

**UNINCORPORATED HAMLETS OF  
DANE COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

**INTENSIVE SURVEY REPORT**

prepared by

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prepared for

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Dane County  
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## ABSTRACT

Title: Unincorporated Hamlets of Dane County Intensive Architectural/Historical Survey - Final Report

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Subject: An intensive survey of the historic buildings, structures and sites within an area that corresponds to everything included within project areas that correspond to the thirty-two unincorporated hamlets of Dane County as of 2002.

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This report documents an intensive architectural/historical survey of all resources located within the project areas that correspond to the thirty-two unincorporated hamlets of Dane County as of January 1, 2002. The boundaries of these study areas were set by the Dane County Department of Planning and Development in conjunction with the staff of the State of Wisconsin's Division of Historic Preservation prior to the beginning of this study. Subsequently, a reconnaissance survey of this area was undertaken by the principal investigator as the first part of the intensive architectural/historical survey, after which an intensive research effort designed to ascertain the historic and architectural significance of the resources identified by the reconnaissance survey was undertaken by the principal investigator. The results of this research is summarized in this intensive survey report and they are also embodied in individual survey cards for all the resources studied, which were prepared in both printed and electronic forms to standards set by the State Division of Historic Preservation.

The purpose of this intensive survey project was two-fold; to identify all the resources within the study areas that are potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, and to provide Dane County and other local, county, state, and national agencies with a comprehensive data base that covers all the historic resources within the thirty-two study areas. The intensive survey ultimately surveyed 184 individual resources. Of these, twenty-four individual buildings and building complexes were identified as having potential for listing in the National Register.

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## INTRODUCTION

On October 3, 2001 Dane County authorized Timothy F. Heggland, an historic preservation consultant based in Mazomanie, Wisconsin, to undertake a reconnaissance survey and an intensive survey of all the historically and architecturally significant historic resources that are located within project areas that correspond to the thirty-two unincorporated hamlets of Dane County. The reconnaissance survey was conducted throughout the remaining months of 2001 and was completed in mid-December of 2001. Funding for both the reconnaissance survey and the intensive survey that followed was provided by a grant in aid from the U.S. Department of the Interior as administered by the Division of Historic Preservation (DHP) of the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS). Both the reconnaissance survey and the intensive survey phases of the overall project were conducted by Mr. Heggland and were monitored by Mr. Joe DeRose, Historian at the DHP, and Mr. Brian Standing, representing the Dane County Department of Planning and Development, who acted as the County's Project Manager. Additional oversight was provided by Mr. Jim Draeger, Chief of Survey and Planning at the DHP.

The primary intent of a reconnaissance survey is to identify all the individual resources and groups of resources within a project area that are of historical and/or architectural significance. Some of these resources are then researched in greater detail in the intensive survey that follows and the resulting information becomes a data base that can be used by the sponsoring organization in making future planning decisions. A secondary intent of these surveys is the identification of individual resources and groups of resources (called districts) that have the potential for being listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

The boundaries of the Dane County project areas were set by the County and correspond to all the resources that were located within thirty-two one-mile-wide circles, each of the circles being centered on one of the thirty-two individual unincorporated hamlets located within Dane County, as of October, 2001. All of the resources within these boundaries were surveyed excepting only those already listed in the NRHP as of that date. These listed resources include the previously individually listed Paoli Mills in the Hamlet of Paoli (Montrose Township) (NRHP 3-30-79), and St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church in the Hamlet of Ashton (Town of Springdale) (NRHP 9-23-80). In addition, two other resources located in the hamlet of Springfield Corners (Town of Springfield), the Jacques Gross Store/Farmstead (DOE 2-27-95) and the Louis Martini Store (DOE 2-27-95) were both determined eligible for listing in 1995 but have not yet been listed.

The reconnaissance survey ultimately identified 184 resources within the project boundaries that appear to meet the criteria of the survey. These resources include churches, schools, agriculture-related buildings, and commercial buildings, but the overwhelming majority are single family dwellings that are believed to range in age from the 1840s to the mid-1950s. All of these resources have been photographed and mapped and a complete inventory of these resources is appended at the end of this report. Of these resources, twenty-four individual buildings or building complexes appear to be eligible for listing in the NRHP and are listed near the end of this report. The reconnaissance survey phase of the project was then followed by the second phase, the intensive survey, which was completed in late October of 2002. This phase consisted of an intensive research effort that was designed to generate an overview of the history of the county, an overview of those historic themes that are most closely associated with this history, and basic historic information about a select group of the resources that were identified in the reconnaissance survey.

## SURVEY METHODOLOGY

### PRELIMINARY STEPS

The goal of this project was to identify all the existing architecturally and historically significant historic resources that are located within Dane County's thirty-two unincorporated hamlets and to also identify those that have potential for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).(1) The boundaries of these thirty-two project areas were set by the County prior to the hiring of a consultant. Consequently, the first step in the reconnaissance survey consisted of a pre-survey during which the consultant undertook a series of drives and walks through the project areas. This was done both to familiarize the consultant with the project areas and to uncover any unusual aspects of them that might call for special treatment. The first finding of this pre-survey was that most of the unincorporated hamlets of the county are still largely intact and have not been seriously compromised by the intrusion of modern buildings, which, when they exist at all, are located for the most part around the peripheries of the historic cores of these hamlets. The second finding, and one of significance for the future of the project, was that although these historic cores are mostly still intact, the integrity levels of the buildings within them have typically experienced a considerable decline since these hamlets were first surveyed in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

It was therefore decided to survey all the resources within the thirty-two project areas that were believed to be fifty years old or older and which still retain their original appearance and exterior cladding. Unfortunately, this decision meant that many of the older resources in these hamlets were not surveyed due to their lack of integrity. The scope of the survey was also expanded slightly to include a few intact buildings dating from the 1950s and 1960s that are good representative examples of their different styles and which it is believed will be of interest to the County in the future.

While the issue of deciding what to survey was being considered, the process of identifying pertinent historic resource materials was also begun. This first involved a search of the resources held by the Wisconsin Historical Society (WSH) in Madison and, as anticipated, the WSH proved to be an especially fruitful source that produced the majority of the items listed in the bibliography that follows this report. Along with such essential items as published and unpublished Dane County histories, Dane County plat maps and plat books, Sanborn-Perris maps (Morrisonville), and microfilm copies of Dane County newspapers, the WSH's Visual and Sound Archives also produced historic photos of some of the surveyed hamlets, and its Department of Historic Preservation added additional information that is contained in its files. Other essential resources are historic Dane County Real Estate Tax Assessment Rolls and the other extensive history collections owned by the Dane County Historical Society, including its historic photo collection, the extensive and extremely well organized local history collections of the Dane County Public Library System, and the smaller but still valuable holdings of the Albion Academy Historical Society, the Cottage Grove Historical Society, the Cross Plains-Berry Historical Society, the De Forest Area Historical Society, the Historic Blooming Grove Historical Society, the Marshall Area Historical Society, the Mazomanie Historical Society, the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society, the Oregon Area Historical Society, and the Stoughton Historical Society.

Another early goal of the survey was to find suitable base maps that could be used to record the locations of the resources surveyed. Ideally, such maps would show building footprints, lot lines, and addresses, although it was not anticipated that such an ideal map or maps would be found. Fortunately, the Dane County Department of Planning and Development was able to produce excellent large scale maps dating from 2001 that shows lot lines and parcel numbers for all the County's unincorporated hamlets. This meant that maps that show the required information were already in existence and did not have to be produced by the survey consultant; a significant savings in time and money.

Yet another task performed prior to the beginning of the field survey was the identification of all the resources in the project areas that had previously been surveyed by the DHP, which uses survey projects such as this one to update information it already has on file and to identify buildings that have been demolished since earlier surveys were undertaken. This involved searching the DHP's Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places for inventory cards that matched addresses in the project areas, a search that identified 148 buildings and other

resource types that had been previously surveyed between 1977 and 1981. Seventeen of these resources have since been demolished, but all the rest were resurveyed as part of the current project and these 131 resources make up the bulk of the buildings that are included in the current survey. It needs to be remembered, however, that these previously surveyed resources are the products of a selection process that was governed by the knowledge and survey criteria that was in use at that time. Consequently, the resources that were surveyed between 1977 and 1981 tend to be examples of architectural styles that were recognized at that time and vernacular examples of these styles. Since that time, however, understanding of the history of our built environment as greatly increased, new styles have been identified, and a much greater appreciation of the so-called vernacular forms has also developed. Thus, while the new survey reviewed the previously surveyed resources and resurveyed and rephotographed them as part of the current project, it was also charged with evaluating *all* the resources within the project areas, which necessitated analyzing not only examples of the recognized architectural styles but also those resources that were left unsurveyed and unanalyzed by the earlier surveys.(2)

## RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY

Once the survey criteria had been decided, the field survey itself began, which consisted of identifying all the resources within the project area that met the survey criteria, making field notes, and taking both black and white and color digital photos of them. The consultant waited until mid-November to begin this work because the best possible photos are taken when there is no foliage to obscure buildings and no snow on the ground, thereby making it possible to produce superior photos. The resulting survey was completed late in December of 2002 and in addition to reevaluating the 131 extant resources identified in the previous surveys, all the other buildings within the project areas were evaluated as well. The result was that 53 additional resources, primarily of architectural interest, were added to the existing inventory, for a total of 184 resources of all types. Both the old and the newly surveyed resources are listed in the inventory at the end of this report and a smaller group of these resources was researched in greater detail as part of the intensive survey.

Following completion of the field work, field notes were checked and organized to facilitate the site-specific research that would take place in the intensive survey phase. Each site was assigned a map code number and an address and the latter numbers were then transferred to the base maps of the project areas that help both the DHP and the County locate surveyed resources.

The reconnaissance survey concluded with a tour of the project area. Mr. Jim Draeger, who is the chief of Registration at the DHP and the person in charge of the NRHP program in Wisconsin, met with the consultant on February 14, 2002, in order to review the findings of the reconnaissance survey. The result was that twenty-four of the surveyed resources or groups of resources were found to be potentially individually eligible for listing in the NRHP. The results are included in the summary section of this report.

## INTENSIVE SURVEY

With the photographs and the list of resources inventoried by the reconnaissance survey in hand, the consultant began the task of organizing the inventoried resources into groups based on stylistic attributions. Once this task was completed, each of these groups was further evaluated and the best examples in each group became the subject of the more intensive research process that forms the core of the intensive survey. For example, all buildings surveyed that represent the Greek Revival style were grouped together to identify the typical stylistic subtypes and building forms found in Dane County hamlets. These were then compared and evaluated to determine which were the best examples within each subtype. The best examples were then evaluated against National Register criteria and those which appeared to meet the criteria were designated as "potentially eligible." The results of this evaluation process can be found in the Architectural Styles section of this report. It needs to be noted, however, that at this stage this designation is advisory only and represents just the best judgment of the consultant. Actual designation of "eligible" status can only be made as a result of a formal evaluation, either through the National Register nomination process or through the Determination of Eligibility process, both of which are evaluated by the staff of the DHP and the Keeper of the National Register in Washington D. C.



While this evaluation process was taking place, the reconnaissance survey maps were being compared with the few historic plat maps of Dane County communities that show building footprints and the only applicable Sanborn-Perris fire insurance map, this of Morrisonville (not dated), in order to determine approximate building construction dates for the buildings surveyed. The information thus obtained resulted in a list of approximate (sometimes *very* approximate) building construction dates for many of the buildings surveyed, which dates, though necessarily inexact, were still of great value in narrowing the focus of the subsequent intensive research effort that was to follow.

The revised building list, complete with approximate construction dates, was then compared with the results of the style evaluation process described above and buildings that ranked high in their respective stylistic categories were included in the intensive research effort. Also included in the intensive research effort were buildings and other resources that were considered to be potential eligible individually for listing in the National Register for reasons other than their architectural design.

The buildings on the resulting list were researched individually to determine dates of construction and the names of original owners. First, all the properties on this list were checked against the current real estate tax assessment lists in the Dane County Assessor's Department's office in order to produce a current legal description for every building on the list. These descriptions then became the means of accessing historic real estate tax rolls, micro-film copies of the originals of which are kept in the Wisconsin Historical Society's archive collection, and which date with a few exceptions from the 1850s to the 1960s.

While tax records research was being conducted a parallel effort was being made to identify and research those historic themes that have been important to the history of Dane County. The basis of this research is the large group of historic themes that have already been identified by the extensive research that is embodied in the DHP's *Cultural Resource Management Plan*, which research is ongoing and is intended to accomplish the same goals, but on a statewide basis. These themes cover or will eventually cover nearly every aspect of the built history of Wisconsin and it is intended that the research conducted for site-specific projects such as the Dane County Unincorporated Hamlets Intensive Survey will be complimentary to this larger ongoing effort.

At the community level, the purpose of thematic research is to develop an overview of the history of a community that will facilitate the identification of those remaining resources that can be considered historically and possibly architecturally significant from the standpoint of the National Register program and local preservation efforts. Preliminary research undertaken at the onset of the Dane County Survey suggested that the following themes, which are listed in alphabetical order, were important and would prove productive:

- Architecture
- Commerce
- Education
- Industry
- Religion

The research that followed the identification of these themes relied heavily on secondary sources such as the already published histories of Dane County and various individual hamlets, historic maps of these communities, and historic Dane County newspapers, including several semi-centennial and bicentennial issues, etc. The information thus generated is included in this report and will be found in the historic themes section. Site-specific information will also be found on the intensive survey inventory cards that were prepared for each inventoried resource.

Ultimately, the intensive survey researched approximately 28 of the 184 resources that were identified in the reconnaissance survey phase, although all 184 resources were photographed and evaluated using NRHP and DHP criteria. Every property surveyed during the course of the project has had an intensive survey card prepared for it in accordance with DHP standards. These cards consist of a dry-mounted photo of the resource on one side and a summary of the historical and architectural analysis performed on the

subject resource and other required information such as an address and the photo and map codes assigned to the property on the reverse side. These cards were made for the DHP to add to its Architectural Historic Inventory (AHI), which now includes more than 125,000 building located throughout the state. In addition, all the written information contained on these cards plus additional historic data was copied into the DHP's electronic data base using software developed by the DHP and these can be viewed by accessing the Wisconsin Historical Society's web site. Finally, copies of the survey maps were given to the County at the conclusion of the survey.

## INTENSIVE SURVEY FINAL REPORT

Several of the historic theme chapters in this report that deal with only a few extant resources such as Industry and Education, have been in progress since April of 2002. Most of the other chapters, however, including especially those relating to architectural styles, had to wait until the historic research was completed before they could be written. With the completion of this research in August of 2002, work on the final chapters of the intensive survey report commenced and was completed by late December of 2002 and it includes the thematic chapters, the building inventory list, and the bibliography.

## PUBLIC EDUCATION

The consultant worked closely with members of the Dane County Department of Planning and Development from the onset of the project and received valuable support and assistance from them throughout the course of the survey. Presentations were made to the County by the consultant and the first public meeting with the larger community took place on October 21, 2002, when a presentation by the consultant and Mr. DeRose of the DHP was made at a special meeting at Dane County's Lussier Center.

### Endnote:

1. It should be noted that not every one of Dane County's thirty-five townships contains an unincorporated hamlet while others contain more than one.
2. In the course of reviewing the previously surveyed resources contained in the AHI it was discovered that all of the historic resources in the hamlet of Nora in the Town of Cottage Grove had been intensively surveyed in 1992 by Great Lakes Archeology of Milwaukee as part of a WisDOT USH 12/18 highway survey project. This survey found that none of these resources is potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP and a field check of these resources done as part of the Unincorporated Hamlets of Dane County Intensive Survey reaffirmed this finding. Therefore, after consultation with Mr. Joe DeRose of the DHP, it was decided that the information in the AHI is current enough to reflect the existing state of this hamlet's resources. Consequently, these resources were not resurveyed or rephotographed by the present survey, although buildings that had been demolished in the intervening ten years were so noted.

## HISTORIC OVERVIEW OF DANE COUNTY

When one considers that the boundaries of Dane County contain the city of Madison, the state capital, and that this city is also the second largest in the state of Wisconsin, it is not surprising that the history of Madison and the county that surrounds it has been the subject of numerous publications, beginning as early as 1851, with the pamphlet published by Carpenter & Tenney of Madison entitled "*Statistics of Dane County, Wisconsin; with a Business Directory in part, of the Village of Madison.*" The first comprehensive history of Dane County entitled *A History of Madison, the Capital of Wisconsin; Including The Four Lake Country, With an Appendix of Notes on Dane County and its Towns* was written in 1874, by Daniel S. Durrie and was followed by a second history in 1877, edited by William J. Park, entitled *Madison, Dane County and Surrounding Towns*. Subsequent comprehensive county-wide histories include the *History of Dane County, Wisconsin: Containing an Account of its Settlement, Development, and Resources*, edited by Consul W. Butterfield and published in 1880, and the *History of Dane County*, edited by Elisha W. Keyes, and published in 1906. The most recent history, *Forward! A History of Dane: the Capital County*, by Allen Ruff and Tracy Will, was published in 2000 and brings the history of the county up to the present day. Added to these county-wide histories are a host of city, village, hamlet, township and institutional histories, some of which are listed in the bibliography near the end of this report. Consequently, no attempt will be made here to cover the ground that has been so expertly covered by so many others. Instead, this overview will focus on the hamlets of the county and will attempt to give some idea of why these places developed and what their fate has been in later years.

The earliest permanent Euro-American settlement in Dane County occurred in 1829 when Massachusetts-born Ebenezer Brigham settled in what is today the northwest corner of the Town of Blue Mounds on the far west edge of the county. Brigham was drawn to this area by its proximity to the already established lead mining region in the southwest corner of what is now Wisconsin and his faith was quickly rewarded when the first shaft he sank struck a vein of lead. Brigham then built a furnace to process the lead into portable and salable bars and the dwelling he built became the first trading post/general store/hotel in what is now Dane County.

Among the first visitors to "Brigham's Place," as it was typically called, was James Duane Doty, who was then a federal district judge and land speculator living in Green Bay. Doty, along with two others, was then making his first overland trip from Green Bay to the village of Prairie Du Chien on the Mississippi River on a route that took them past the four lakes district that is situated in the center of what is today's Dane County. It was on this trip that Doty first conceived of the idea of developing the four lakes site as a future city, but any plans relating to the settling this area had to wait until the Native American tribes who then occupied most of southwestern Wisconsin were rendered harmless. In the meantime, Doty and others set about planning the route of a future military road that would connect the U.S. Army forts located at Prairie Du Chien, Portage, and Green Bay. Work on this route was interrupted by the Blackhawk War, a short conflict fought in the summer of 1832 between Native Americans led by Chief Blackhawk and Euro-American settlers and militia. This conflict began in northern Illinois and culminated in what is commonly known as the battle of Wisconsin Heights for its location in northwestern Dane County overlooking the Wisconsin River. Wisconsin Heights was a defeat for Chief Blackhawk and his followers, and their subsequent slaughter at the Battle at the mouth of the Bad Axe River in Vernon County was a major turning point for both the Native Americans and those wanting to settle in Wisconsin. The end result of the War was the removal of all Native American tribes in the lower Wisconsin area to lands west of the Mississippi River, which in turn opened up the vacated land to the east for settlement.

