City of Madison Landmarks Commission
LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (1)

I. Name of Building or Site

(1) Common	(2) Historic (if applicable)
Donald S. Gray residence	Alexander Smith residence 1848-1920

II. Location — Name "Stone House Farm" filed Dane Count Register of Deeds, July 30, 1947

(1) Street Address	(2) Ward
5301 Milwaukee Street	Third

III. Classification

(1) Type of Property (building, monument, park, etc.)
Stone House

(2) Zoning District	(3) Present Use
Agriculture	Residence

IV. Current Owner of Property

(1) Name(s)
Donald S. Gray

(2) Street Address	(3) Telephone Number
5301 Milwaukee Street	244-8359

V. Legal Description

(1) Parcel Number	(2) Legal Description
0710-034-0098-5	North 606.5 Ft of the West 370 feet of E½ of SE¼ Sec 3, Tn 7 N, Rge 10 East. (N.B.)

VI. Condition of Property

(1) Physical Condition (excellent, good, fair, deteriorated, ruins)
Good & excellent

(2) Altered or Unaltered?	(3) Moved or Original Site?
Restored. Exterior unaltered. Some interior alteration	Original

(4) Wall Construction
Sand-limestone and cap limestone, 18 inches thick

(5) On a separate sheet of paper, describe the present and original physical construction and appearance (limit 500 words).

N.B. South 306.5 feet subject to option which will be waived if entire property can be designated for dedication to public use.

City of Madison Landmarks Commission
LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (2)

VI.(5) Describe Present and Original Physical Construction and Appearance:

1-The present physical structure is a preservation of the original. The appearance has been improved by restoration of the roof and cornice in their original form and design with much of the original materials preserved and reused.

2-The exterior walls are 18 inches thick and consist of sand limestone and cap limestone from a nearby quarry. The corner stones, or quoins, and large chimney site exterior stone are excellent specimens which have been finely executed with alternate face exposure on the corners. The walls are almost completely in their original state having needed only a very nominal amount of repointing during the past 25 years.

3-A considerable number of the original window sash and glass panes remain as does also the main entrance door with its sidelights and transom. In addition most of the wide pine board floors and woodwork remain. The 2 story section has its original plaster.

4-The east 27 feet of the one story wing on the east, originally a carriage shed, was converted to a utility room and kitchen in 1946.

5-The architectural style is Greek revival with the main mass of the house in the shape of a Greek temple. The pediment is unembellished except for unusual and finely-executed ears ~~(or "jets")~~ on the gable return. The cornice consists of a deeply-recessed Greek moulding, the depth of which blends with the fine proportions of the house. Heavy lintels of dressed stone above the windows and doors, and quoins proportioned to the lintels at the corners of the house, add to its distinction. The interior areas of the exterior wall stone are laid at random, and the workmanship is very superior. The fact that this house is built of stone gives it added dimension. In Greece the temples were built of marble while our Greek Revival adaptations in America were built from materials at hand, usually wood or brick. The fact that we had stone resources in Madison lends added authenticity to this style.

6-Dimension lumber exposed or in parts where floors were removed was white pine of 2 to 2½ or more inches. Partition walls removed revealed 4 x 4 inch white pine studding.

7-The subject property is adjoined on the west by the former Elmer Sprecher farm of 80 acres, more or less, purchased by the City of Madison in 1969.

City of Madison Landmarks Commission
LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (3)

VII. Significance

(1) Original Owner Site-Lucius Lyon. June 11, 1836 House-Alexander Smith Aug. 26, 1848	(2) Original Use Farm Residence & way house
(3) Architect or Builder Cornishman, unknown	(4) Architectural Style Some Greek Revival. English Renaissance influence?
(5) Date of Construction Former owners report 2 story 1848 and 1 story 1861	(6) Indigenous Materials Used Sand limestone & cap limestone from nearby quarry. (SE¼ NW¼ Sec.11)

(7) On a separate sheet of paper, describe the significance of the nominated property and its conformance to the designation criteria of the Landmarks Commission Ordinance (33.01), limit of 500 words.

