (add. 2)

rebuilding, remortaring and pointing--for restoration of all three houses was done with the same Cornish methods as the original builders had used. Replacement rock was taken from the original quarry. The resulting restoration of the three Cornish houses of the Pendarvis complex is both authentic and remarkably well executed, with structural integrity maintained at the highest level.

DESCRIPTION OF BOUNDARIES OF HISTORIC SITE (see maps appended):

Bounded on the northeast by a private property, on the southeast by Shake Rag Street, on the southwest by Spruce Street, and on the northwest by a private property.

1. Neal, Robert M., "...Shake Rag's Cornish Houses," p. 397.
2. Ibid., p. 396.
3. Ibid., p. 400.
4. Perrin, Richard, Historic Wisconsin Buildings, p. 86.
5. Neal, Robert M., op. cit., p. 398.



## SIGNIFICANCE

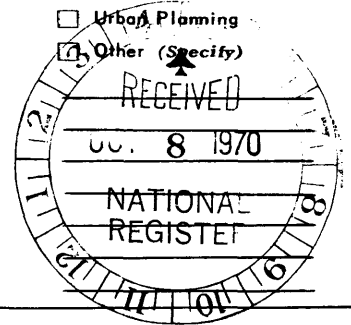
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c. 1835

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 type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     |   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        |   |   |



## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

At the time of establishment of the Wisconsin Territory in 1836, the "old lead region" of Southwest Wisconsin was the most populous part of the new territory. Lead had been discovered there sometime earlier, but it was the latter 1820's before some Cornish miners found that very rich deposits of ore lay not far beneath the surface of a hilly point of land that divides two branches of the Pecatonica River. This hill gave the name Mineral Point to the settlement that developed there.

Unemployed tin-miners who came to Mineral Point from Cornwall in southwest England, beginning in 1830, quickly saw that they could make this new settlement much like the villages of their homeland. There were wooded ravines and rolling moors, and limestone was abundantly available. Soon there grew up a community of little stone cottages, nestled against a protecting hill, known as Shake Rag-under-the-hill, and later just as Shake Rag. The men, working on the eastern ridge with their windlasses and piles of lead ore, could look down about mealtime and see the housewives shaking a rag to tell them it was time to eat.

It was only natural that settlers who duplicated the homes they had left behind in the old country would also cling to the old customs and traditions, even the food recipes they had known for generations. Therefore, a substantial number of these homes stood intact on Shake Rag a century after they were built, and stood as a challenge to Robert Neal and Edgar Hellum in 1935. Neal, a Mineral Point native of Cornish ancestry, and Hellum, who was visiting Mineral Point to seek building material, met, and finding that they had common interests in the old Cornish houses, undertook one of the most outstanding private historical preservation projects in the United States. Beginning with Pendarvis House, Neal and Hellum soon acquired and restored two others in the first phase of their project. As time went on, the project encompassed other Cornish cottages along Shake Rag Street and on Spruce Street which joins it.

The Cornish had been skilled stonemasons for centuries, and their cottages in Mineral Point comprise some of the finest stonework in Wisconsin,<sup>1</sup> offering perhaps "the best opportunity to study the pioneer architecture of the state... 'These houses and their surroundings,' says John F. Kienitz, professor of art history in the University of Wisconsin, 'help us to understand the cultural backgrounds of Wisconsin. We have here a direct continuation of the medieval stone craftsmanship of England. It is not accident that makes these Cornish dwellings so attractive to the eye.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Neal, Robert M., "Pendarvis, Trelawny, and Polperro, Shake Rag's Cornish Houses," Wisconsin Magazine of History, 29(4):391-401, June 1946.  
 Perrin, Richard W. E., Historic Wisconsin Buildings, Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, 1962 (Reprinted from Lore), 86-87.  
 Perrin, Richard W. E., Historic Wisconsin Architecture, Wis. Chapter, Amer. Institute of Architects, Milwaukee, 1960, 23.  
 Holmes, Fred L., Side Roads, State Historical Society of Wis., Madison, 1949, 19-20.  
 Fiedler, George, Mineral Point, A History, Pub. by The Mineral Point Historical Society & the Iowa County Democrat-Tribune, Mineral Pt., Wis., 1962.

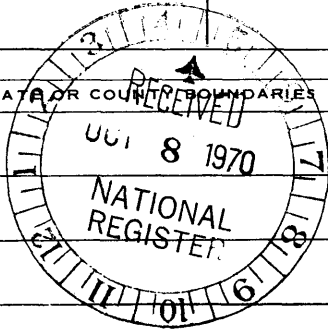
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		N 42° 51' 50"	W 90° 10' 21"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4.6

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:  
**Donald N. Anderson, Asst. Director, Historic Sites & Markers Division**

ORGANIZATION: **State Historical Society of Wisconsin**      DATE: **9/28/70**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**816 State Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Madison**      STATE: **Wisconsin 53706**      CODE: **55**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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  
**James Morton Smith**

Title Director,  
**State Historical Society of Wis.**

Date October 6, 1970

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

Ernest A. Connelly  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

**JAN 25 1971**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:  
William J. Murty  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date **NOV 27 1970**

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Wisconsin	
COUNTY Iowa	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 711655.0001	DATE 1/25/71

(Number all entries)

PENDARVIS

8. (add. 1)

They were built from the heart.<sup>112</sup>

With the declining demand for lead and the lure of discoveries of gold in California occurring almost simultaneously, many of the Cornish miners left for the west near the end of the 1840's and by 1850 Mineral Point's role as a major center of lead-mining activity was past. Now, historically and architecturally, the excellently restored Cornish survivals of the Pendarvis complex are of prime significance as the best remaining and best preserved evidence of the lead-mining theme in Wisconsin's territorial period.

- 
1. Perrin, Richard, Historic Wisconsin Buildings, p. 86.
  2. Holmes, Fred L., Side Roads, pp. 19-20.