With the land made safe for settling, Doty and other speculators began to give more concrete thought to the future ownership of the land, which was then entirely owned by the Federal government. An important event that would effect all future land transactions occurred in 1834, when the Federal government began the official survey of its land. Another important event that would aid in future settlement occurred in 1835, when work on the Military Road began, the route of which Doty had made sure would pass not far from the four lakes district he had seen in 1829. Two more seminal events occurred in 1836, when the Wisconsin Territory was separated from the previously established Michigan Territory and when the first

Territorial Legislature decided that the future capital of the future state of Wisconsin would be located on the isthmus that separated the two largest of the four lakes that were located in the center of what was to become Dane County. As it happened, this land was owned by James Doty and Gov. Stephen Mason of Michigan, and it was Doty who named the future city "Madison" after James Madison, the former U.S. President, and it was also Doty who suggested that the county be named "Dane" after Nathan Dane, the framer of the ordinance that created the Northwest Territory in 1787, of which Wisconsin was long a part. On December 7, 1836, the Wisconsin Territorial legislature passed an act creating Dane County and naming Madison as both the state capital and as the judicial seat of Dane County.

These events all acted as a spur to land speculation, but this did not immediately translate into settlement.

Truly significant settlement and growth trailed actual county formation by almost two decades. In the 1830's, when Dane County was in its earliest stages, speculators gobbled up much of the land as soon as it was put up for sale by the U.S. government. Speculators, however, were rarely farmers. They were merely temporary landholders, who waited for others to arrive, then sold their land to them at a profit. They counted on Dane County's future as a center of government and education, and they were not disappointed.(1)

Even though work had begun on the first capital building in Madison in 1837, it would still be almost eleven more years before the building was finished and the 1840 Federal census of Dane County found only 314 inhabitants in the whole of the county. Never-the-less, settlers did begin to arrive as word spread about the rich farmlands the county contained, and the 1840s were to witness an enormous growth in the county's population and the formation of the first of the hamlets that are the subject of this survey.

The county's first settlers were a remarkably diverse group, being composed not only of Yankee transplants from the eastern and northeastern states, but of immigrants from much of western Europe as well.

The opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 generated a boom in western agriculture, providing western farmers with an opportunity to compete with farmers in the East and sell their goods in eastern markets. The canal also provided a quick route for westbound emigrants, helping to move large numbers of farmers and villagers from the Hudson Valley of upstate New York and nearby Vermont. Many of these people would later seek new opportunity on the fertile lands of southern Wisconsin. The panic of 1837, the major economic calamity of the era, uprooted groups of Yankees and propelled them westward to start new lives. Conditions in Ireland, Norway, Germany, England, and France in the 1840s gave rise to an exodus of emigrants in search of economic opportunity, political and religious freedom. Some were driven by political upheaval and agricultural dislocations. Some fled famine and other hardships. Others were lured by the promise of land agent's promotional literature or by letters from friends and family already settled on Dane County's rich farmland.(2)

Some of these settlers came alone, some came as families, and some came in groups. The lucky ones had someone already on hand to sponsor them and help them settle into this sometimes strange and frightening new land. An exceptional example was the county's pioneer Roman Catholic priest, Rev. Adalbert Inama, a native of Austria who settled in what is now Roxbury township in 1845 and whose first combined dwelling and church in that township, St. Norbert House, was the first Catholic church in the county. Inama was a born community builder who within a year after his arrival managed to acquire 1000 acres of land from various donors which he then made available to the German immigrants who were beginning to descend on Dane County in ever increasing numbers. As these settlers developed their farms, Inama established churches to serve the emerging rural parishes being created.(3) These churches, located at what became Roxbury (St. Norbert in 1846), East Bristol (St. Joseph in 1847), Martinsville (St. Martin in 1850), and Pine Bluff (St. Mary in 1852), each became the center around which these future hamlets evolved.(4) Inama was therefore instrumental in helping to give the townships in the northwestern part of Dane County their distinctive German heritage.

Still another hamlet that began when a Roman Catholic church was established at that location was Ashton in the Town of Springfield. The first St. Peter's Church was built here in 1861 in response to the needs of the German settlers in the immediate area, who had begun arriving as early as 1854, and the church was supplied with pastors from the nearby churches of St. Martin in Martinsville and others until it gained its own resident pastor some years later.(5)

Two other late 1840s-early 1850s Dane County hamlets began as platted communities and both are located on the Sugar River in the southwestern part of the county. The earliest of the two was the hamlet of Paoli in the Town of Montrose. This hamlet was platted in 1849 by Peter W. Matt, who took steps to help ensure the success of his new community by building a grist and flour mill there in 1849 (NRHP 3-07-79), this being the first such mill in the surrounding area.(6) The same strategy was followed by George G. Britts in 1850, who in that year platted the hamlet of Mt. Vernon in the Town of Springdale about six miles west of Paoli and who also chose to build a mill in his new community as well in order to ensure its future success.(7)

Most of the county's rural settlement, however, was the result of a much more random, even haphazard pattern of development. At first, newcomers tended to settle where earlier arriving members of their particular ethnic group or place of origin had already settled and this resulted in certain parts of the county becoming especially associated with these groups. Not surprisingly, Yankee settlers were typically the earliest to arrive and they can be identified as the earliest settlers in the majority of the county's townships, but were especially numerous in the central parts of the county in the townships surrounding Madison, townships that contained land that was rich and readily farmed. The townships of Albion, Westport, Rutland, Verona, Burke, and Fitchburg were all notable for their concentrations of transplanted Yankees. Also notable in these towns and especially in Fitchburg and Burke were immigrants from Ireland, while immigrants from England were especially plentiful in the townships of Mazomanie and Berry in the west part of the county, thanks to the efforts of the British Emigration Temperance Society in Liverpool, England, which purchased land in these townships that the settlers that they sponsored and sent over from England could turn into farms.

Norwegian immigrants were among the most numerous of the early settlers in the county and while individuals and families could be found in most townships they were concentrated most heavily in the southwest part of the county in Perry, Primrose, Blue Mounds, Vermont, and Springdale townships, and in the southeast part, on the Koshkonong Prairie, in the townships of Deerfield, Albion, Dunkirk, and Christiana.

Over 7500 Norwegians migrated to Wisconsin between 1840 and 1850. Nearly 2700 lived on the Koshkonong Prairie, and about 2000 had settled in the towns of Blue Mounds, Springdale, Perry, and Primrose by 1850.(8)

The population of the city of Madison also grew during the 1840s, from 146 in 1840, to 1672 in 1850, thanks in part to the creation of the University of Wisconsin, which was established there in 1848, and also thanks to the achievement of statehood for Wisconsin, which occurred in the same year. But the real population growth in Dane County during this decade occurred in the countryside surrounding Madison, which grew from a population of 168 in 1840 to 14,467 in 1850. The latter figure reflects the simple fact that the real source of wealth in Dane County during this period and for many decades thereafter was derived from the practice of agriculture. It was the farms established by these first settlers, the goods they produced, and the goods and services that these settlers required that were the principal economic activity in Dane County in the first century of its existence.

These first settlers were, out of necessity, a self-sufficient lot who supplied most of their own needs. Much of the food that they ate they raised themselves, many of their simple tools had either been brought with them when they arrived or were made on the farm, and even the clothing they wore was often made by members of the family who sometimes even utilized materials derived from the animals they raised. Never-the-less, these settlers still needed some goods and services that they could not supply themselves and this meant first, that they needed a means of getting from the farm to the place where these goods and

services could be had, and second, that there needed to be some place for them to go to. The result was the creation of the county's first system of roads and the county's first hamlets and villages.

As was noted earlier, the first statewide road system in Wisconsin was the military roads system developed in territorial days to improve the passage of goods and soldiers between the various U.S. Army forts in the territory. These roads left almost everything to be desired but they still formed the basis of the road system that would eventually evolve into the state and the national highway systems of today.

During the territorial period and the years following statehood, other roads branched off the military roads, running from various settlements along Lake Michigan to the Wisconsin River as well as to Mineral Point and the lead region.

As the population grew in southern and eastern Wisconsin, public demand for more and better roads for travel and transporting agricultural products to market increased. Between 1836 and 1848, the territorial legislature authorized the establishment of 249 territorial roads. Following statehood in 1848, roads laid out and opened by authorization of the legislature were designated "State Roads." ... Responsibility and costs for road care, however, were delegated to the local units of government—a condition that was to last until the early twentieth century.(9)

Fortunately for Dane County, one of the state's military roads already passed through the northwest corner of the county and another was later developed between Madison and Milwaukee.(10) In addition, the decision to make Madison the capital of Wisconsin and the placement of Madison in the center of Dane County also meant that any future system of roads would automatically have Madison as one of its principal focal points. Thus, the state road system that developed through acts of the legislature created roads that radiated out from Madison towards every corner of the county and beyond, which in its turn created a system of primary roads that was of inestimable benefit to the farmers of Dane County. This same system also formed the network to which the county's own road system was attached. At first, farmers made their own roads using Indian trails or any others that were available. With the establishment of Dane County and its thirty-five townships, however, the primary responsibility for creating roads passed to these entities and it was the highway commissioners in the towns and the county that developed most of the county's rural highway system. Gradually, as settlers brought nearly every part of the county under cultivation, these highways were extended until they created a secondary highway system that became the principal means by which farmers and those who served them were brought together and the principal means by which farmers got their crops to a place where they could be sold or processed.

The creation of places at which farmers could purchase goods and sometimes services that they could not provide for themselves was a natural byproduct of the process of road-building. The most typical kind of place that evolved to serve farmer's needs in this period was the "crossroads" community, fourteen of Dane County's surveyed hamlets being examples of this type. A crossroads community is, as its name suggests, a place where two or more roads intersect. Such a place has a natural advantage over a place located on just a single road because it has traffic coming to it from four or more directions rather than just two. Usually, the establishment of such a community had to wait until at least two intersecting roads had been created before it could come into being, but there were exceptions. Occasionally, a crossroads community came into being after a business, church, or mill was established at a particular location.(11) For instance, at least two of Dane County's hamlets, York Center in the Town of York, and Daleyville in the Town of Perry, evolved around the places where pioneer entrepreneurs decided to build their general stores. York Center, for instance, was established in 1848 shortly after the first store in that community was built there, while Daleyville was established in 1850, when Onun B. Dahle established his first store at that location. Each of these store buildings was the first building to be constructed at its particular location, and the mere fact of their existence was enough to cause others to build residences nearby. Subsequently, these small communities generated enough traffic and commerce to justify the routing of a second intersecting road to the place, thereby creating a crossroads community. Still another example is the hamlet of Montrose, in the town of the same name. The Montrose of today is actually located a mile east of the original crossroads community of this name, which is no longer extant, and it owes its existence to the creation of the

Montrose School and the neighboring Montrose Methodist Church, which were built ca.1865 on opposite sides of a dead end road that intersects with the main highway at this point.

More typical, however, were communities that evolved once a crossroads had been created. Very often, a few residences were already extant in these places before places of business were established, but generally it was the establishment of a store or perhaps a post office or school at these locations that was the critical element leading to the creation of a community that is, for the survey's purposes, called a hamlet.(12) Such a community would have typically consisted of just a few residences, a store or two, perhaps a small school, and perhaps also a church, but these elements were the essence of a rural community in those days.

The following is a listing – in very rough chronological order – of the crossroads communities in Dane County that are believed to have been created in this fashion.(13)

Albion, located in the town of the same name, was first settled in 1842, the first school there was built a year or two later, and the place had become a post office and a crossroads community by 1855. The major contributor to its subsequent growth was the establishment of Albion Academy at this place in 1854.

Springfield Corners, in the Town of Springfield, was one of the county's earliest crossroads communities due to its place at the intersection of the original military road and the main highway leading from Madison to Sauk City. Settlement began there in 1845, when the place was known as Clark's Corners, and by 1855 there were at least two stores there, both of which are still extant today. The post office at this place was renamed Springfield Corners in 1871.

Rutland, in the town of the same name, was established as a post office in 1845, as was the town, and was a crossroads community by 1855.

Utica, in the Town of Christiana, was founded in 1845 and was a crossroads community by 1855. Its general store, still extant today, is the only operating retail establishment that the survey found in any of the county's hamlets.

Token Creek, in the Town of Burke, was one of the earliest settled places in the county and the first store was established there in 1848.

Primrose, in the town of the same name, was established in 1850 when the first District School No. 3 was established there. A new school was built here in 1869 and it survived until just recently but has since been demolished. Always one of the most ephemeral of the county's hamlets, Primrose now has no remaining historic buildings.

Marxville, in the Town of Berry, was first called Berry Post Office, which was established there in 1851. By 1871 the place had been renamed Myer's Corners, after the proprietor of a store there, and in 1886 it and its post office were again renamed, becoming Marxville.

Hope, in the Towns of Blooming Grove and Cottage Grove, was a small, unnamed crossroads community even before 1861, but the post office there was not established until 1888.

Nora, in the Town of Cottage Grove, was also a small unnamed crossroads community before 1861, but was subsequently renamed Nora Corners. In 1886 the Nora post office was moved to this site and from then on the community was named Nora.

Norway Grove, in the Town of Vienna, was settled as early as 1847 and had assumed something of its present form by 1861 but its post office was not established in 1872.

North Bristol, in the Town of Bristol, was a small crossroads community and had a scattering of houses as early as 1861, but its post office was not established until 1876.

Windsor, in the town of the same name, was settled early and had a scattering of house and a school by 1861 and was already a crossroads community by that date, but it was enlarged and platted after the Madison and Portage Railroad came through in 1870.

Kegonsa, in the Town of Pleasant Springs, was a tiny crossroads community and the site of a school and perhaps a store as early as 1861 and was first known as Kegonsa Store for the store located at this intersection. It was not called just Kegonsa until after 1911.

Forward, in the Town of Perry, possessed a school as early as 1853 but had little else for many years. The post office of this name was established here in 1872 and the first store was built in 1874 and was replaced by the present one ca.1908.

Most of the hamlets that have been described up to this point can make a reasonable claim to having been in existence by the early 1850s, but few of them were communities of more than just a few buildings at this point in time, and few had any immediate hope of growing much larger. This changed, however, when the first railroad entered the county.

The Milwaukee & Mississippi road was the first to lay track in Wisconsin, beginning its existence as the Milwaukee & Waukesha Railroad, which received its charter from the state legislature in 1847. After changing its name to the Milwaukee & Mississippi Railroad in 1850, the company laid the state's first track between Milwaukee and Waukesha and then began its long journey across the southern part of the state, its ultimate goal being to reach Prairie du Chien and the Mississippi River. By May of 1854, track had been extended as far west as Madison, an occasion that was greeted with jubilation by residents in that city who almost immediately saw 25-30 car trains loaded with wheat leaving the city for markets in the eastern part of the state and beyond. Early in 1856, the railroad began to lay track westward from Madison on a route that brought it to Prairie Du Chien in 1857.(14)

The impact that the railroad had on the county cannot be overestimated.

Eventually, significant numbers of settlers did arrive [in Dane County], but not until a suitable transportation network had been created. And that network did not come into existence until 1854 with the construction of a railroad line to link Dane County conveniently to the world of commerce. The railroad occasioned dramatic change in the county's population. In 1850 Dane County was home to 16,139 persons; in 1855 there were more than twice as many—37,714. The railroad had indeed made a difference.(15)

Another indicator of both the immediate and the long term impact that this railroad had on the county's communities is the fact that all of the already existing Dane County communities located on this line (Madison, Cross Plains, and Black Earth) and all those that were developed as a direct and immediate consequence of its construction (Stoughton, McFarland, Middleton, and Mazomanie) are still in existence today and have grown large enough to achieve village and even city status with the passing of the years. The railroad's impact was also evident when another branch of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad that had been built west from Milwaukee towards Madison reached the community of Sun Prairie in 1860. Until 1869, when this line was finally completed through to Madison, Sun Prairie was its western terminus, which led to its becoming a notable village in its own right. This railroad was not only the making of Sun Prairie, it was also the making of the hamlet of Deansville in the town of Medina as well, which was created in 1860 as a stop on the route.

Deansville would prove to be just one of a number of still extant hamlets in Dane County that owe their existence to the coming of the railroads. When the Madison and Portage Railroad finally began construction in 1870, it was also responsible for the creation of the hamlets of Windsor and Morrisonville, both located in the Town in the Town of Windsor. As noted earlier, the hamlet of Windsor was already a crossroads community by 1861, but the coming of the railroad in 1871 led to the platting of the place and resulted in its general enlargement. Morrisonville, on the other hand, was literally put on the map by the



arrival of the railroad. As an incentive to the railroad, James Morrison, the principal landowner in the area, conveyed 42 acres to the railroad for the location of a depot and this resulted in the platting of the village of Morrison, as it was first known, by an officer of the railroad late in 1871.(16) Similarly, the construction of another railroad line westward from Madison by the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad in 1882 followed a route that took it through Mt. Horeb and Blue Mounds and it also resulted in the creation of two more hamlets located in the Town of Springdale; Klevenville and Riley, the latter of which was platted as Sugar River Station but was called Riley by the railroad. The hamlet of Burke, in the town of the same name, was another community that, while platted in 1886, was actually in existence much earlier and was, for a time, a stop on the Milwaukee Road rail line.

The last railroad to enter the county, the Illinois Central, arrived at Madison in 1888 via a route that took it through the village of Belleville in the Town of Montrose,. This route also took it passed close to the hamlet of Paoli, also located in the Town of Montrose, and a depot was subsequently established a little ways away and the place where it was located was platted and called Paoli Station. This hamlet was subsequently renamed Basco in 1895 and this is the name that is still in use today although the station has long since been discontinued.

And yet, while railroads could be creators of communities, the opposite was also true because they were of equal significance to communities that were not on their lines. For the rest of the nineteenth century, communities that were not on a railroad line would do everything in their power to attract such a line to their location. The reason was obvious. Communities on railroad lines typically grew while ones that were not, typically did not. Time was also to show that those communities that were first to get railroad connections grew at a rate that gave them a more or less permanent economic and size advantage over ones that did not have such a connection or who got their connection too late to achieve meaningful growth. As most of the surveyed hamlets in Dane County that owed their existence to the railroad were to find out, being located on a railroad line was not a guarantee of success and growth.

Even as early as 1870, basic changes in the economic and social structure of the county were occurring that would have a lasting effect on the county's communities and especially on its hamlets.

During the entire decade of the 1870's, Dane County grew by only 137 persons—a statistic which easily can lead the unwary to assume that nothing much of importance was going on. In fact a lot was: new buildings, a heightened sense of prosperity and accomplishment, and an agricultural technology that was advancing by leaps and bounds. The raw statistic of 137 persons masks a subtlety: important shifts in where people lived. During the 1870's, Dane County's cities and villages were growing handily, while farm and rural populations were declining. Madison alone gained 1148 residents (for an 1880 total of 10,915), while Stoughton and Mazomanie, the two largest communities besides Madison, grew by 368 (to 985) and 97 (to 1143) respectively. Clearly change was afoot.