VIII. List of Bibliographical References Used

1. Sprecher family. Former owners.
2. John & Clara Conlin. Occupants with Mrs. Alexander Smith prior 1920.
3. Charles Friday. Former owner of quarry site, origin of wall materials.
4. Frank S. Moulton. Architect and University of Wisconsin professor, retired.
5. Register of Deeds office. Dane County.
6. "Then & Now" August 1970. Monthly publication Wisconsin State Historical Society.
7. Perrin, Richard W. E., "Historic Wisconsin Buildings 1835-1870."
8.

IX. Form Prepared By:

(1) Name and Title

Donald S. Gray, Owner

(2) Organization Represented (if any)

This nomination submitted as an individual.

(3) Address 5301 Milwaukee Street	(4) Telephone Number 244-8359

(5) Date Nomination Form Was Prepared

September 15, 1971

Donald S. Gray house.

City of Madison Landmarks Commission
LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (4)

VII.(7) Significance of Nominated Property and Conformance to Designation Criteria:

1- The building, in a sense, relates to the social history of the area in that it was an exceptional structure for a farm residence as of the time it was constructed, by virtue of its size, design and quality of construction and comparative cost. In addition its adequacy for the purported uses as an area social center and as a way house for travellers from Milwaukee to Prairie du Chien distinguish it from a typical or average farm home of that period.

2- An historic personage, one Lucius Lyon, relates to the original ownership from the U. S. Government, from which he acquired it June 11, 1836. Mr. Lyon was in charge of the original survey of the State of Wisconsin made by the U. S. Government, which was begun in 1831. The Survey is commemorated by a marker therefor erected on Highway 80 one mile south of Hazel Green, by the Wisconsin State Historical Society and dedicated on July 30, 1970.It identifies the site as the "Point of Beginning" for the State survey where the 4th Principal Meridian crosses the Illinois-Wisconsin State line. The marker refers to Mr. Lyon in its text.(1)

3- The subject property is a remaining example of an almost extinct species - the house combining the effects of locally quarried stone with the superb workmanship of our regional Cornish craftsmen. The availability of stratified quarry stone for intermediate wall construction coupled with that of larger cap stone for corner quoins and chimney exteriors, as well as dressed stone for lintels and sills made for distinctive appearance and structural soundness. This combination invariably resulted in the most distinctive indigenous architecture to be found in the area. Furthermore the distinction of such area structures is strongly asserted by two statements of Perrin as follows: "The craftsmanship and feeling for stone masonry as evidenced by pioneer structures in Wisconsin was never excelled anywhere in the country."(2) and "Unquestionably some of the most perfect stonework to be found anywhere in the United States is that of southwestern Wisconsin." (3)

4- The architectural style bears the characteristics of Early American Greek Revival which first appeared in America around 1820, although it was not prevalent in Wisconsin until the late 1840's and more so in the 1850's. The gable faces the street (road) with heavy Greek mouldings, the main entrance door is set between sidelights with a rectangular transom above.

(1) "Then and Now" August 1970. Wisconsin State Historical Society.
(2) Perrin, Richard W. E. page 75, Historic Wisconsin Buildings.
(3) Perrin, Richard W. E. page 84, Historic Wisconsin Buildings.

Donald S. Gray house.

VII. (7) continued.

There is a low one story wing on one side with the ridge at right angles to the ridge of the main section. It has an air of quiet dignity and charm of good proportions.

The construction features of the house follow closely the Doyle House, of Greek Revival style near Shullsburg, Wisconsin., as described by Mr. Perrin on page 84 of his "Historic Wisconsin Buildings."

About 1847 lead production declined in the Mineral Point region and the area suffered economic reverses. This tended to disperse through Southern Wisconsin and adjacent areas the talents and achievements of Cornish stonemasons. Reportedly Governor Dodge was instrumental in spreading their activities over a wider area of the State.

See paragraph 5, Nomination Form (2) (page 2 of this assembly) for further reference to the architectural distinction of the house for its conformance with that classification of criteria.

