

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT  
1112 MONROE STREET, SAUK  
CITY, SAUK COUNTY,  
WISCONSIN, WITH ALL  
APPURTENANCES AND  
IMPROVEMENTS THEREON,

Defendant.  
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ORDER

03-C-0236-C

A judgment of forfeiture of defendant property was entered in this case on July 12, 2005. On July 21, 2005, claimant Rick Mellentine moved to alter or amend the judgment on the ground that the court had erred in finding that venue in this district was proper. Claimant argues that his research has disclosed new information that shows that the federal courthouse in Madison has never been ceded to the United States government.

As I explained in the order granting the government's suit for forfeiture, Congress has given the federal courts explicit jurisdiction over forfeiture actions such as this one and has

provided that the actions may be prosecuted in any district in which the property is located. The ownership of the land on which the courthouse stands has nothing to do with the federal government's authority to seek forfeiture of property used to facilitate the commission of a federal crime or of the court's authority to grant the forfeiture. Claimant's research is interesting but it is beside the point.

#### ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that claimant Rick Mellentine's motion to alter or amend judgment is DENIED.

Entered this 26th day of July, 2005.

BY THE COURT:  
/s/  
BARBARA B. CRABB  
District Judge