The key to understanding this rural-to-urban shift can be found in the transformation of agriculture into a mechanized industry during the 1800's. Where many hands and hours of labor once had been required to harvest a wheat field, the reaper was doing the job. Everywhere new planting, cultivating, and harvesting equipment permitted fewer persons to do more farm work than platoons of workers had been able to accomplish a generation earlier. This soon led to a surplus farm population and to changes in population distribution, enabled by both natural and economic forces. First, many of the county's original settlers were aging and dying, never having left their farms. Second, some of the younger men and women were moving to nearby towns and cities out of sheer economic necessity.(17)

Changes in the size of the rural population were also accompanied by changes in the size and number of the county's farms.

As the increase in the size of farms through the decade indicates, land passed into the hands of the more prosperous: the number of farms 20 to 50 acres in size was 1,482 in 1870 and 687 in 1880.

Farms measuring 50 to 100 acres numbered 2,243 at the beginning of the decade but dropped to 1,577 at the end. In the same period, those ventures ranging from 100 to 500 acres increased from 1,327 to 3,258. By 1880, there were 43 farms over 500 acres. The average size was 128 acres. These figures reflect the concentration that accompanied the conversion process from wheat to dairy.(18)

What these changes meant for the county's hamlets was not immediately apparent, but comparing the county's surveyed and still extant hamlets as shown on the map of Dane County published in 1861 with the same hamlets as shown on the county atlas published in 1890 is revealing. In every case, hamlets that appeared – or in some cases had not yet appeared – on the 1861 map increased in size during the intervening period, with those having railroad connections typically having increased the most.(19) Thus it appears that even the county's smallest communities were beneficiaries of the rural-to-urban trend described above. One can be misled by this situation, however, because the fact remains that while these small communities did grow slightly in size during this period, the real growth occurred in the county's villages and cities. Thus, in real terms, the county's hamlets were actually just barely holding their own at this time and new changes were on the horizon that would further undermine their already tenuous economic and social position in the county.

Chief among these changes was the advent of the automobile, although it would be two decades before the full impact of this invention was felt. Partially this was due to the state of the county's rural highway system in the last half of the nineteenth century.

The three decades between 1870 and 1890 proved to be a "dark age" in the development, improvement, and repair of rural highways throughout the state. The private road-building companies had for the most part passed out of existence. The state could give no aid or encouragement to road construction, because of the constitutional provision against aiding in works of internal improvement. The town was the unit of road administration, and practically all road improvement was done under town supervision in the form of statutory labor. It was an era in which, in thinking of transportation, the public thought in terms of the railroad. So far as highway traffic was concerned, it was the era of the horse-drawn vehicle, where the range of traffic was limited to meeting place, market, and mill, and when a highway of the most meager type seemed to suit the ordinary purpose of rural travel. Very little effort was made to develop the strictly rural highways so as to connect the various urban centers, so little consideration was given to the construction of a connected system of improved highways throughout the counties.(20)

The coming of the automobile changed all that. The county's railroads had already permanently changed rural shopping habits by making goods in city stores more readily available to the farming community and this was further reinforced by the advent of catalog shopping in the 1890s from firms such as Montgomery Ward and Sears, Roebuck. All of these goods ultimately reached consumers via the nation's railroad network, and, more importantly for the merchants in the county's rural hamlets, this economic activity bypassed the hamlets. This relegated the general store in these places to a market niche that was increasingly restricted to selling only the most basic wants, a niche that continue to be relatively secure in horse-drawn days. Once automobiles began to arrive, however, farmers had improved access to larger stores in nearby villages and cities as well as to the goods sold in the local general store. Not surprisingly, the ultimate impact on the rural general store was devastating.

Another concurrent development that served to diminish the role of the hamlet in the life of the county's farming community was the creation of the Rural Free Delivery mail system. The first such experimental rural delivery routes began in West Virginia in 1896 and ultimately led to a revolution in rural life nationwide.

Today it is difficult to envision the isolation that was the lot of farm families in early America. In the days before telephones, radios, or television were common, the farmer's main link to the outside world were the mail and the newspapers that came by mail to the nearest post office. Since the mail had to be picked up, this meant a trip to the post office, often involving a day's travel,

round-trip. The farmer might delay picking up mail for days, weeks, even months until the trip could be coupled with one for supplies, food, or equipment.

The West Virginia experiment with rural free delivery was launched in relative obscurity and an atmosphere of hostility. Critics of the plan claimed that it was impractical and too expensive to have a postal carrier trudge over rutted roads and through forests trying to deliver mail in all kinds of weather. However, the farmers, without exception, with the new service and with the new world open to them. After receiving free delivery for a few months, one observed it would take away part of life to give it up. A Missouri farmer looked back on his life and calculated that, in 15 years, he had traveled 12,000 miles going to and from his post office to get the mail.

A byproduct of rural free delivery was the stimulation it provided to the development of the great American system of roads and highways. A prerequisite for rural delivery was good roads. After hundreds of petitions for rural delivery were turned down by the post office because of unserviceable and inaccessible roads, responsible local governments began to extend and improve existing highways. Between 1897 and 1908, these local governments spent an estimated \$72 million on bridges, culverts, and other improvements.(21)

At first, the advent of Rural Free Delivery or RFD, as it is better known, probably did not have a negative effect on the county's hamlets, but as roads improved, mail was increasingly delivered from post offices in villages and cities rather than ones in hamlets with the result that post offices in the county's hamlets were gradually discontinued, giving farmers one less reason to go there.

Better roads and the coming of the automobile also changed other aspects of life in the county's hamlets as well.

The car had a complex impact on rural religious life. County congregations, long-time social as well as religious institutions and often unifying centers for rural neighborhoods, suddenly found themselves in competition with city and village churches. Some folded while others merged with congregations of kindred persuasion "in town." Consolidation, while often leading to improved facilities, a stable ministry and an increase in village church attendance, left many congregations to wither.

Another institution directly affected by the automobile was the rural school. The local county schools, ill-equipped by urban standards, had long been a concern of educational reformers, eager to consolidate them. Local residents, however, resisted consolidation. Local control had real meaning. Many district schools served as neighborhood social centers. In some parts of the county the district boundaries had defined the neighborhood. ... While the idea of consolidation and the related transport of area children to one central facility predated the automobile and bus, the latter facilitated the process by solving transportation concerns. Road improvements and the appearance of the school bus spelled the end of the country school, despite resistance by some counties that lasted into the 1950s and 1960s.(22)

Thus, by the time the United States entered World War II, most of the institutions that gave the county's hamlets their original reason for being had been rendered obsolete. Good roads and the automobile brought the general stores and other retail enterprises in these places into competition with the much larger retail stores in the county's villages and cities and also into competition with nationwide retail chains, a competition that could have but one outcome. The consolidation of most of the churches and schools located in the county's hamlets and their relocation in the county's villages and cities has also diminished the role that hamlets played in rural life. The result has been that those historic hamlets that have survived (and many have not) have essentially lost their ties to the farms that still surround most of them and are now primarily self-contained places where people live but do not work or shop.

While they no longer serve all of their original purposes, the hamlets that are the subject of this intensive survey still represent a fascinating mixture of communities today. Some, like Primrose, no longer contain any historic buildings at all while many others, like Norway Grove and Montrose, have only two or three. Others, like Albion, Roxbury, Morrisonville, and Mt. Vernon, are located near to major highways and not only have numerous historic and non-historic buildings but also have their own modest modern suburban developments, and they could be mistaken for small villages were it not for the fact that they lack retail stores of any kind. Still other hamlets such as Token Creek, Windsor, and Burke, have now been almost subsumed into the much larger cities that all but surround them today. What will become of these places remains to be seen since Dane County is facing growth predictions of a size that make change the only certainty. Never-the-less, it seems fair to say that those that those hamlets that do survive will continue to find a role to play in the Dane County of tomorrow.

Endnotes:

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2. Ruff, Allen and Tracy Will. *Forward!: A History of Dane: the Capital County*. Cambridge, WI: Woodhenge Press, 2000, p. 61.
3. Brophy, William K. (ed.). *Commemorative History: Catholic Diocese of Madison*. Madison: Roman Catholic Diocese of Madison, 1997, pp. 18-20.
4. *Ibid*, pp. 150, 171, 182, 187.
5. *Ibid*, p. 132. See also: Brienens, Msgr. Andrew R. "St. Peter Parish in Ashton Marks 125th Anniversary." *The Catholic Herald*, June 26, 1986, p. 4. The present St. Peter R.C. Church was built in 1901 and it was listed in the NRHP on 9-23-80.
6. Parks, William J. *Madison, Dane County, and Surrounding Towns*. Madison: W. J. Parks Co., 1877, pp. 485-86
7. *Ibid*, p. 309.
8. Ruff, Allen and Tracy Will. *Forward!: A History of Dane: the Capital County*. Cambridge, WI: Woodhenge Press, 2000, p. 75.
9. Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*. Madison: Division of Historic Preservation, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, Vol. 2, Transportation Study Unit, p. 7-1 (Early Road Networks).
10. The northeastward route of this road through Dane County took it from Barneveld, in Iowa County, to the village of Mt. Horeb, in western Dane County, then to the village of Cross Plains, the hamlet of Springfield Corners, and finally, the village of Dane.
11. The same process could also be started by the creation of a church or a mill, as was described earlier.
12. Although a few of the county's hamlets may begun their existence as a place where a rural post office was kept, most became post offices after the early settlement had occurred. It is certainly true that almost every county hamlet was also once a post office, although only one, Morrisonville, is today.
13. The dates when these communities were established are necessarily vague, in most cases, because there is seldom a precise moment when they began. Most of these places evolved gradually and it was only when they had reached a certain size that they acquired a store, post office, or other institution that can be accurately dated. The principal sources for most of the dates given here are: Map of Dane County. New York: Horace Greeley, 1855; Ligowsky, A. Map of Dane County, Wisconsin. Madison: Menges & Ligowsky, 1861; and Cassidy, Frederic G. *Dane County Place-Names*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1968.
14. This would soon become the Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad, which would then become the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, and finally, the Milwaukee Road.
15. Holzheuter, John O. "Introduction." Mandel, David. *Settlers of Dane County: The Photographs of Andreas Larsen Dahl*. Madison: Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission, 1985, p. 6.
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17. Holzheuter, John O. "Introduction." Mandel, David. *Settlers of Dane County: The Photographs of Andreas Larsen Dahl*. Madison: Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission, 1985, p. 5.
18. Ruff, Allen and Tracy Will. *Forward!: A History of Dane: the Capital County*. Cambridge, WI: Woodhenge Press, 2000, p. 131.

19. See Ligowsky, A. *Map of Dane County, Wisconsin*. Madison: Menges & Ligowsky, 1861; and *Plat Book of Dane County, Wisconsin*. Minneapolis: Charles. M. Foote Co., 1890. The railroads weren't the only generators of growth during this period, however, since both the hamlets of Albion and Mt. Vernon also grew substantially during this period as well.
20. *Wisconsin Highways: 1835-1945*. Madison: State Highway Commission of Wisconsin, 1947, p. 18.
21. *History of the United States Postal Service: 1775-1993*. Washington DC: United States Postal Service, 1993, pp. 11-12.
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## COMMERCE

Goods and Services (Retail Businesses, Hotels, Banks, etc.)

### General Stores

All of Dane County's hamlets developed in what were originally rural areas that were then undergoing the process of settlement by the county's first Euro-American settlers, most of whom were intent on making a living through the practice of agriculture. Most of these hamlets evolved as agricultural support centers that at first provided only the most basic levels of commerce. Such places typically had just one establishment that supplied the settlers with those things they could not make or grow themselves and this establishment also usually served as the area post-office as well.

The earliest buildings associated with commercial activity in rural Dane County were, of necessity, ones that combined several functions under one roof, being typically part residence, part store, and occasionally, part hotel and part saloon and restaurant. Such buildings were often the first real evidence that enough settlers had arrived in a given area to justify economic activity beyond the most basic subsistence level and they were often the community social center

Depending on later circumstances, these pioneer structures were usually soon replaced by separate buildings that housed separate functions, but the earliest commercial buildings that survive in the county's hamlets are representatives of the first generation of the county's commercial buildings. The oldest of these buildings, the excellent Italianate style Fischer's Hall in the hamlet of Paoli, was built in 1851 for William Fischer. This multi-purpose building is an unusually large and sophisticated example of this building type that is clad in clapboards and it originally housed a saloon in the basement, a first story general store, a second story dance hall, and it also housed a cheese factory.(1) The building has now been beautifully restored and is in an excellent state of preservation.

Two more examples built in the 1850s, while less comprehensive in the scope of the services they provided, still combined living quarters for the proprietors in the second story with retail space in the first. These are the Louis Martini Store/Post Office and the Jacque Grosse Store/Farmstead, both built ca.1855 in the hamlet of Springfield Corners.(2) Although very different in terms of construction, the Grosse Building being made of limestone and the Martini store, being frame clad in clapboard, both are good examples of the kind of early commercial establishment that became the norm in most of Dane County's smaller hamlets, the general store.

Another very good and quite fine example constructed out of limestone a decade later is the B. Reuter building in the hamlet of Roxbury, built in 1869. The Reuter building originally contained a post office, store, tavern and Reuter's living quarters and it is still very much in use today as a tavern and restaurant and is one of the social centers of Roxbury and the surrounding area.(3)

The oldest known surveyed building built in one of the county's hamlets for a specific rather than a general commercial purpose is the Jacob Bock Blacksmith shop in the hamlet of Marxville, which was built out of stone ca.1861.(4) Blacksmith shops were one of the most important of all early commercial enterprises in a new settlement because settlers relied on the blacksmith to make metal goods for both home and farm use and they also relied on him for essential repairs to farm equipment. Without a smith of their own, members of a community would have had to turn to the nearest available one, which might be in another community miles away. Like general stores, blacksmith shops were institutions around which a community could be established and they were also likely to be informal community centers for the local male population, just as general stores became centers for the ladies when both enterprises were present. Remarkably, the Jacob Bock blacksmith shop is still in use as a blacksmith shop today and it is the oldest continuously operated blacksmith shop in Dane County and is also, perhaps, one of the oldest in Wisconsin as well.

Most of the remaining commercial buildings surveyed in the county's hamlets are frame buildings that are examples of the Boomtown style and while the date of construction of most of them is unknown it is

believed that they span the years between 1880 and 1898. Almost all of these are also now the only commercial buildings that remain in their respective hamlets and some of these are believed to be the only store buildings these communities ever had. Of the examples surveyed in the hamlets of East Bristol, North Bristol, Token Creek, Basco, Utica, Daleyville, Forward, and Windsor, only the one in Utica is still in use as a general store/grocery store today and it is, in fact, the *only* retail store from any period that was found in any of Dane County's hamlets.

Not surprisingly, a few second and even third generation commercial buildings also exist in Dane County's hamlets. These are typically examples of the Commercial Vernacular form that are both bigger than their predecessors and are built out of some type of masonry material such as brick or concrete block. The sole example of the latter type and one of the earliest is the concrete block E. M. Strasburg Building in the Hamlet of Deansville, built in 1909. An early brick example is the two-story building located at ca.8646 Davis St. in the hamlet of Mt. Vernon, which is located next door to the cream brick one-story Koch Commercial Building, built in 1914 at 8644 Davis St.(5)

There are only two examples of commercial buildings in Dane County's hamlets that reflect architectural styles. These are the frame construction Queen Anne style Burton Woodward General Store Building, built ca.1885 in the hamlet of Hamlet of Morrisonville, and its next door neighbor, the Neo-Classical Revival style Morrisonville State Bank Building, built out of brick in 1902.(6)

### **Hotels:**

There are now just two extant buildings in Dane County's hamlets that were constructed as hotels. The oldest of the two hotels is the Paoli House Hotel located at 6891 Paoli Rd. in the hamlet of Paoli. This now greatly altered two-story Commercial Vernacular style building was built prior to 1890 and it was originally clad in clapboards but has since had its windows altered and has been resided in aluminum. The newest example is the Dahle Hotel at 4667 Willow St., which was built as a railroad hotel in the hamlet of Morrisonville in 1900. This is a fine Two-story-Cube form building that was originally clad in clapboards but which has since been resided in aluminum and it sits of the corner of Lynn and Willow streets across from the railroad depot. As the name implies, railroad hotels were built adjacent to or near railroad yards and depots and they catered primarily to transient travelers and to railroad crews. The hotel was named for Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Dahle, two newlyweds who had the hotel built and operated it for a number of years thereafter. The hotel's first story originally contained a kitchen, dining room and office and the second story contained its bedrooms.(7)

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### **NOTES ON SOURCES**

There is no single best source of information on the historic buildings in Dane County's hamlets that are associated with the distribution of Goods & Services. The most valuable sources found to date nineteenth and early twentieth century Dane County newspapers and published county and county community histories and these mentions are seldom extensive. One thing these different sources do make clear, however, is that most of the surveyed hamlets once had more buildings devoted to commerce than they

have today. Changing economic and social conditions have both conspired to substantially reduce the number of buildings that were associated with commercial activities in these communities.

#### EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED

The following list includes all the historic commercial buildings surveyed in Dane County's Hamlets.

Film Code	Address	Original Owner	Date	Hamlet
DA 181/32	8701 STH 19	Jacob Bock Blacksmith Shop	ca.1861	Hamlet of Marxville
DA 182/17	1914 CTH V	Commercial Building		Hamlet of East Bristol
DA 182/06	2710 CTH V	Commercial Building		Hamlet of North Bristol
DA 183/08	6335 Portage Rd.	Commercial Building		Hamlet of Token Creek
DA 184/25	2157 CTH W	Commercial Building		Hamlet of Utica
DA 182/24	1128 Berlin Rd.	E. M. Strasburg Building	1909	Hamlet of Deansville
DA 184/27	6733 Henry Rd.	Commercial Building		Hamlet of Basco
DA 182/37	6904 Canal St.	Fischer Hall	1851	Hamlet of Paoli
DA 182/30	6891 Paoli Rd.	Paoli House Hotel	18??	Hamlet of Paoli
DA 186/20	1079 STH 78	Gunhild Thorhaug Dressmaker's Shop		Hamlet of Daleyville
DA 186/21	1080 STH 78	Iverson Garage Building	1920	Hamlet of Daleyville
DA 186/04	9998 CTH A	Gladen & Hanson Store Building	1898	Hamlet of Forward
DA 181/08	8901 CTH Y	B. Reuter Commercial Building	1869	Hamlet of Roxbury
DA 185/18	1688 Washington St.	Commercial Building		Hamlet of Mt. Vernon
DA 185/29	8644 Davis St.	Koch Commercial Building	1914	Hamlet of Mt. Vernon
DA 185/28	ca.8646 Davis St.	Commercial Building		Hamlet of Mt. Vernon
DA 181/15-16	6132 USH 12	Louis Martini Store/Post Office	ca.1855	Hamlet of Springfield
Corners				
DA 181/17	6210 CTH P	Jacque Grosse Store/Farmstead	ca.1855	Hamlet of Springfield
Corners				
DA 183/24	ca.7848 Morrison St.	Morrisonville State Bank Building	1902	Hamlet of Morrisonville
DA 183/23	7850 Morrison St.	Burton Woodward General Store Building		
			ca.1885	Hamlet of Morrisonville
DA 183/30	4667 Willow St.	Dahle Hotel	1900	Hamlet of Morrisonville
DA 183/33	4440 Windsor Rd.	Commercial Building		Hamlet of Windsor

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3. *St. Norbert Congregation, Roxbury: One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Anniversary, 1846-1971*. Roxbury, WI: 1971, pp. 131-32 .
4. Gould, Whitney Mason and Zane Williams. *Historic Places of Rural Dane County*. Madison: Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission, 1981, n.p. (illustrated).
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7. *Ibid*, p. 9.