Ownership of the subject property:

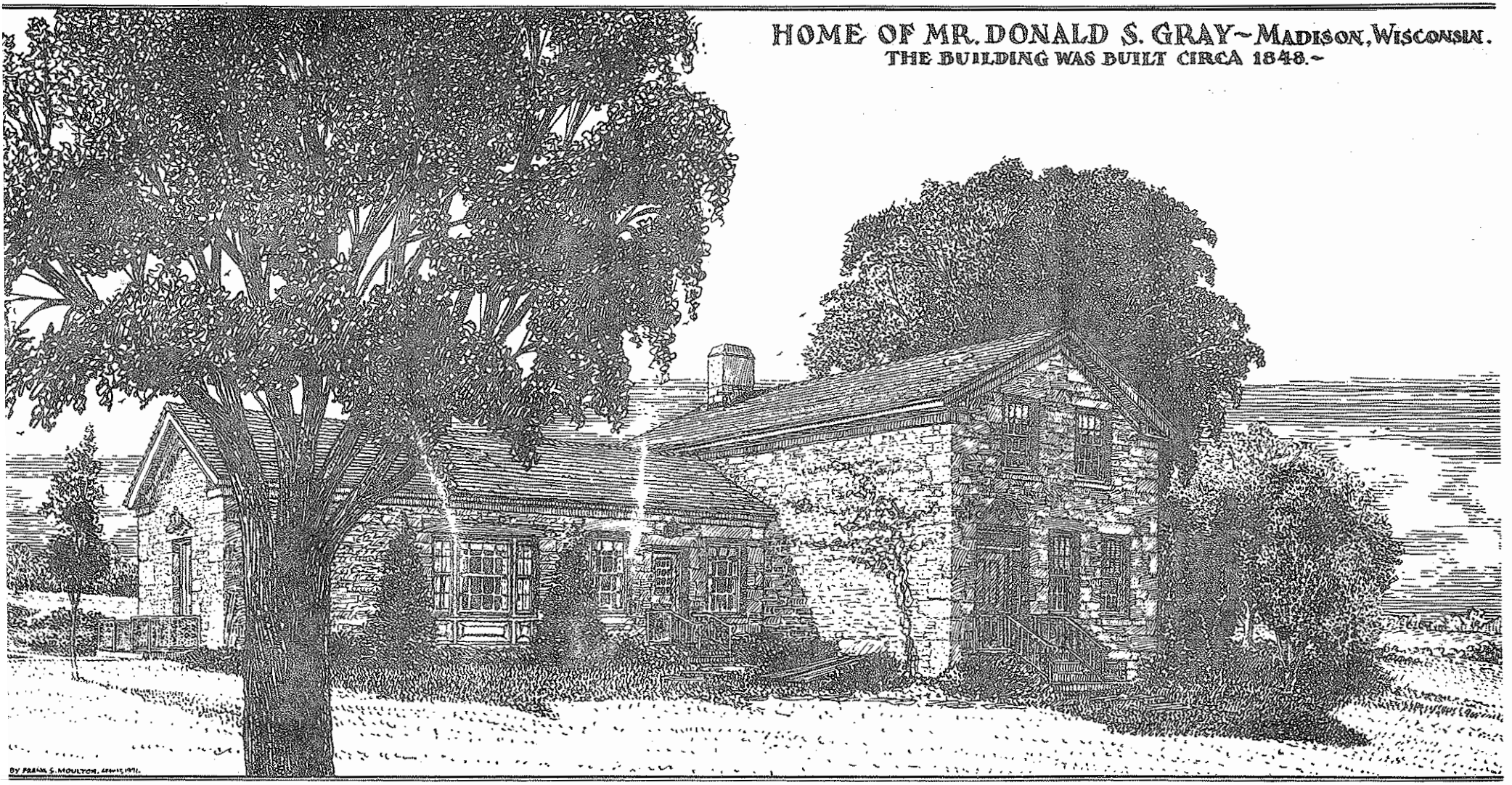
1. U. S. Government to Lucius Lyon June 11, 1836. Part of a total of 3642 acres in Dane County. See Patent.

2. Lucius Lyon (Kalamazoo County, Michigan) to John Spear Nicholas (Baltimore, Maryland). Part of 17,399.79 acres transferred at $2.28 per acre.

3. Nicholas to Alexander Smith, August 26, 1848. In Smith family for 72 years. (1848 to 1920)

4. Smith heirs to John Sprecher heirs, March 15, 1920.

5. Sprecher heirs to Donald S. Gray, April 18, 1946.


HOME OF MR. DONALD S. GRAY ~ MADISON, WISCONSIN.
THE BUILDING WAS BUILT CIRCA 1848.~
BY FRANK S. MOULTON, 1911.

#7