## INDUSTRY

The very small size and agricultural orientation of Dane County's hamlets did not favor the growth of industry on any scale in these places so it is not surprising that only two resources having an industrial history were found by the survey. Both of these examples were originally flouring and grist mills, and one, the Paoli Mills in the hamlet of Paoli, built in 1849 and expanded in 1864 with a large stone addition, is already listed in the National Register. The other example is the Mt. Vernon Roller Mill, located at 8668 Liberty St. in the hamlet of Mt. Vernon and built ca.1888 as a replacement for the original, which had been built in 1852.

### Milling

One of the earliest applications of the use of waterpower in Wisconsin was to operate the state's early flour and grist mills, milling being one of first industries in Wisconsin to achieve economic importance. The history of Wisconsin's milling industry and its associated technology is detailed at length in the Milling study unit of the CRMP's Industry Theme section. Therefore, this history will not be repeated here except as it amplifies the history of the Mt. Vernon and Paoli mills

The importance of milling as an early local and statewide industry can hardly be overstated.

As a result of the region's early emphasis on wheat farming, flour mills in Wisconsin were of immediate and vital importance. In the days of poor transportation and scattered development, each village needed a flour mill, and by the 1840s and the 1850s, small wind or water-powered mills were scattered across the settled portions of the state. While only 29 grist mills were located in the state in 1840, by 1850 the number had reached 117 and 392 workers were employed to produce over \$3,536,000 worth of flour and milled grain in Wisconsin. ... The location of a mill was often the key to development of a commercial village center, the mill acting as an early hub for trade and business, as well as a meeting place for the exchange of news. Many of Wisconsin's early communities developed around the pioneer local mill.(1)

One of the 117 mills extant in Wisconsin in 1850 was the one constructed on the banks of the Sugar River in 1849 by Peter W. Matts in a location that a year earlier he had platted as the hamlet of Paoli in the Town of Montrose.(2) Both ventures must have seemed promising to Matt at the time because Dane County was then growing rapidly thanks to the locating of the state capitol in Madison, the achievement of statehood in 1848, and the growing realization that the county contained some of the Midwest's richest farmland. Indeed, the population of the whole county, which was only 314 in 1840, had by 1850 reached 16,654 and this growth had created a demand for more processing centers to handle the ever increasing flood of wheat that the new farms in the county were producing.(3)

The general situation must have also looked promising to George G. Britts as well, because in 1850 he platted the hamlet of Mt. Vernon in the Town of Springdale about six miles west of Paoli. Like Paoli, Mt. Vernon is also located on the Sugar River and Britts also chose to build a mill in order to ensure the potential success of his new community.(4) This stone mill was built in 1852 and it stood until 1887, when it was destroyed by fire. It was replaced the following year by the present Mt. Vernon Roller Mill, which is still in use today, although the raceway and mill pond that originally served it are no longer in evidence.(5) This mill and the one in Paoli are now the only buildings associated with an historic industrial enterprise that were found in any of Dane County's hamlets.

### NOTES ON SOURCES

A fine overview of Dane County's historic agriculture-related industrial sites was compiled by David Donath in 1977. This study was not published but it includes an excellent inventory of such sites with attributions. This study is a Dane County site file kept in the collection of the Division of Historic Preservation at the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison.

## EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED

<u>Film Code</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Original Owner</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Hamlet</u>
DA 185/23-24	8668 Liberty St.	Mt. Vernon Roller Mill	ca.1888	Hamlet of Mt. Vernon

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3. *Ibid*, p. 209.
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## EDUCATION

### Primary and Secondary Education

The only historic public buildings that were surveyed in Dane County's hamlets were its schools, and the small size of these hamlets meant that all but one of these are one or two-room schools. A highly detailed overview of the history of Wisconsin's primary and secondary schools is contained in the Primary Public Education and the Public Secondary Education study units of the CRMP's Education Theme section. Therefore, these histories will not be repeated here except as they amplify the history of the surveyed schools in Dane County's hamlets.

Administratively, there have been five different levels of government involved in the administration of the state's elementary education: state, town, district, county, and city. Both the 1848 constitution and the first education bill passed by the state legislature in 1848 were concerned with three of these levels: state, district, and town. ... Towns were usually divided into a number of local districts, which were the most numerous and powerful administrative units until the 1960s. The three member elected district boards were empowered to hire teachers and establish policies for individual schools. These two duties gave them firm control over educational policy in most of the state's elementary schools.

It is important to remember that there was usually a significant difference between city and village schools and the one room schools of the countryside. Generally, the former were larger, more substantial buildings that tended to be better equipped than the rural schools, largely because of the broader tax base that supported city schools. For most of Wisconsin's history, the smaller rural schools far outnumbered the richer village and city schools. In 1923, for example, there were 6475 one room schools in the state compared to only 555 schools that employed two or more teachers. There were, of course, some one room schools in villages, just as there were a few rural schools that employed more than one teacher. But in general, the one room schools were rural, and the larger schools were in the villages and cities.(1)

The very first classes taught in Dane County's hamlets were sometimes conducted in barns or in whatever other buildings might be available, and the first buildings built specifically for school purposes were often very small one room log structures, none of which are now believed to be extant. These first schools, however, were soon replaced by frame, stone, or more rarely, brick examples and all the earliest surveyed schools in Dane County's hamlets belong to this second generation of buildings. The earliest of these schools is believed to be the Paoli School in the hamlet of Paoli. The first part of this frame Greek Revival style school was built in 1854 as a replacement for the original log school that had been built in 1850, and by 1877 a second room had been added, bringing this school to its present size.(2) Of uncertain age but perhaps nearly as old is the now altered stone Montrose school in the hamlet of Montrose.(3) Another very fine stone example is the Roxbury District No. 2 School (known locally as the Frey School) in the hamlet of Roxbury, which was built in 1874. Still another brick example is the Pleasant Springs School, located in the hamlet of Kegonsa, which was built in 1873 and which is one of the very few schools built in this period that remained in use and was later expanded after World War II.(4) A still later third generation single room brick school is District School No. 3 located in the hamlet of Utica, which was built in 1896 and expanded to include a restroom wing in 1936 using WPA funding and labor.(5)

As the county's hamlets and their associated school districts grew richer and as the numbers of school-age children in these districts increased, new and larger two-room schools also began to appear. Frame examples of this type were surveyed in the hamlets of Daleyville, Forward, Mt. Vernon. All three of these were built to replace smaller one-room schools, the Daleyville school having been built in 1895 to replace one built out of stone in 1868,(6) the Forward School having been built in 1910 to replace one built out of stone in 1875(7), and the Mt. Vernon School having been built in 1911 to replace one built in 1868.(8) The largest and latest of the two-room schools that were surveyed is the London Grade School in the hamlet of London, which was built out of brick in 1924.(9)

Parochial schools have also played a large role in the educational history of Dane County's hamlets. The most important of these have been the schools associated with several of the hamlet's historic Roman Catholic parishes, most notably: St. Norbert; St. Martins; St. Mary's; St. Peter's; and St. Joseph's. All of these parishes once had separate school buildings but the only historic example that has survived is the school building associated with St. Norbert Roman Catholic Church, located in the hamlet of Roxbury, which was built in 1864 and remodeled and enlarged by the men of the parish in 1937.(10) None of the other nineteenth century or early twentieth century schools associated with these parishes have survived, although one other later parish school was also surveyed. This is the last school built for St. Martin's Parish in 1968, which replaced the previous one built in 1895.

None of the county's hamlets ever achieved sufficient size to justify the construction of a public high school, let alone a college level institution but there was one notable private exception. This was the Albion Academy in the hamlet of Albion, begun in 1854 by the Seventh Day Baptist church.

Academies, like grammar schools, were usually privately controlled institutions embodying a variety of organizational structures. Some were run by individual entrepreneurs attempting to parlay a college education into a profitable enterprise. Other were established by groups of education-minded citizens who may or may not have incorporated their schools with the state. Still others (those closest to what one might call "public" schools) were created at the behest of concerned citizens of a particular community who wished to expand the local educational options available to their children. And finally, some academies were founded by religious denominations in order to provide parish youth with an opportunity for Christian-oriented secondary education.(11)

The Albion Academy, like others of the day, was founded with multiple purposes in mind, but was in modern terms a junior college open to both men and women. The Academy's first two buildings, North and Main Hall, were built by 1854 and they were joined in 1868, by South Hall, the only survivor of the three. All three were originally brick three-story buildings and they were situated on a twelve acre campus that still survives in the heart of Albion today. Albion Academy survived as an institution owned, if not operated, by the Seventh-Day Baptists until 1894, when it was sold. The new owner, Prof. Peter Hendrickson, operated it from 1894 until 1901, when it was acquired by the Norwegian Lutheran Synod, which operated it as the H. A. Preus Lutheran Academy until it was finally closed in 1917. Today, only the truncated South Hall remains of what was once an important educational institution in the southeast part of the county.(12)

#### NOTES ON SOURCES

The best general source of information on the early history of parochial education in Dane County's hamlets 1898 is found in *The Catholic Church in Wisconsin*, published in 1898, and the best source on later schools is the *Commemorative History: Catholic Diocese of Madison*, published in 1997. The best sources of information about twentieth century schools in Dane County's other schools are the various city, village and township histories and local newspapers, which also contain information about earlier schools as well.

#### EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED

<u>Film Code</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Original Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Hamlet</u>
<u>Public and Parochial Grade and Secondary Schools</u>				
DA 184/19	605 Edgerton Rd.	Albion Academy: South Hall	1868	Hamlet of Albion
DA 184/22	1390 CTH B	District School No. 3	1896/1936	Hamlet of Utica
DA 184/07	3655 CTH O	London Grade School	1924	Hamlet of London
DA 184/32	523 Feller Dr.	Montrose School		Hamlet of Montrose
DA 182/28	6857 Paoli Rd.	Paoli Schoolhouse	ca.1854/	Hamlet of Paoli

DA 186/13 Daleyville	1060 STH 78	Daleyville School	1893/1934/1969	Hamlet of
DA 186/07	10084 CTH A	Forward School/Perry Town Hall	1910	Hamlet of Forward
DA 185/03 Kegonsa	2370 CTH N	Pleasant Springs School	1873/19??	Hamlet of
DA 181/13 Roxbury	ca.8841 CTH Y	Roxbury District No. 2 School	ca.1874	Hamlet of
DA 181/07	8944 CTH Y	St. Norbert R.C. School	1864/1937	Hamlet of Roxbury
DA 185/21	1668 Washington St.	Mt. Vernon-Primrose Joint Schoolhouse District No. 8	1911	Hamlet of Mt. Vernon
DA 181/22 Martinsville	5953 Martinsville Rd.	St. Martin's R.C. School	1968	Hamlet of

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4. Date stone on building facade.
5. Ibid. Additional information is contained in a DHP site file for the school.
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## RELIGION

Excellent statewide overviews of the major religious groups to settle in Wisconsin can be found in the CRMP's Religion Theme section. Therefore, these histories will not be repeated here except as they amplify the history of the surveyed churches in Dane County's hamlets.

The first religious services held in nineteenth century Dane County's hamlets took place in the area's pioneer schoolhouses, commercial buildings, and in private houses owned by members of the congregations. Gradually, these pioneer congregations either faded away or expanded and were able to build their first real houses of worship. A number of these pioneer churches survive today, the oldest being the very modest but very intact Greek Revival style United Brethren Church in the hamlet of Rutland, which was completed in 1852. Nine other nineteenth century churches were also surveyed in the county's hamlets, however, and they range from in size from the very modest to several of Dane County's largest and finest rural churches. These surviving nineteenth century churches are discussed below, as are three twentieth century churches, one of which was built after World War II but is believed to be of architectural note. What follows is an alphabetical listing of the principal Dane County congregations whose churches were surveyed and also information about the houses of worship that they constructed.

### **Baptist:**

Even though it has now been somewhat altered, the Seventh Day Baptist Church, built in 1863 in the Hamlet of Albion, is still one the best examples of a Greek Revival style church in the county.(1) Albion's Seventh Day Baptist congregation was organized in 1843 and it had a major role in the building of the Albion Academy buildings (See previous section on Education), which Academy was sponsored by the North-Western Association of Seventh Day Baptists. The Academy was constructed on the field across the road from the eventual site of the church beginning in 1854, and it is perhaps because of the enormous commitment that the congregation made to the success of the Academy that the construction of their church took so long to achieve. The church was built at a cost of \$2500, its basement was dug in 1907, and a two-story addition was added on the south side in 1956. The church is still used by the Seventh Day Baptist congregation today.

### **Roman Catholic:**

The first Roman Catholic church built in Dane County was St. Norbert House, near the hamlet of Roxbury. This log building was built by pioneer Catholic priest Rev. Adalbert Inama, who had come to this area from Austria in 1845 and whose combined dwelling and chapel, built in 1846, was Dane County's first Catholic church.(2) This building (non-extant) was followed by the construction in 1853 of the first portion of the present St. Norbert Church in the hamlet of Roxbury, which was the first rural Roman Catholic parish church in the county. This was a brick church and it was subsequently incorporated into the present stone St. Norbert Church, which was begun in 1860 and completed in 1906 and which is one of Dane County's finest rural churches and one of its very few Romanesque Revival style examples. Besides the church, the St. Norbert Church Complex also contains the parish rectory, a fine Queen Anne style cream brick house built in 1903, and the parish school, built out of stone in 1864 and expanded in 1937.(3)

St. Norbert was a predominately German-speaking parish and so was St. Martin Church in the hamlet of Martinsville. St. Martin is another excellent stone church, this one being designed in the Gothic Revival style, and it was built in 1861. Besides the church, the St. Martin's Church Complex also contains the parish rectory, a Queen Anne style house built in the early 1900s, a Queen Anne style convent, also built in the early 1900s, and the parish school, a Contemporary Style building built in 1968.(4)

Still another German-speaking parish is that associated with St. Joseph Church in the hamlet of East Bristol. This parish was founded in 1847 by Rev. Inama, the founder of St. Norbert, and its first church, a

log building, was built in 1850. In 1890, the present, very fine stone Gothic Revival style church was built and the church complex also includes a convent, built in 1905, a parsonage, built in 1914, and a parish hall, built in 1923.(5) The survey also identified two German-Irish parishes as well. These are St. Mary in the hamlet of Pine Bluff and St. William, in the hamlet of Paoli. St. Mary's parish was founded in 1852 by Rev. Inama and its first church, a log building, was built in 1850 and was replaced in 1858 by a small stone church. The present stone Gothic Revival style St. Mary Church was built in 1888.(6) St. William parish was organized in the hamlet of Paoli in 1869 and its first church was built in the same year. The present Spanish Colonial style-influenced brick church was built in 1925 on the same site as the second St. William church, which was built in 1900 and burned early in 1925.(7)

**Lutheran:**

Nearly as old as the St. Norbert Church is the Lutheran church in the hamlet of Daleyville. The Daleyville congregation is of Norwegian-speaking origin and was formed in 1854. Their first church, a stone building, was begun in 1856 and finished in 1858. This stone Gothic Revival style building forms the core of the present church, which gained a wooden steeple in 1878 that as subsequently replaced by a stone steeple in 1903. A further addition was made to the sanctuary of the church in 1914 but then the entire building was gutted by fire in 1935, leaving only the stone exterior walls standing. The church was then rebuilt in its present form utilizing the original walls, and in 1961 a stone educational wing was added to the side of the church.(7)

There is also another Lutheran congregation located in the hamlet of Marxville whose church was surveyed as well. This is St. Paul's Lutheran Church, a frame clapboard-clad Gothic Revival style church that was built in 1883 and which has since been clad in vinyl and enlarged.(8)

NOTES ON SOURCES

The best sources for an overview of the history of the various Catholic churches in the county's hamlets are the *Catholic Church in Wisconsin* and the *Commemorative History: Catholic Diocese of Madison*. Other valuable resources are and the several individual church anniversary and dedication publications listed below.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVYED

Film Code	Address	Original Owner	Date	Hamlet
DA 184/11	616 Albion Rd.	Seventh Day Baptist Church	1863	Hamlet of Albion
DA 181/33	8748 STH 19	St. Paul's Lutheran Church	1883/	Hamlet of Marxville
DA 182/15	1905 CTH V	St. Joseph's R. C. Complex	1890-1937	Hamlet of East Bristol
DA 181/37	3673 CTH P	St. Mary's R. C. Church	1889/19??	Hamlet of Pine Bluff
DA 184/31	522 Feller Dr.	Montrose Methodist Church	1868	Hamlet of Montrose
DA 182/32	1338 CTH PB	Zwingli United Church of Christ		Hamlet of Paoli
DA 182/36	1371 Union St.	St. William's R. C. Church	1925	Hamlet of Paoli
DA 186/14-16	1051 STH 78	Perry Norwegian Lutheran Church	1856- 1861/1878/1903/1935/1961	Hamlet of Daleyville
DA 186/09	10828 CTH A	3rd Perry Norwegian Lutheran Church Parsonage	1919	Hamlet of Daleyville
DA 181/04-05	8944 CTH Y	St. Norbert R.C. Church Complex	1856-1937	Hamlet of Roxbury
DA 185/06	687 USH 14	United Brethren Church	1852	Hamlet of Rutland
DA 185/17	1693 Washington St.	Zwingli Reformed Church	1914	Hamlet of Mt. Vernon
DA 181/19	5958 Martinsville Rd.	St. Martin R.C. Church Complex	1861-2000	Hamlet of Martinsville
DA 184/03	4434 Second St.	Windsor Union Congregational Church	1862/1906	Hamlet of Windsor
DA 184/04	4434 Second St.	Windsor Congregational Church	1966	Hamlet of Windsor



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## ARCHITECTURE

### ARCHITECTURAL STYLES and VERNACULAR BUILDING FORMS

The principal intent of the National Register of Historic Places is to assist in the identification, evaluation, and preservation of America's historic and archeological resources by creating a nationwide list of the most significant examples of each type. Because inclusion on the National Register implies that a listed resource meets standards which have been developed to apply to all similar resources in the nation; federal, state, and local governments and private citizens can use this list to make better informed decisions regarding which resources should be preserved and protected by comparing unlisted resources with those already on the list.

The process of creating this National Register has been complicated because in a nation the size of America there exist a staggering variety of resources which can legitimately claim a place on this list. As a result, one of the principal tasks of the National Register program has been that of identifying and categorizing these resources and then adopting criteria which make it possible to select the most significant examples within each category. A good example of this larger process of identification and categorization has been the creation of the catalog of architectural styles which is used to describe and identify the nation's buildings. The history of this catalog actually begins with those European architects of the Renaissance and Baroque periods who sought to identify and understand the underlying design principles they believed were present in the Greek and Roman buildings of antiquity. One of the methods they devised to study such buildings consisted of assigning them to different categories (or "styles") based on an analysis of their visual characteristics. This was done by describing and labeling the building's component parts and then analyzing how the various parts were used to make up the whole. When enough buildings having a similar appearance had been analyzed to create a consensus of opinion as to their common characteristics, they were given a descriptive name (such as Greek or Roman) which was then called a "style". When the formal study of architectural history began in the early nineteenth century this method became a standard interpretive tool because categorizing buildings according to style proved to be of great value in giving a sense of coherence to the historic progression of architecture and to the design of the built environment.

The subsequent efforts of several generations of architectural historians resulted in the creation of a long list of architectural styles and the process of adding new names to this list and refining the definitions of existing ones continues to this day. The ongoing nature of this process must be emphasized because existing stylistic definitions are sometimes modified and even superseded by newer, more accurate ones when knowledge about historic buildings increases and understanding of common stylistic characteristics becomes more sophisticated. When the National Register program first started, for example, a whole group of late-nineteenth century buildings were lumped together under the general heading of the "picturesque style" for want of a better name. Today this term is no longer in use, having been superseded by several more narrowly defined and accurate ones. Consequently, an updated catalog of architectural styles has been incorporated in each successive version of the National Park Service's (NPS) Guidelines For Completing National Register of Historic Places Forms (now National Register Bulletin No. 16A) and the evaluation of buildings based on their stylistic characteristics has always been an integral part of the process of assessing the potential National Register eligibility of architectural resources. The NPS' justification for evaluating buildings based on their stylistic characteristics was originally stated in the beginning of the architectural classification listings on p. 54 of Bulletin No. 16A: "The following list [of architectural categories] reflects classification by style and stylistic influence, which is currently the most common and organized system of classifying architectural properties."

The National Park Service's early acceptance of the concept of architectural styles and its subsequent drafting of an approved list of such styles were events of considerable significance for the current study of America's built environment. Because so much of the effort of state and local preservation organizations today centers around placing buildings on the National Register, the criteria used by the National Register automatically become the standard criteria used by each state. Therefore, the net result of the National Register program has been to codify architectural styles at the national level. It is fortunate, then, that the

National Register program was set up to treat the process of defining architectural styles as an ongoing one. Definitions used by the National Register are routinely updated as more and better information becomes available from such important sources as intensive surveys such as this one. One of the principal tasks of an intensive survey, after all, is to produce quantitative information about the architectural resources within the area being surveyed. When the results of several intensive surveys are compared and synthesized, our understanding of the evolution and distribution of architectural resources is increased accordingly and this is sometimes manifested in revised and expanded stylistic definitions.

The importance of the National Register as an influence on other, more specialized studies of the nation's buildings can best be shown by examining its influence on such works as the *Comprehensive Resource Management Plan* (CRMP) published in 1986 by the State of Wisconsin's Department of Historic Preservation. This multi-volume work is ultimately intended to provide a thematic overview of all the built resources in the state of Wisconsin and one of the themes covered in the three volumes already published is that of Architectural Styles. The CRMP's definitions of the various architectural styles found in Wisconsin are essentially the same as those used by the National Park Service except that those in the CRMP also include information on the Wisconsin manifestations of these styles gleaned from the many intensive surveys the Division of Historic Preservation has conducted. Consequently, these have become the standard stylistic definitions used at the state level to describe Wisconsin's architectural resources and they are used in paraphrased form in the following architectural styles portion of this chapter. Each stylistic definition found on the following pages describes in some detail the way that style was used in Dane County's hamlets and mentions any manifestations of the style peculiar to these places. The resulting definitions are consistent with those used by the National Park Service but also reflect the local usage found by the intensive survey.

Dane County was first permanently settled in 1828 by Ebenezer Brigham, its oldest identified extant building is believed to be Haney's Tavern located near Cross Plains, which was built ca.1841, and the County's unincorporated hamlets contain buildings that represent many of the most important architectural styles that were found in Wisconsin between 1828 and 1953. The resulting stylistic diversity is part of the special heritage of the architecture of these hamlets. What makes these hamlets special today, though, is the fact that so much of what was built in the past has survived until the present day.

Besides surveying those buildings which fall within the standard stylistic definitions, the Dane County Unincorporated Hamlets Intensive Survey also surveyed many vernacular examples of these styles as well. Vernacular examples are ones that were built during the same time period as their more stylistically sophisticated brethren but which are generally simpler, less complex buildings that use only some of the salient design features that are characteristic of a style to achieve a similar, but generally more modest appearance. More often than not such buildings represent a local builder's interpretations of whatever style was popular at the moment. Thus, for every true Greek Revival building in Dane County's hamlets there are usually also several vernacular Greek Revival style buildings that exhibit some of the same characteristics such as returned cornices and a front door which is framed by sidelights and a transom light. The survey also noted some variants of the more common styles which are loosely grouped under the classifications "combined examples" and "transitional examples." Combined examples are created when an addition in a later style is added to a pre-existing building as, for example, when a Craftsman style wing is added to a Queen Anne style house. A transitional example occurs when the original design of a building reflects major characteristics of two or more different types as when a late Greek Revival building contains elements of the Italianate style that supplanted it.

What follows is a catalog of the styles and vernacular forms identified by the Dane County Unincorporated Hamlets Intensive Survey. The style names and the periods of their occurrence are taken directly from the CRMP as are the basic definitions of each style. This is followed by more specific information about the way each style was used in these hamlets and by a list of addresses of both the most important and the most typical of the intact and extant local examples of each style that were identified by the survey. Further information on the styles themselves can be found in the second volume of the CRMP and in its bibliography.

## Greek Revival (1830 - 1870)

The Greek Revival style was the first national style that was popularly used in Wisconsin and in Dane County. The style characteristics most commonly associated with it include porticos and corner pilasters that use Doric, Ionic or Corinthian Orders; prominent, generally front-facing gables framed with heavy moldings; low-pitched roofs; and classically inspired cornices with returns. The style is generally symmetrical and orderly and features regularly spaced door and window openings, but departures and adaptations from the norm were common depending on the kinds of building materials that were locally available. In addition, there are numerous vernacular structures with limited Greek Revival details such as rectangular massing, regular fenestration patterns, and returned cornices. The style was used for everything from state capitols and churches to stores but was most frequently seen in Wisconsin in residential buildings and churches. While both brick and stone examples exist, the vast majority of such buildings were originally of frame construction and were clad in clapboard siding.

### EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

Early photos suggest that some of Dane County's earliest residential and commercial buildings and some of its public buildings were built in the Greek Revival Style or its vernacular equivalents. This has proven to be true elsewhere in the state as well in communities of the same early vintage as those in Dane County and reflects both the eastern heritage of many of the early settlers and builders and the predominance of frame construction in the county's earliest buildings. While Dane County's hamlets originally contained numerous Greek Revival style residences and other types of buildings, very few survive today and even fewer retain their style-defining features in a more-or-less intact state.(1)

DA 185/06      687 USH 14      United Brethren Church      1852

One of the most intact examples of the Greek Revival style in Dane County's hamlets is also one of the smallest. This is the clapboard-clad Front Gable form United Brethren Church in the Hamlet of Rutland, located at 687 USH 14, which was built in 1852. Although no longer in use, both the exterior and interior of this church still retain an extraordinary degree of integrity and it is believed that this church is individually eligible for listing in the NRHP.

DA 184/03      4434 Second St.      Windsor Union Congregational Church      1862

Another Front Gable form Greek Revival style church is the small temple front building in the hamlet of Windsor that was constructed as the Windsor Union Congregational Church built in 1862 and enlarged in 1906. Originally clad in clapboard, this building has since been resided in vinyl clapboards and it is now attached to much larger current church, which was built in 1966. Never-the-less, despite being altered, this is still a good example of the style and makes an interesting comparison with the United Brethren church in Rutland.

DA 184/11      616 Albion Rd.      Seventh Day Baptist Church      1863

Another outstanding example of the style is the Seventh Day Baptist Church in the hamlet of Albion. This is the largest of the three surveyed Greek Revival style churches in Dane County and it was built in 1863 and features corner pilasters, returned eaves, and a broken pediment main facade. Unfortunately, this church has recently had its original clapboard cladding covered over or replaced with vinyl siding, thus rendering it ineligible for listing in the NRHP. Nevertheless, this is an outstanding building and an important community landmark.(2)

DA 182/28      6857 Paoli Rd.      Paoli Schoolhouse      ca.1854/??

One of the most unusual examples of the Greek Revival style is this small schoolhouse in the hamlet of Paoli, which began life as a very small Side Gable form one room building that was built ca.1854 and to

which was later added a larger Front Gable form Greek Revival style addition. The resulting L-plan building underwent numerous changes over the years but it has recently been restored to what is believed to be close to its original appearance. The building is now used as a gift shop.(3)

Besides the four public buildings listed above, two Gable Ell form residential examples of the Greek Revival style were also surveyed. These are the house at 2149 CTH W in the hamlet of Utica, which has a stucco-clad upright wing, and the somewhat similar house at 1706 Ben Franklin St. in the hamlet of Mt. Vernon, which is now clad in vinyl clapboards. Both have upright wings that feature returned eaves, these being their only specifically Greek Revival style features.

DA 184/24	2149 CTH W	House	Hamlet of Utica
DA 185/34	1706 Ben Franklin St.	House	Hamlet of Mt. Vernon

Footnotes:

1. Some idea of the prevalence of Greek Revival design can be seen by looking at the Dane County photos of Andreas Larsen Dahl, which were taken in 1870s and reveal a wealth of now vanished examples. See: Mandel, David. *Settlers of Dane County: The Photographs of Andreas Larsen Dahl*. Madison: Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission, 1985.
2. Gould, Whitney Mason and Zane Williams. *Historic Places of Rural Dane County*. Madison: Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission, 1981, n.p.
3. Interview with William Hastings of Paoli, November 27, 2002. Hastings is the former owner of the school and its restorer and he is also the restorer and owner of the NRHP-listed Paoli Mill. .

**Gothic Revival (1850-1880)**

The Gothic Revival style had its origins in the renewed interest in spirituality and religion that occurred in late eighteenth century England and France as a partial reaction to that period of intensely intellectual activity known as the Enlightenment. This reaction also extended to architecture as well and a period of disenchantment with the orderliness of the classical period of design set in. As a result, some architects turned to the Gothic period as a source of both spiritual and architectural inspiration and the results became known as the Gothic Revival style.

The most common design element of the Gothic Revival style is the pointed arch. Other Gothic Revival features include steeply pitched roofs, pinnacles, exaggerated hood molds over windows and doors and the use of "Gothic" style curvilinear ornament on and about the bargeboards under the eaves, elaborate examples often being called "Carpenters' Gothic." The style proved especially popular for religious buildings, which were often built of stone but occasionally also of wood. Religious buildings in the Gothic Revival style generally used a basilican plan; but numerous cruciform plan churches were also constructed.

Residential examples of the style almost always include such features as steeply-pitched gables, decorative bargeboards, a verandah or porch, and on larger examples sometimes a tower or turret. A variety of building materials were used, but the general appearance was monochromatic.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

DA 184/17	591 Albion Rd.	House
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Dane County's hamlets have only one residential example of the Gothic Revival style. This house is located in the hamlet of Albion and it has only minor Gothic Revival style details but is otherwise a fine and intact example of the influence the style had on home builders. This clapboard-clad house has the steeply pitched roofs that are characteristic of the style and it also has a single pointed arch window placed in the dormer that surmounts the entrance porch. Because Gothic Revival style houses are so rare and intact ones even more so it is believed that this house is individually eligible for listing in the NRHP.

DA 181/13      ca.8841 CTH Y      Frey School      ca.1874

Another excellent example of the application of Gothic Revival style elements to an otherwise vernacular style building is the Roxbury District No. 2 School, built out of stone ca.1874 and later called the Frey School. This small Front Gable form one-room school building possesses just a single Gothic Revival feature, its pointed arch main entrance door opening, but even so simple a detail is rare in buildings of this type, as is stone construction, and this, coupled with the extremely intact state of the building is believed to make this building individually eligible for listing in the NRHP.(1)

The two buildings listed above are the only secular buildings done in the Gothic Revival style that were surveyed in Dane County's thirty-two hamlets. These hamlets do, however, possess a number of very fine Gothic Revival Style church buildings, several of which are among its most notable buildings and most prominent landmarks.

DA 186/14-16      ca.1051 STH 78      Perry Norwegian Lutheran Church      1856-1861/1878/1903/1935/1961

The oldest of these churches is the Perry Norwegian Lutheran Church in the hamlet of Daleyville, which is also, ironically the most altered as well. The original part of the this stone church was begun in 1858 and completed in 1861, and this portion was repaired after being damaged in the great tornado of 1878 and was given a new stone steeple in 1903 following a lightning strike. The rear of the church was extended and remodeled in 1914 and the church survived in that form until in 1935, when another lighting strike caused a fire that left just its stone walls standing. The church that we see today is the rebuilt 1935 church to which a large stone education wing was added in 1961. While the Perry Lutheran Church has been too altered to be listed in the NRHP it is nevertheless one of the most prominent and beloved landmarks in southwest Dane County and is eminently worthy of preservation.(2)

DA 181/19      5958 Martinsville Rd.      St. Martin R.C. Church      1861-69/2000

Nearly as old as is St. Martin Roman Catholic Church, located in the hamlet of Martinsville. St. Martin was also built out of stone by settlers from Germany who began this fine example of the Gothic Revival style in 1861 as a replacement for their first church, a log building built in 1853. Their new church was completed in 1869 and its highly visible hilltop location made it an instant area landmark. In 1873, the congregation also built a new school, a new convent, and a new rectory next to the church, the latter two of which were replaced in the early 1900s and the school in 1923. In 1968, the 1923 school was replaced with the present school but the church remained unaltered until 2000, when a new stone-clad education wing was attached to the church's north side. Even so, it is believed that the St. Martin Church Complex is eligible for listing in the NRHP because it is a fine example of an intact Roman Catholic Church complex and because its church is still an excellent and largely intact early example of Gothic Revival design.(3)

DA 182/14      1935 CTH V      St. Joseph R.C. Church      1890

One of rural Dane County's largest and most elaborate Gothic Revival style churches is St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, which is located in the hamlet of East Bristol and was built in 1890 to the designs of Milwaukee architect Henry Messmer.(4) This church is also built out of stone and it is still in an excellent, highly intact state of preservation and is also still surrounded by its accompanying convent, rectory, and parish hall. Consequently, it is believed that the St. Joseph's Church Complex is eligible for listing in the NRHP because it is an excellent example of an intact Roman Catholic Church complex and because its church is an excellent and largely intact example of Gothic Revival design.

In addition to the three outstanding examples of Gothic Revival style church design discussed above, three other Gothic Revival style churches were also surveyed in the county's hamlets. The oldest of these is the clapboard-clad St. Paul's Lutheran Church in the hamlet of Marxville, which was built in 1883 and which is a typical example of the modest Gothic Revival style churches that are still to be found in many locations in the County.(5) The next oldest example is the stone-clad St. Mary Roman Catholic Church located in the hamlet of Pine Bluff. This church was completed in 1889 and it replaced an earlier stone church built

in 1858 that had replaced the original log church, built in 1854.(6) Except for a large modern entrance vestibule that now covers the front of the church, this church is still largely intact, but all of its historically associated buildings have now been demolished. The newest example of the Gothic Revival style is the Zwingli Reformed Church located in the hamlet of Mt. Vernon. This modest brick church was built in 1914 and is a late example of the style that is still in use today as the Zwingli United Church of Christ.(7)

DA 181/33	8748 STH 19	St. Paul's Lutheran Church	1883/
DA 181/37	3673 CTH P	St. Mary R. C. Church	1889/19??
DA 185/17	1693 Washington St.	Zwingli Reformed Church	1914

Footnotes:

1. *St. Norbert Congregation, Roxbury: One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Anniversary, 1846-1971*. Roxbury, WI: 1971, pp. 49-52 (illustrated).
2. Perry Historical Center. *The Historic Perry Norwegian Settlement*. Daleyville, WI: The Perry Historical Center, 1994, pp. 191-197 (illustrated). See also: *Perry Ev. Lutheran Church: 100th Anniversary, 1854-1954*. Daleyville, WI: 1954 (illustrated).
3. *The Catholic Church in Wisconsin*. Catholic Historical Publishing Co.: Milwaukee: 1895-1898, pp. 544-545 (illustrated). See also: Brophy, William K. (ed.). *Commemorative History: Catholic Diocese of Madison*. Madison: Roman Catholic Diocese of Madison, 1997, pp. 20, 171 (illustrated).
4. Klein, Rev. A. (pastor). *Geschichte der St. Josephs-Gemeinde von East Bristol, Wisconsin von 1847-1907*. East Bristol: 1907, p. 64.
5. Eisner, Herman. *Town of Berry: A History of the First Hundred Years, 1850-1950*. 1950, n.p. (p. 7).
6. Brophy, William K. (ed.). *Commemorative History: Catholic Diocese of Madison*. Madison: Roman Catholic Diocese of Madison, 1997, p. 182 (illustrated).
7. Zumbunnen, Mary Hanna. *A History of the Township of Primrose*. DeForest, WI: 1990, p. 108.

**Italianate (1850-1880)**

The typical hallmarks of the many high-style Italianate residences in Wisconsin are wide eaves with brackets, low-pitched hipped or gabled roofs, and often a polygonal or square cupola placed on the roof. These buildings are typically either "T," "L," cruciform, or square in plan, they frequently have smaller ells attached to the rear of the main block, and they tend to have boxy proportions. Other common characteristics include verandahs or loggias, bay windows, balustraded balconies, and tall windows with hood molds or pediments. Italianate Style residences are typically two stories in height and they are typically clad in either clapboard, brick, and, less frequently, in stone.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

Historic photos show that Dane County's hamlets originally contained a considerable number of Italianate style residences and other types of buildings, but the intensive survey found that few of these survive today and even fewer retain their style-defining features in a more-or-less intact state. Only five residential examples of the Italianate Style in these communities had enough integrity to warrant being surveyed today.

DA 184/16	783 Bliven Rd.	J. Saunders House	18??
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The finest of these five houses and an excellent and rare example of the Italianate style is the J. Saunders house located at 783 Bliven Rd. in the hamlet of Albion.(1) This exceptional example is clad in clapboard and has a two-story main block with a symmetrical five-bay-wide facade that is crowned by a shallow-pitched hipped roof whose overhanging eaves are supported by brackets and on which is centered a square plan cupola. Such a design is not uncommon but in addition to the main block the house also has two balancing one-story hipped roof wings attached to its two side elevations, and each of these wings has an inset porch inserted into its main facade as well. The resulting symmetrical composition is an imposing





Another example of the style that has now lost much of its original appearance is the South Hall building of the Albion Academy, located in the hamlet of Albion. Built in 1868 as the newest of what was originally a three building campus, the cream brick-clad South Hall was originally a three-story building that has now been reduced to three stories and otherwise modified.(4)

Footnotes:

1. *Map of Dane County, Wisconsin*. Madison: A. Ligowsky, 1862 and *Plat Book of Dane County, Wisconsin*. Minneapolis: C. M. Foote & Co., 1890. (Both reprinted by Great Graphics! of Middleton, WI. in 1998 and 1996, respectively.)
2. Mandel, David. *Settlers of Dane County: The Photographs of Andreas Larsen Dahl*. Madison: Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission, 1985, pp. 79-81 (illustrated).
3. Stith, Grace. "Bootstrap Restoration." *The Wisconsin Architect*: December, 1985, p. 13 (illustrated).
4. Emery, J. Q. "Albion Academy." *Wisconsin Magazine of History*: Vol. VII, No. 3, March 1924, pp. 301-321. See also: Adolphson, Svea M. *A History of Albion Academy: 1853-1918*. Beloit, WI: Rock County Rehabilitation Services, Inc., 1976.

**Romanesque Revival (1855-1885)**

As its name implies, the Romanesque Revival style was a modern reuse of the style which had preceded the Gothic style in European architecture. The dominant feature of the Romanesque Revival style is the round arch, which was used in windows, doors, and corbel tables. The style was especially popular for church buildings and was used for this type of building long after it ceased to be used for other types of buildings. Church buildings designed in this style frequently have a combination of towers of different heights, creating an asymmetrical composition, but symmetrical massing is also common. Towers, sometimes with parapets or a pyramidal roof, are often seen, and monochromatic brick or stone were the most popular building materials.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

DA 181/04-05    8944 CTH Y                      St. Norbert R.C. Church                      1856-60/1896/1906

The only surveyed example of the Romanesque Revival style in Dane County's hamlets is St. Norbert Roman Catholic Church in the hamlet of Roxbury, one of Dane County's most outstanding rural churches. The earliest part (the nave) of the present church is built out of stone and was begun in 1856 and completed in 1860, at which time it was attached to an earlier brick church built in 1853 that served as the sacristy for the new church. The 1860 church was subsequently enlarged in 1896 when Madison architect John V. Nader produced designs for a new steeple, transepts, and sanctuary.(1) The stone steeple and transepts were built in 1896 and the new transept replaced the older brick portion dating from 1853. The church did not achieve its current appearance until 1906, however, when the stone sanctuary was finally completed.(2) The exceptionally intact and beautifully cared for church that one sees today is a beautifully composed and harmonious composition that gives little hint of the additive process that created it. The significance of the church is further enhanced by the survival of its still extant rectory and school and the entire complex is believed to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Footnotes:

1. *Madison Democrat*. June 19, 1919 (obituary of John Nadar).
2. *St. Norbert Congregation, Roxbury: One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Anniversary, 1846-1971*. Roxbury, WI: 1971, pp. 29-32, 74-78, 82-84 (illustrated). See also: *The Catholic Church in Wisconsin*. Catholic Historical Publishing Co.: Milwaukee: 1895-1898, pp. 522-523 (illustrated). See also: Brophy, William K. (ed.). *Commemorative History: Catholic Diocese of Madison*. Madison: Roman Catholic Diocese of Madison, 1997, p. 187 (illustrated).

## Queen Anne (1880-1910)

Most American examples of the Queen Anne style are residential buildings and because the period of this style's greatest popularity coincided with a period of enormous suburban growth in America, extant examples are numerous and now virtually define the Victorian period house in the popular imagination. Queen Anne style houses can be identified by their apparently irregular plans, complex use of often classically inspired ornamentation, and asymmetrical massing. The designs of these buildings often include polygonal bay windows, round or polygonal turrets, wrap-around verandahs, and steeply-pitched multi-gable or combination gable and hip roofs which usually have a dominate front-facing gable. Use of a variety of surface materials, roof shapes, and wall projections are all typical in Queen Anne designs and are represented in a seemingly endless number of different combinations. Shingle or clapboard siding is common, and they are often combined in the same building, sometimes above a brick first story.

### EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

Queen Anne style houses are the most frequently encountered examples of late nineteenth century and early twentieth century high style architecture in Dane County's hamlets. The Intensive Survey surveyed 31 residential examples of the Queen Anne style, some of which are the most architecturally impressive late nineteenth and early twentieth century residential buildings in their respective communities. Fine clapboard-clad examples of the style are located in every part of the County, including: the house at 4393 Windsor St. in the hamlet of Windsor; the James Morrison II House at 4640 Willow St. in the hamlet of Morrisonville, built in 1904; the house at 7780 Martinsville Rd. in the hamlet of Martinsville; the house at 3614 Hollyridge La. in the hamlet of London; and the elaborate and highly intact Walser Farmhouse at 6141 CTH KP in the hamlet of Marxville, which is reputed to have incorporated portions an earlier log house on the site within it and which is believed to be individually eligible for listing in the NRHP.

DA 183/35	4393 Windsor Rd.	House	
DA 183/25	4640 Willow St.	James Morrison II House	1904
DA 181/23	7780 Martinsville Rd.	House	
DA 184/09	3614 Hollyridge La.	House	
DA 181/30	6141 CTH KP	Walser Farmhouse	

Other Queen Anne style houses of equal quality are clad in brick, but examples are much more scarce. The best of these include: the house at 8638 Davis St. in the hamlet of Mt. Vernon; and the excellent cream brick-clad St. Norbert R. C. Church Rectory at 8944 CTH Y in the hamlet of Roxbury, built in 1903, and believed to be eligible for listing in the NRHP as part of the St. Norbert R.C. Church Complex.(1)

DA 185/32	8638 Davis St.	House	
DA 181/06	8944 CTH Y	St. Norbert R. C. Church Rectory	1903

The great majority of the Queen Anne style houses in Dane County hamlet's, however, lack the wealth of detailing that is usually associated with the best examples of this style. This is also true in most other communities in Wisconsin, however, and is indicative of the expense involved in creating really elaborate Queen Anne style designs. Most home builders of the period were content to use just the more basic design elements associated with the style such as more complex, irregular, and often larger floor plans, combining two or three different patterns of wood shingles to side the upper floors and gable ends, and making use of several dormers of different sizes and sizable porches decorated with varying degrees of trim. Other typical features include the use of variegated surface materials, multiple dormers, bay and oriel windows, and towers and turrets.

Regardless of the number of design elements or the varieties of materials used, the vast majority of the other surveyed Queen Anne style houses in Dane County's hamlets are of just two types: either cruciform plan and T-plan house usually topped with multi-gable or gable and hip roofs; or essentially square or rectilinear plan houses usually topped with gable or multi-gable roofs.

The best of the intact surveyed Dane County examples of the cruciform or T-plan type include:

DA 182/11	2019 CTH V	House	Hamlet of East Bristol
DA 185/12	1718 Washington St.	House	Hamlet of Mt. Vernon
DA 185/30	8641 Davis St.	House	Hamlet of Mt. Vernon
DA 181/24	7784 Martinsville Rd.	House	Hamlet of Martinsville
DA 183/31	4483 Windsor Rd.	House	Hamlet of Windsor

The best examples of the square or rectilinear plan type include:

DA 183/29	4658 CTH DM	Gilbert H. Rockstad/T. H. Mair House	1904, Hamlet of Morrisonville
DA 183/17	7805 Clinton Rd.	House	Hamlet of Morrisonville

Nearly all the above listed houses are clad either completely or partially in wooden clapboards, the partial examples being usually also clad in wood shingles as well.

The Queen Anne style was also used for commercial buildings and their designs were much more likely to approximate the appearance of contemporary English models than was the case with residential designs. Wisconsin examples of Queen Anne style commercial buildings are generally from one to three stories tall, have exterior walls which are usually constructed of brick, have either brick or stone trim, feature period revival style ornamentation that is sometimes of English origin, and have exterior elevations that feature bay windows or oriel windows placed above the first floor and corner towers that are either full height or treated as oriel bays.

Only a single example was found in this survey: the now altered Burton Woodward General Store Building, built ca.1885, DA 183/23, 7850 Morrison St., in the hamlet of Morrisonville.(1)

Footnotes:

1. *St. Norbert Congregation, Roxbury: One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Anniversary, 1846-1971*. Roxbury, WI: 1971, pp. 81-83 (illustrated).
2. Englesby, John. *Morrisonville: Origin and Early History*. Morrisonville: 1980, p. 17 (illustrated).

**Neo-Classical Revival (1895-1935)**

A style which became especially popular for public, institutional, and commercial buildings after the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, the Neo-Classical Revival style was classical in inspiration and planning and stressed symmetry and the use of classical detailing. This detailing typically includes such characteristic elements as porticos whose roofs are supported by classical order columns, and symmetrically balanced windows and doors. The use of columns is all but ubiquitous in Neo-Classical design and they may be either freestanding or used as engaged design elements such as pilasters and pilaster strips. Public examples of the style were usually executed in stone or brick wall cladding and feature materials designed to express a feeling of monumentality and permanence.

**EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:**

Only a single example of the Neo-Classical Revival style was found in any of Dane County's hamlets. This is the now altered Morrisonville State Bank Building in the hamlet of Morrisonville, which is a good example of a small public building that was designed in the Neo-Classical idiom but whose use of columns is confined to pilaster strips on the main facade or to the use of other classically derived ornament. The bank was built in 1902 and is located at ca.7848 Morrison St.(1)

DA 183/24	ca.7848 Morrison St.	Morrisonville State Bank Building	1902
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Footnote:

1. Englesby, John. *Morrisonville: Origin and Early History*. Morrisonville: 1980, p. 21 (illustrated).

**American Craftsman (1900-1920)**

Like the associated Arts and Crafts style, the American Craftsman style had its origins in the work of English architects and designers who sought a new approach to house design by using simplified elements of traditional vernacular houses to produce a comprehensive design in which exterior and interior elements worked together to produce a unified whole. Unlike Arts and Crafts designs, however, the American Craftsman style did not choose to imitate its English heritage. Instead, by applying the basic principles of Arts and Crafts design to American needs and building materials, designers such as Wisconsin native Gustave Stickley were able to fashion buildings having a specifically American appearance. The American Craftsman style is characterized by quality construction and simple, well-crafted exterior and interior details. Natural materials are used both inside and out in a manner appropriate to each and wood is by far the most common material used both inside and out with brick, stucco, and wood shingles also being typical exterior building materials. Frequently the exteriors of American Craftsman style houses use broad bands of contrasting materials (such as wood shingles above stucco) to delineate different stories. American Craftsman style homes usually have broad gable or hipped main roofs with one or two large front dormers and widely overhanging eaves, exposed brackets or rafters, and prominent chimneys. Most designs also feature multi-light windows having simplified Queen Anne style sash patterns. Open front porches whose roofs are supported by heavy piers are a hallmark of the style, and glazed sun porches and open roofed wooden pergola-like porches are also common.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

Craftsman Style buildings are not plentiful in Dane County's hamlets, only five examples having been surveyed, but the best ones use the most of the stylistic elements listed above. Interestingly, all five of the surveyed examples are clad in brick and they include four houses and one school. The finest and largest of these is the Perry Norwegian Lutheran Church Parsonage located in the hamlet of Daleyville. This fine house was built in 1919 and it was the third parsonage built by that church and is still in excellent condition today.(1)

DA 186/09      10828 CTH A      Third Perry Norwegian Lutheran Church Parsonage      1919

The other two residential examples include:

DA 186/05	642 Perry Center Rd.	House	Hamlet of Forward
DA 186/08	10859 CTH A	House	Hamlet of Daleyville
DA 184/10	3557 CTH O	House	Hamlet of London

Also surveyed was the London Grade School in the hamlet of London, which was built in 1924, a good example of the style as applied to a small multi-room school building.

DA 184/07      3655 CTH O      London Grade School      1924      Hamlet of London

Footnote:

1. Perry Historical Center. *The Historic Perry Norwegian Settlement*. Daleyville, WI: The Perry Historical Center, 1994, p. 49 (illustrated).

**American Foursquare (1900-1930)**

A residential style popularized by builders across the country, the American Foursquare is easily identified by its box-like form and broad proportions. As the name implies, examples of this style are often square in plan although examples having a slightly rectilinear plan are also very common. Examples are almost always two or two-and-a-half stories in height and usually have a shallow-pitched hip roof, widely overhanging eaves, and centrally placed dormers which are occasionally placed on each of the four slopes of the more elaborate hip roofed examples. Entrance doors were originally almost always sheltered by porches and most examples of the style feature a one-story, full-width front porch which is often supported by Tuscan columns. Exterior materials include brick, stucco, concrete block, clapboard or wood shingles, or combinations of these materials. American Craftsman style-influenced designs often alternate exterior finishes by floor, creating a banded appearance. Decoration is minimal, though some of the better examples are embellished with period details or American Craftsman style details such as porch piers decorated with trellis-like abstract designs which, in the finest examples, strongly suggest membership in another stylistic category such as the Colonial Revival or Prairie School styles. Never-the-less, the overall proportions of even the most elaborate of these buildings always give them away and reveals their American Foursquare style roots.

#### EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED

American Foursquare style houses are one of the more common early twentieth century styles found in Dane County's hamlets, six examples having been surveyed. The largest and most extravagant of these is also the only one built out of concrete blocks. This examples is located at 6111 CTH TT in the hamlet of Deansville and it was built in 1902 and is believed to be individually eligible for listing in the NRHP. Another fine brick-clad example is the Rectory of St. Joseph's R.C. Church located in the hamlet of East Bristol, which was built in 1914 and is believed to be eligible for listing in the NRHP as part of the St. Joseph's R.C. Church Complex.(1)

DA 182/25	6111 CTH TT	House	1902	Hamlet of Deansville
DA 182/15	1905 CTH V	St. Joseph's R. C. Rectory	1914	Hamlet of East Bristol

Clapboard-sided examples of the style are the most common in the County's hamlets and the most intact examples include:

DA 184/30	6766 Henry Rd.	House	Hamlet of Basco
DA 182/35	6895 Harrison St.	House	Hamlet of Paoli
DA 183/18	4553 Selje Rd.	Farmhouse	Hamlet of Morrisonville

Examples of the American Foursquare style built of brick are slightly less common. The best include:

DA 185/25	8665 Liberty St.	Farmhouse	Hamlet of Mt. Vernon
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#### Footnote:

1. Drury, John. *This is Dane County, Wisconsin*. Chicago: Inland Photo Co., 1960, p. 164 (illustrated).

#### **Bungalow (1910-1940)**

The term Bungalow has the unusual distinction of being both the name of a style and the generic name for a particular type of small residential building. Consequently, it is quite usual to speak of Colonial Revival style Bungalows when describing some houses of small size having pronounced Colonial Revival style design elements even as it is usual to speak of other houses as being in the Bungalow style. Bungalow style houses themselves are generally small-sized, have either square or rectilinear floor plans, and are usually one-story-tall. When a second story is needed, it is placed under the slope of the main roof in order to maintain the single story appearance and dormers are typically used to admit light. Bungalow designs

typically have a horizontal emphasis and are covered with wide, projecting gable or hip roofs which often have protruding rafter ends or brackets supporting the eaves. On almost every example of the style the front door is sheltered by a porch and full-width front porches are commonplace. The roofs of these porches are often supported by piers having a battered shape although many other shapes can be found depending on the amount of influence other styles had in the overall design. Horizontal clapboard siding is the usual exterior surface material for these buildings although stucco, concrete block, brick veneer, wood shingle and even log examples are also found. Detailing is usually structural rather than ornamental and features plain, well-executed woodwork.

Occasionally, Bungalows feature design elements borrowed from other styles such as the Craftsman, Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, and Prairie School styles and sometimes these other styles are so dominant that they take precedent over the Bungalow style. In general, though, Bungalows can be divided into three principal types: side-gabled; front-gabled; and hip-roofed. Each type can have either square or rectilinear plans and can be either one or one-and-a-half stories tall and their exteriors can be surfaced in any one of the materials listed above or in combinations of them.

The Bungalow style is also not a common residential building style in Dane County hamlets, only five examples having been surveyed. The following are all of the surveyed examples of each type of Bungalow and they are grouped here regardless of other stylistic influences or siding materials.

**EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:**

Side-gabled Bungalows:

DA 184/35	1523 CTH B	House	Hamlet of Utica
DA 186/22	1088 STH 78	Daleyville Mill/Dr. E. D. & Lenore McQuillian House	
ca.1880/1920			
DA 181/03	8980 CTH Y	House	Hamlet of Daleyville(1)
DA 181/14	6144 USH 12	House	Hamlet of Roxbury
			Hamlet of Springfield Corners

Front-gable Bungalows:

DA 183/06	5313 Felland Rd.	House	Hamlet of Burke
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Footnote:

1. Perry Historical Center. *The Historic Perry Norwegian Settlement*. Daleyville, WI: The Perry Historical Center, 1994, pp. 40-41 (illustrated). This house began life as a part of a mill that was built in 1880, and which was cut in half in 1920 and converted into two Bungalow style houses that are located side by side in Daleyville.

**PERIOD REVIVAL STYLES (1900-1940)**

The phrase "period revival" is a generic term used to describe the many different historic styles and design elements that architects revived and reinterpreted for modern use in the first decades of the twentieth century. These "period" designs were the products of the scholarly study of architectural history and they began to exert more and more influence on architectural design as the nineteenth century matured. By the turn-of-the-century, the study of architectural precedent had become a basic part of architectural training and resulted in buildings which were increasingly careful copies of historic styles. The most accurate copies were usually produced for houses and churches; two building types for which historic models

actually existed. More often, though, architects were confronted with the challenge of producing designs for building types for which there were no historic precedents such as high-rise office buildings and gas filling stations.

Dane County's hamlets have very few examples of the Period Revival styles since their period of occurrence does not correspond to a period of growth in these community's histories. What follows are lists of the most common Period Revival style buildings found by the Intensive Survey.

### **Colonial Revival (1900-1940)**

Interest in America's historic Colonial Period architecture increased at the end of the nineteenth century at a time when a reaction to the stylistic excesses of the Queen Anne style was beginning to set in. The greater simplicity of Colonial examples gave new houses designed in this manner a fresh, modern appeal. The Colonial Revival style is simple and regular in design and typically features symmetrically placed windows and central doors. Usually, these buildings are two stories in height, they have exteriors sided in either clapboards or wood shingles, although brick and even stone examples are also found. Many Colonial Revival houses have an L shaped plan but most examples have rectilinear plans and post World War I examples often have an attached garage. Symmetrical designs are typical but not invariable. Borrowing architectural detailing from genuine Georgian, Federal, and Dutch Colonial examples is typical in Colonial Revival buildings although such details are usually not elaborate. These features include classically derived main entrances and front (and side) entrance porches that are typically supported by simple one-story-tall classical order columns and are topped by pediments. Other popular features include corner pilasters, denticulated cornices, and shutters. The great majority of Colonial Revival designs have simple gable roof designs although hip roof examples are also found, and dormers are also popular features.

The Colonial Revival style is primarily a residential one and although buildings designed in the style were occasionally quite grand, most were medium size houses and these were built in vast numbers all across America. Indeed, so enduring has the popularity of this style been that many modern homes in Wisconsin and elsewhere still imitate it. Not surprisingly, these houses come in many shapes and forms. Many are highly symmetrical in design but others are quite informal and rambling, it all depended on the particular historic precedent each was trying to emulate. Wall cladding also varies considerably. Houses clad entirely in stucco, brick, stone, wooden clapboards, or steel that imitates wooden clapboards are plentiful but so also are examples that mix these various materials, although few if any mix more than two kinds at once. Despite this variety of designs and materials, however, the use of some elements such as double hung multi-light windows, main roofs that have very shallow boxed eaves, and main entrance doors that typically have some classical allusions, is relatively consistent.

#### **EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:**

Only two examples of the Colonial Revival style were surveyed in the County's hamlets. Both follow a symmetrical design precedent, the house located in Morrisonville being especially fine:

DA 183/28	4664 CTH DM	House	Hamlet of Morrisonville
DA 186/03	9992 CTH A	Ilow & Ruth Peterson House	Hamlet of Forward(1)

#### **Footnote:**

1. Perry Historical Center. *The Historic Perry Norwegian Settlement*. Daleyville, WI: The Perry Historical Center, 1994, p. 103.

### **Dutch Colonial Revival (1900-1940)**

A popular early twentieth century building style, the Dutch Colonial Revival style was almost always used solely for residential buildings. Examples of this style can be readily identified by the hallmark gambrel

shape roof. In general, Dutch Colonial Revival style residences can be divided into two types: those whose gambrel ends face to the front and those that face to the sides. Front-facing gambrel ends are more often found on earlier examples and on vernacular examples of the style while side-facing gambrel ends were favored for both larger and later examples. These buildings are generally symmetrical in appearance but side-gambrelled examples often have a small sun porch wing at one end. Exterior walls are typically clad in either clapboards, wood shingles, brick, or stone and contrasting materials (such as clapboard above brick or stone) are also frequently used to delineate different floors and help to produce a more informal appearance. Most examples of the style are one-and-a-half stories tall and the use of large dormers to admit light to the second floor rooms is common, especially on later, side-gambrelled examples.

**EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:**

Examples of the Dutch Colonial Revival are even more uncommon in Dane County's hamlets than their Colonial Revival counterparts, the survey having identified just one intact example, a relatively rare example of a cross gable variant.

DA 184/34	1487 CTH B	House	Hamlet of Utica
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**Georgian Revival (1900-1940)**

This style borrows from both the historic Georgian and Federal styles and uses such characteristic design elements as symmetrical facades, rectangular plans, hipped roofs, and accurate classical details to produce designs having a sense of formality about them which is not typical of examples of the related Colonial Revival style. Popular exterior design elements include corners sporting quoins, denticulated cornices, Palladian-style three-unit windows, and symmetrically disposed double hung windows having 6, 8, or 12 lights placed in the top sash (and sometimes in the lower sash as well). A favorite spot for elaborate ornamentation is the centrally-placed entrance door and typical features are broken pediments, classical order columns, semi-elliptical fanlights or transom lights, sidelights, and paneled entrance doors. Brick and stone are popular exterior materials and trim is often of wood although stone is also found on larger examples. Not surprisingly, then, the Georgian Revival style is most frequently found on residential buildings in more prestigious neighborhoods.

**EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:**

Dane County's hamlets have no historic examples of the Georgian Revival style. The only surveyed example is the Windsor Congregational Church in the hamlet of Windsor, which was built in 1966 out of red brick and which is located next to the Greek Revival style Windsor Congregational church that was mentioned earlier in this report.

DA 184/04	4434 Second St.	Windsor Congregational Church	1966
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**Tudor Revival (1900-1940)**

Inspired by 16th century and 19th century English models, the Tudor Revival style has been used for nearly every type of building but most frequently for single family residences. The most characteristic feature of this style is the ornamental use of half-timber work filled in with stucco or brick applied over a conventional balloon frame. Residential examples in particular tend to be irregular in plan and often have massive and sometimes elaborately decorated brick or stone chimneys, multi-gabled steeply-pitched roof lines, and large multi-paned window expanses which are almost always made up of grouped casement windows on the finer examples. Although examples occasionally have elements sided in either clapboard or wood shingles, most examples are usually partially or completely sided in brick, stone, or stucco.



EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

The only example of the Tudor Revival style that was identified in the Dane County Survey is also located in the hamlet of Windsor and it is also a late example of the style. This is the stone-clad house located at 4373 Windsor Rd., which is perhaps more accurately described as an early Tudor Revival style-influenced Ranch style house

DA 183/37      4373 Windsor Rd.      House      Hamlet of Windsor

**Spanish Colonial/Mediterranean Revival**

These styles share a common heritage in the architecture of southern Europe and take as their inspiration the vernacular architecture of this region as modified by successive periods of high style designs. This mixture resulted in an architecture which clearly expresses volume by the use of flat surfaces that are relieved by the use of arcaded design elements such as doors, windows, and repeated decorative motifs, and by using terra cotta, plaster, and tile ornamentation. Both styles can be identified by these and other frequently shared elements such as tile-covered hipped roofs, which are often supported by heavy brackets under the eaves, and round-arched elements such as door and window openings. Both styles also invariably utilize some type of masonry material for exterior walls.

Mediterranean Revival style structures are generally more formal in plan and appearance than are Spanish Colonial Revival style buildings. The best examples of the Mediterranean Revival style have a pronounced classical feeling and typically utilize symmetrical elevations and plans, brick and/or stone wall cladding, and wrought iron elements such as balconets and window grills. Spanish Colonial Revival buildings are typically more informal in plan, they are much more likely to have plastered or stuccoed walls (although partially exposed brick walls are also sometimes used), and they make much more frequent use of wooden decorative elements. As a result, Spanish Colonial Revival style buildings typically have a more informal appearance than Mediterranean Revival style examples.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

The only example of the Spanish Colonial Revival style found in any of Dane County's hamlets is an unusual one. This is St. William's R.C. Church, located in the hamlet of Paoli. This brick church was built in 1925 on the foundation of an earlier church of the same name that had been built in 1900 and destroyed by fire earlier in 1925.(1) The use of Spanish Colonial features such as the shaped upper termination of the main facade, a corner bell tower, and the use of round arched openings, are limited just to the main facade of the church, the nave having flat-arched openings. It is likely that the current church was architect-designed but the name of the architect has not yet been found. Nevertheless, the church is still in largely original condition today and examples of this style are so rare that it is believed that St. Williams may be individually eligible for listing in the NRHP.

DA 182/36      1371 Union St.      St. William's R. C. Church      1925

Footnote:

1. Brophy, William K. (ed.). *Commemorative History: Catholic Diocese of Madison*. Madison: Roman Catholic Diocese of Madison, 1997, p. 180 (illustrated).

**Twentieth Century Commercial Style (1910-1935)**

The Twentieth Century Commercial Style is the most frequently observed of all styles applied to commercial buildings built in the early part of this century. Unlike other styles that were applied to the smaller commercial buildings of the period, this one was generally utilitarian in design and it is found in

both small and large cities throughout the state. Examples range from small one-story single storefront buildings to large two and three story, multi-unit commercial blocks.

Unlike the Commercial Vernacular form buildings (which see) that were built to house similar commercial enterprises in the nineteenth century, the twentieth century equivalent is broader and has less vertical emphasis. The style is characterized by a relatively unornamented, two-dimensional facade and a broad rectangular massing. Buildings are generally executed in brick, but other masonry and tile cladding is also found. A stepped or shaped parapet, often topped with a stone or concrete coping, is a common feature. Ornamentation is generally limited to the use of contrasting materials or to simple geometric patterns made of brick in the cornice and simply ornamented storefronts, occasionally topped with a prism glass transom, are the rule. Typical examples will have rectangular panels in the cornice outlined by soldier or header brick courses, the insets of which are sometimes detailed with decorative brickwork in herringbone or basket weave patterns. Small insets of tile, stone, or concrete in diamond, square, or other simple shapes often form secondary accents.

The popularity of the Twentieth Century Commercial Style may be due to the simplicity of its design and ease of construction. A secondary factor was its versatility in adapting to the new types and needs of commercial enterprises emerging in the early years of the century such as automobile showrooms and department stores. As the century progressed, examples become plainer in design, perhaps reflecting other modernistic architectural influences.

**EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:**

All three of the examples surveyed were originally associated with the development of the automobile and they are all of masonry construction (the example located in Windsor is built out of concrete block) and are listed below.

DA 186/21	1080 STH 78	Iverson Garage Building	1920	Hamlet of Mt. Vernon(1)
DA 185/18	1688 Washington St.	Commercial Building		Hamlet of Mt. Vernon
DA 183/32	4452 Windsor Rd.	Garage		Hamlet of Windsor

Footnote:

1. Perry Historical Center. *The Historic Perry Norwegian Settlement*. Daleyville, WI: The Perry Historical Center, 1994, pp. 41-42, 45 (illustrated).

**Contemporary Style (1946- )**

The Contemporary Style is a provisional term which is applied to the vast numbers of buildings built after World War II that are truly modern in inspiration and which owe nothing to past designs or historic examples. Unfortunately, because the scholarly effort that will eventually categorize these buildings into styles is still in its infancy, nothing can be said at this time to characterize such buildings, nor are most of them eligible for inclusion in the NRHP, which normally accepts only those buildings that are 50 years old or older. Never-the-less, it is important that intensive surveys such as this one try to identify buildings that, by virtue of their excellent design, may eventually be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

The survey of Dane County's hamlets identified only one Contemporary Style building in the survey areas that should be considered for further study in the future. This is the fine St. Martin's R.C. School in the hamlet of Martinsville, which was built in 1967-68 and is included in the St. Martin's R.C. Church Complex that is believed to be eligible for listing in the NRHP.

**EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:**

DA 181/22	5953 Martinsville Rd.	St. Martin's R. C. School	1968
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Footnote:

1. Brophy, William K. (ed.). *Commemorative History: Catholic Diocese of Madison*. Madison: Roman Catholic Diocese of Madison, 1997, p. 171. See also: *Wisconsin State Journal*. March 18, 1973 (illustrated).

## **VERNACULAR FORMS**

One of the most important developments that has come from a generation of intensive surveys has been the realization that an undistorted understanding of the totality of the built environment of America cannot be achieved by looking only at those buildings designed using the "high" styles. Such buildings account for only a small percentage of the total number of existing buildings and intensive surveys have repeatedly documented the fact that buildings which lie outside the normal stylistic categories (collectively called vernacular buildings) play a crucial role in defining the look of the American landscape.

In order to better understand this role it has been necessary to develop a new set of categories to aid in the identification of these vernacular buildings. This effort has been greatly aided by intensive surveys such as this one which produce a systematic record of the environment when the data they contain is combined. This record then becomes the data base which researchers have used in developing the various categories of vernacular buildings currently in use. Because these categories are based on the appearance or form of identified buildings the names they have been given are descriptive in nature and are called "forms" rather than "styles". It needs to be emphasized that this process of identification and analysis is an ongoing one and that the names and definitions of the forms listed here may be subject to revision as new data is found and analyzed.

### **Front Gable (ca.1840-1925)**

The Front Gable form is predominately found on small to medium-sized residences which have a rectangular plan and a simple gable roof, with the major facade of the building being that which is terminated vertically by the front-facing gable end. One-and-a-half story examples are the most common in Wisconsin, but one, two, and two-and-a-half story versions also occur. One-and-a-half story examples frequently have dormers on one or both roof planes. The front-facing principal facades are typically symmetrical and some have small entry porches or an uncovered stoop while others have full-width front porches having shed or hipped roofs. Ornamentation is generally simple, consisting of such details as turned porch posts, decorative shingles, oversize parlor windows sometimes including etched or stained glass transoms, and simply detailed sills and windows. Earlier examples are usually narrow in width and in proportion and have steeply pitched roofs; later versions are broader with more gently sloped roofs. The front gable form is usually a wood frame structure sided with clapboard. Less frequently, these buildings were sided in wood shingles, stucco, or brick. In addition, many twentieth century examples of this form are found more appropriately within the Bungalow style.

### **EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:**

Seventeen examples of the Front Gable form were recorded in Dane County's hamlets. Residential examples vary widely in age and size but they tend to be small and to have clapboard-clad exterior siding. In addition, most of these houses are also either one or one-and-one-half stories tall, although there are two-story examples as well. Many of these houses also appear to have been built between 1895 and 1925, although some are clearly much older, such as the stone-clad house located in the hamlet of Pine Bluff, located at 3774 CTH P. Examples of this form may also display some of the characteristics of other styles as well.

What follows is a listing of the best and most intact of the surveyed residential examples of the form.

DA 181/36	3774 CTH P	House		Hamlet of Pine Bluff
DA 184/28	6735 Henry Rd.	House		Hamlet of Basco
DA 186/18	1072 STH 78	Olaus & Ingeborg Thompson House	1895	Hamlet of Daleyville
DA 184/36	2365 CTH N	House		Hamlet of Kegonsa
DA 181/10	7199 Inama Rd.	House		Hamlet of Roxbury
DA 183/34	4401 Windsor Rd.	House		Hamlet of Windsor

Also found were Front Gable form non-residential buildings. One of the newest is the red brick St. Joseph's R.C. Parish Hall in the hamlet of East Bristol. This highly intact building is crowned by a small bell tower and is believed to eligible for listing in the NRHP as part of the St. Joseph's R.C. Church Complex.(1) Another earlier example of the form adapted to use as a school is the Utica District School No. 3, located in the hamlet of Utica. This cream brick-clad school was built in 1896 and has a rest room addition built with WPA labor in 1936. The school has round-arched windows and doors and a small bell tower and the DHP is on record as stating that this school is potentially individually eligible for listing in the NRHP.(2) Another stone-clad example is the Montrose Methodist church, located in the hamlet of Montrose, which was built in 1868 and has now been converted into a single family residence.(3) Still another Front Gable form cream brick-clad school is the Pleasant Springs School in the hamlet of Kegonsa, which was built in 1873, had a Contemporary style classroom addition added in the 1950s or 1960s, and has since been converted into a single family residence. Two other excellent examples used as commercial buildings are both located in the hamlet of Springfield Corners. These are the stone-clad Louis Martini store and the clapboard-clad Jacques Grange Store, both of which have already been determined eligible for listing in the NRHP.(4)

DA 182/12	1935 CTH V	St. Joseph's R.C. Church Hall	1937	Hamlet of East Bristol
DA 184/22	1390 CTH B	District School No. 3	1896/1936	Hamlet of Utica
DA 184/31	522 Feller Dr.	Montrose Methodist Church	1868	Hamlet of Montrose
DA 182/32	1338 CTH PB	Zwingli United Church of Christ		Hamlet of Paoli
DA 185/03	2370 CTH N	Pleasant Springs School	1873/19??	Hamlet of Kegonsa
DA 184/32	523 Feller Dr.	Montrose School		Hamlet of Montrose(5)
DA 181/15	6132 USH 12	Louis Martini Store/Post Office	ca.1855	Hamlet of Springfield Corners
DA 181/17	6210 CTH P	Jacque Grosse Store/Farmstead	ca.1855	Hamlet of Springfield Corners

Footnotes:

1. Drury, John. *This is Dane County, Wisconsin*. Chicago: Inland Photo Co., 1960, p. 164 (illustrated).
2. DHP site file.
3. Drury, John. *This is Dane County, Wisconsin*. Chicago: Inland Photo Co., 1960, p. 532 (illustrated).
4. Determination of Eligibility Forms. Both prepared by Heritage Research, Ltd. in November, 1994 and Determined Eligible by the National Park Service on Feb. 27, 1995.
5. Drury, John. *This is Dane County, Wisconsin*. Chicago: Inland Photo Co., 1960, p. 535 (illustrated).

**Side Gable (ca.1840-1940)**

This is a very common Wisconsin residential form whose characteristic features consist of rectangular plans and, usually, gentle-pitched gable roof. The major facade is placed on the long wall with gable ends being placed perpendicular to the street. The form is found in one, two, and three-story versions but is most often found in half-story versions, the one-and-one-half-story version being especially common. Buildings in this style are characteristically covered with clapboard but fieldstone, cut stone,, and brick examples are also found. Very early versions may be of timber-framed, half- timbered, or even of log construction. Early versions are generally narrower and less tall than later examples and wings extended off the rear of the main block were popular, both as original features and as additions.

Window openings are typically regularly spaced. A front porch, often having small brackets or turned posts, is frequently the only embellishment and these porches usually have shed, flat, or slightly hipped roofs. In addition, like the Front Gable form, many twentieth century examples of the Side Gable form are placed more appropriately within the Bungalow style. Side Gable houses are often somewhat larger than their Front Gable counterparts.

**EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:**

Thirteen examples of the Side Gable form were recorded in Dane County's hamlets. Nearly all of these buildings are residences and most are or were originally clad in clapboard, although a stone-clad example was surveyed as well. One of the finest examples is the house located at 584 Academy Dr. in the hamlet of Albion. This small but very fine Late Victorian style example is clad in clapboards, has an exceptionally and quite ornate intact front porch for a house its size, and is believed to be individually eligible for listing in the NRHP. A much later but also fine example displaying Colonial Revival style influence is the house at 1909 CTH V in the hamlet of East Bristol. This house is now clad in vinyl clapboards but it is almost certainly a Sears, Roebuck & Co. catalog house, a model called "the Crescent" that was offered from 1921-1933" (1) A much earlier but equally fine stone-clad example is the Gulbert & Bertha Jensvold House in the hamlet of Daleyville. This fine house is now empty and seriously threatened but it was built ca. 1868 and is one of the finest of the early stone houses identified by the Survey and it is believed that this building is potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP.(2) Still another early example is the house located at 6767 Depot St. in the hamlet of Windsor. This two-story building is now clad in vinyl clapboards but its size and location opposite the railroad tracks in that community both suggest the possibility that this building once served as a hotel and if this proves to be so it is possible that this building could also be potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP.

DA 184/13	584 Academy Dr.	House	Hamlet of Albion
DA 182/19	1909 CTH V	House	Hamlet of East Bristol
DA 186/10-12	ca.1033 STH 78	Gulbert & Bertha Jensvold House	ca.1868 Hamlet of Daleyville
DA 184/05	6767 Depot St.	House	Hamlet of Windsor

The following is a listing of the best and most intact of the other surveyed examples of the form.

DA 182/31	6894 Paoli Rd.	House	Hamlet of Paoli
DA 186/17	1064 STH 78	House	Hamlet of Daleyville
DA 186/19	1075 STH 78	Thore & Julia Smesrud House	Hamlet of Daleyville
DA 186/06	10073 CTH A	Farmhouse	Hamlet of Forward

Footnotes:

1. Stevenson, Katherine Cole and H. Ward Jandl. *Houses by Mail: A Guide to Houses from Sears, Roebuck and Company*. Washington D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1986, p. 95 (illustrated).
2. Perry Historical Center. *The Historic Perry Norwegian Settlement*. Daleyville, WI: The Perry Historical Center, 1994, p. 62 (illustrated).

**Gabled Ell (ca.1860-1910)**

A common nineteenth century residential vernacular form, the Gabled Ell form combines elements of both early front and side-gabled vernacular buildings and resembles them in construction materials, simplicity, and proportions. The gabled ell includes cruciform plan buildings as well as those with the more common "L" or "T" plans. The usual appearance of the main facade of the house is that of two gable-roofed wings of equal (or more typically) unequal height joined perpendicular to each other. Gabled Ell houses were built in a variety of heights, though most common is the one-story longitudinal wing connected to the one-story wing or "upright." Examples where both sections are of the same height are also common. The main entrance to these buildings is usually through a porch placed at the juncture of the ell on the main facade.

The porch may reveal the only ornamental details, such as brackets, turned posts, and a balustrade. Window openings on gabled ell houses are generally regular. These buildings typically rest on low foundations and porch stairs are short. Clapboard was most commonly used on Gabled Ell buildings, although stone and brick examples exist as well.

**EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:**

Twenty-four examples of the Gable Ell form were surveyed in Dane County's hamlets, making it the most commonly observed form of vernacular form residential architecture in these communities. Like the Side Gable Form examples, these Gable Ell Form houses are also typically larger than their Front Gable Form counterparts. The largest number of Dane County's Gable Ell houses tend to be clad in clapboard, but there are fine brick and stone examples as well. The best and most intact of the stone-clad examples is also one of the earliest. This is the now uninhabited but still highly intact stone George Cutler house located at 8785 STH 19 in the hamlet of Marxville, the ell portion of which has a very rare catslide (saltbox) rear roof. Both because intact early stone examples of this form are rare and ones with catslide roofs are even more rare, this house is believed to potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP. Another later and much larger clapboard-clad example is the Queen Anne style-influenced two-story house in the hamlet of Mt. Vernon, located at 1675 STH 92.

DA 181/34	8785 STH 19	George Cutler House	pre-1862	Hamlet of Marxville
DA 185/20	1675 Washington St.	House		Hamlet of Mt. Vernon

The following is a listing of the best and most intact of the other surveyed examples of the form, arranged by the kind of wall cladding they possess.

**Brick examples:**

DA 184/06	3788 CTH AB	House	1887	Hamlet of Hope
DA 183/22	7838 Morrison St.	George Clinton House	1871	Hamlet of Morrisonville

**Good clapboard-clad examples:**

DA 184/14	565 Academy Dr.	House		Hamlet of Albion
DA 184/23	1444 CTH B	House		Hamlet of Utica
DA 182/34	6905 Harrison St.	House		Hamlet of Paoli
DA 185/13	1707 Washington St.	House		Hamlet of Mt. Vernon
DA 185/10	1725 Washington St.	House		Hamlet of Mt. Vernon

Another example combines a stone wing with a clapboard-clad wing.

DA 183/05	5356 Felland Rd.	House		Hamlet of Burke
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**Commercial Vernacular (ca.1850-1910)**

Simply designed commercial buildings built between 1850-1910 are called Commercial Vernacular Form buildings. These buildings are usually two or three stories-tall although one and four story-tall examples are also found. In multi-story examples the first floor is given over to retail space and the upper floors are often used for apartments although other commercial uses such as offices are also common in upper floors. A typical original feature of such designs is a large ground floor show window(s) and frequently transom windows placed above the show window help to light the ground floor. Upper stories usually have simple

multiple window openings which are treated identically on buildings of the simplest design. Commercial Vernacular Form buildings were often joined together by party walls though many free-standing examples exist. Unless a building occupies a corner site or is free-standing, decoration is usually limited exclusively to the main facade. A visually emphatic cornice featuring one or more decorative treatments such as brick

corbelling, wooden moldings, and a stamped metal frieze usually terminates the main facade and the only other decoration is usually a decorative cornice or iron I-beam above the first floor display window(s). Doors leading to both the ground floor and the upper floors are simple and are generally of paneled wood with a single window. Commercial Vernacular Form buildings are most often built of brick although both wood and stone examples are also found. While the mixing of two or more materials in the wall cladding of an individual building is sometimes seen, most examples usually feature just one material.

The understanding of the Commercial Vernacular form is still in its infancy and it is probable that the form will be subdivided into smaller, more descriptive categories in the near future. Until then, such buildings will, of necessity, be lumped together in a somewhat undifferentiated way. This includes many buildings which have a slight stylistic identity but which do not yet merit a separate category of their own. Nineteenth century examples of the form are taller and narrower than their twentieth century successors, called the Twentieth Century Commercial Style, and they are sometimes somewhat more elaborately decorated (Twentieth Century Commercial Style examples are broader and less tall and often have some Prairie School or Period Revival style elements).

#### EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

Just two examples of the Commercial Vernacular form were surveyed in Dane County's hamlets. The following is a list of both surveyed examples, arranged by the kind of wall cladding they possess.

#### Clapboard:

DA 182/30	6891 Paoli Rd.	Paoli House Hotel	Hamlet of Paoli
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#### Concrete Block:

DA 182/24	1128 Berlin Rd.	E. M. Strasburg Building	1909	Hamlet of Deansville
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#### **Boomtown Style (ca.1850-1900)**

The Boomtown Style was a predecessor of the Commercial Vernacular form and it continued to be built alongside it until nearly the end of the nineteenth century. Boomtown Style buildings — sometimes also called "false front" buildings — were almost always intended to house a commercial enterprise and they can most easily be described as a simple one or two story Front Gable form building whose front-facing gable end has been completely hidden by a full width vertical extension of the main wall surface below. This vertical extension usually takes the form of a tall parapet wall that has either a flat or shaped cornice and this extension typically completely covers the building's front-facing gable end. Such buildings are typically associated with the earliest period of commercial development in a community and were intended to appear as more substantial buildings than they really were. Because the illusion they create is most effective when seen from directly in front, Boomtown Style buildings were most successful when placed adjacent to other examples in tightly packed rows. When seen in isolation, of course, as most rural examples are, the illusion is much more difficult to sustain.

Boomtown Style buildings were almost always built of wood, this typically being the most readily obtainable material in a growing community, and they were intended to be replaced by larger buildings made of more substantial materials as soon as economically feasible. Consequently, examples of this style are no longer common because they were usually replaced by later, larger and more substantial fireproof buildings or, if the community did not flourish as hoped, by some other type of building or by nothing at all.

#### EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

Eight examples of the Boomtown Style were found in Dane County's hamlets and all eight of these are or were originally clad in clapboards. All but one of these examples is two-stories-tall although one-story

examples are more commonly encountered elsewhere. Two of these buildings, the Gladen & Hanson Store Building in the hamlet of Forward, built in 1898, and the store building located at 2157 CTH W in the hamlet of Utica are especially intact examples of the style and are believed to be potentially individually eligible for listing in the NRHP because rural examples of this style are scarce and are an endangered property type, and because they represent in both cases the only surviving resources associated with the history of commerce in their respective communities. It is also worth noting that the store in Utica is still in use as a general store/grocery store today and is the only active retail building found in any of Dane County's hamlets.

DA 184/25	2157 CTH W	Commercial Building		Hamlet of Utica
DA 186/04	9998 CTH A	Gladen & Hanson Store Building	1898	Hamlet of Forward(1)

The following is a list of the other six examples of the Boomtown Style surveyed in Dane County's hamlets.

DA 182/17	1914 CTH V	Commercial Building		Hamlet of East Bristol
DA 182/06	2710 CTH V	Commercial Building		Hamlet of North Bristol
DA 183/08	6335 Portage Rd.	Commercial Building		Hamlet of Token Creek
DA 184/27	6733 Henry Rd.	Commercial Building		Hamlet of Basco
DA 186/20	1079 STH 78	Gunhild Thorhaug Dressmaker's Shop		Hamlet of Daleyville(2)
DA 183/33	4440 Windsor Rd.	Commercial Building		Hamlet of Windsor

Footnotes:

1. Perry Historical Center. *The Historic Perry Norwegian Settlement*. Daleyville, WI: The Perry Historical Center, 1994, p. 102 (illustrated).
2. *Ibid*, p. 43 (illustrated).



## ARCHITECTS and BUILDERS

Among the principal objectives of an intensive survey is the identification of the designers and the builders responsible for creating the resources in the area being surveyed, followed by the compilation of an inventory of the work associated with the persons in each of these groups. This objective is central to the primary intent of intensive surveys, which is, to provide information that will help determine which resources are potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and it is embodied in National Register Criteria C, which states that "The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity and that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master." One result of the many intensive surveys done over the last decade has been a redefining of the term "master" to make it broader and more inclusive than it was previously when the term was usually assigned exclusively to professionally trained architects. Now we recognize that many of the resources we study and preserve were designed by the craftsmen who built them and that the buildings and structures created by these largely unsung designers are as worthy of inclusion in the National Register as are the works of many more formally trained designers. This more sophisticated view of the historic development of the built environment has resulted in a much deeper and richer understanding of our surroundings and has provided a richer context within which to view the works of our most important designers. It has also made it possible for far more buildings to be considered eligible for listing in the National Register than was possible in the past.

The overwhelming majority of the buildings in Dane County's hamlets were built and also probably designed by local builders using published plans or customary building styles. Never-the-less, the Survey found two buildings that were the work of well-known professional architects in Wisconsin and these buildings are both listed in the short architect's biographies that follow. No one calling himself an architect is known to have practiced in any of the county's hamlets.

In addition, the name and some work of one historically important builder in Morrisonville has been identified as well, and all of the known Dane County work of this man is listed in the section that follows.

The principal resources employed by the Unincorporated Hamlets of Dane County Intensive Survey to identify architects and builders who practiced in these communities were published local histories and local newspapers, and it was the newspapers that provided the great majority of the information. Even so, the most important resources that remains to be systematically searched for relevant information are still the local newspapers. While the survey used newspapers as one of its principal research tools, a complete search of the Dane County newspapers available on microfilm was beyond the scope of the survey's resources. Such work as was done, however, showed that newspapers are the single best resource for identifying the work of the designers and builders who worked and practiced in Dane County and it is to be hoped that the work done by the survey will provide a starting point which others can use to undertake additional research in the future.

## ARCHITECTS

The following is a summary of available information on the two architects who are known to have designed buildings in Dane County hamlets. The list is arranged in the approximate chronological order of their appearance in the County, from the oldest to the most recent.

### Henry Messmer

The earliest identified architect-designed work in one of Dane County's hamlets is the work of Henry Messmer (1839-1899) of Milwaukee. Messmer was born in Rheineck, Switzerland in 1839 and he studied at Zurich University and practiced architecture in that country before coming to Milwaukee in 1866. Upon arrival in Milwaukee, Messmer went to work in the office of L. A. Schmidtner for three years, then moved to Madison and worked in the offices of Col. Stephen V. Shipman until 1873, when he returned to Milwaukee and opened his own office. In the following years Messmer built an excellent reputation and was noted especially for the buildings he designed for the brewing industry in Milwaukee and in Appleton, for residences, and for churches.(1) Messmer's sole identified work in Dane County belongs in the last group. This is the excellent limestone-clad Gothic Revival Style St. Joseph's R. C. Church (1935 CTH V), located in the hamlet of East Bristol and completed in 1890, the church being East Bristol's most visible and cherished landmark.(2) Messmer's sons, Robert and John, later joined the firm and continued for some years after their father's death in 1899.(3)

#### Footnotes:

1. Andreas, Alfred. *History of Milwaukee*. Chicago: 1881, p. 1499.
2. Klein, Rev. A. (pastor). *Geschichte der St. Josephs-Gemeinde von East Bristol, Wisconsin von 1847-1907*. East Bristol: 1907, p. 64.
3. Architect's Files. Division of Historic Preservation, Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin.

### John Nader

John Nader (1838-1919) was born in Westchester, New York, and educated there and in Brooklyn at the Brooklyn Academy. His early training was as a mechanical and civil engineer. From 1861–1875 Nader worked with the United States Corps of Engineers as a civil engineer with the rank of Captain, which from 1861 - 1865 consisted of being the superintendent of the coastal fortifications of Forts Hamilton, Tompkins, Wadsworth, and Sandy Hook. After the Civil War ended he was engaged in a variety of different projects located throughout the east, which work brought him finally to Wisconsin and to Milwaukee in 1869, where he was engaged in work on Great Lakes lighthouses and on the Milwaukee sewer system. In 1871, Nader was appointed Assistant U. S. Engineer in charge of the Wisconsin River improvement, with offices in Portage. These offices were moved to Madison in 1873, and while continuing his work for the government he also established a private office in Madison as a civil engineer.

In 1876, Nader was elected City Engineer for Madison, a position he held until 1883. During this period Nader also began to pursue a second complimentary career as an architect, which profession gradually became his principal work. In 1885, he was again elected City Engineer and while in this position designed and superintended the construction of Madison's first sewer system. Ill health resulted in Nader's moving to Virginia, where he spent the years from 1887-1892 planning and laying out the towns of Big Stone Gap and Damascus and a large addition to the town of Bristol, while also designing numerous buildings. In 1893, he returned to Madison and resumed his practice.(1) John Nader had a long and successful career in Madison and by 1899 was considered to be "Madison's Pioneer Architect" in one newspaper account.(2) He practiced successfully in Madison until his retirement in 1911. In 1915 he returned to New York City where he died in 1919.(3)

Nader's sole identified work in Dane County is the excellent limestone-clad additions he made to the Romanesque Revival Style St. Norbert R.C. Church (8944 CTH Y), located in the hamlet of Roxbury. These additions consisted of a new steeple, transepts, and sanctuary, the first two of which were completed

in 1896 and the last in 1906.(4) The resulting church is one of the finest in Dane County and is Roxbury's most visible and cherished landmark.

#### Footnotes:

1. *Biographical Review of Dane County*. Chicago: Biographical Review Co., 1893, pp. 215-216.
2. *Wisconsin State Journal*. August 18, 1899. ("City's Architects" article)
3. *Madison Democrat*. June 19, 1919. (Obituary of John Nader)
4. Ibid. See also: *St. Norbert Congregation, Roxbury: One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Anniversary, 1846-1971*. Roxbury, WI: 1971, pp. 29-32, 74-78, 82-84 (illustrated).

## **BUILDERS**

The great majority of the historically and architecturally significant buildings in Dane County's hamlets and elsewhere were designed either wholly or in part by the persons who built them. These designers played an important role in the creation of the built environment and the best of them are now considered to be fully deserving of the term "master" as it is used in National Register Criteria C. Consequently, an important goal of the Intensive Survey was the identification of the most important builders who lived in these hamlets. Not surprisingly, such persons possessed widely differing skills and design capabilities but were generally distinguished from those persons calling themselves architects by their less formal education and design training and by their greater degree of physical involvement in the building process. The County's first builders were usually skilled or semi-skilled carpenters and masons whose design sense developed out of the direct experience they acquired working with traditional building methods and designs. Prior to 1850 this experience was much the same for both builders and for those persons then calling themselves architects in Wisconsin. As a result, builders proved to be more than adequate designers for the vast majority of buildings built in this early period of Wisconsin's history, a period whose chief need was for shelter and functional utility. Even as the needs of society became more complex and buildings larger and much more numerous, builders were still able to satisfy the great majority of client's requests by resorting to pattern books for design ideas and to an ever-growing number of mail order catalogs which made available an endless variety of increasingly complex architectural details. In its essentials this system continues to exist today and most residences in particular are still built "from plans" much as they were in the nineteenth century.

The earliest builders in Dane County were probably itinerant craftsmen whose portable skills gave them great flexibility in choosing where to locate. Many of these persons probably stayed in Dane County's hamlets just long enough to finish a job and get paid. As the county grew, however, it became possible for some of these men to move from job to job within these communities and the immediate surrounding areas and become permanent residents. For many of these men, part of the attraction of the work was the independence they enjoyed and such men did not often form lasting business associations with others. The associations that typical occur were between different generations of the same family, a pattern that gave a definite family feeling to the building trades.

The principal resources typically employed to identify builders are published local histories and local newspapers. Unfortunately, few of Dane County's hamlets ever had their own newspaper and local histories were also unforthcoming. Thus, the only identified builder who resided in any of these communities and about whom much is known is Carl C. Menes, a resident of Morrisonville from 1890-1897. In order to expand the known list of builders and in order to identify the buildings they constructed, census tracts, tax rolls, and local newspapers will need to be systematically searched for relevant information, both of which are projects that lie outside the scope of an intensive survey.

The following is a biography of Carl C. Menes and this is followed by a chronological listing of his known projects in Dane County and their address, when known.

## **DANE COUNTY BUILDERS**

## **Carl C. Menes**

Carl C. Menes was born in Norway in 1870 and came to the United States and then to Wisconsin in 1886. The oldest son of a carpenter, Menes followed his father's trade after arriving in Dane County and by 1890 he was living in the northern Dane County hamlet of Morrisonville. So far as is known, Menes was already working as a carpenter when he moved to Morrisonville and in the same year he also married Nellie Korrison, of Morrisonville. Menes' first identified project is the Queen Anne style house that he built for himself and his wife and first child in Morrisonville in 1892. This house was originally clad in clapboards but it has since been resided in vinyl or aluminum and was not surveyed by the Unincorporated Hamlets of Dane County Survey. Nevertheless, this house is still extant and is located at 4692 CTH DM in Morrisonville.(1)

While it is all but certain that Menes designed and built other buildings in Morrisonville during the time he lived there, his own house is the only one that has so far been identified. The small size of Morrisonville, however, meant that Menes also had to look beyond this community in order to find projects and his next identified building was constructed in 1894 in the nearby Columbia County village of Lodi, this being the fine Queen Anne style Nels Thompson house located at 204 Columbus St.(2) This house was followed by two more in this village and in May of 1897, Menes moved to Lodi with his wife and family, and except for a short period in the city of Madison, he remained there for the rest of his career.

Most of what is known of Menes' career was uncovered during the course of the Lodi Intensive Survey that was conducted in 1999 and the Intensive Survey Report for that survey is still the best available source of information about Menes.(3) This survey was able to identify some 32 projects that Menes was associated with between 1892 and 1935, projects that ranged from cottages and residences to schools, commercial buildings, churches, and even a city hall proposal (as yet unbuilt) for Lodi. Of these 32 projects, twelve were located outside of Lodi and the location of several of these is still unknown as is the answer to the question of whether or not they were actually built. The remaining twenty projects represent Menes' known work in Lodi.

Menes' career was in many ways typical of most builder/architects who worked in the last century and in the early years of this one. Menes, however, appears to have possessed more than the usual level of ability that one would have found in the typical small city builder. Menes' known designs in Lodi included not only residences and small business buildings, but churches (Norwegian Lutheran Church, Pleasant St., 1904, non-extant), schools (Lodi High School, Pleasant St., 1898, non-extant), and government buildings (Lodi City Hall project, Main Street, 1914, not yet built). Menes also had sufficient ability to be able to adapt to new architectural styles as they became fashionable. His works in Lodi in the 1890s were mostly residential ones in the Queen Anne style, which was clearly his forte, although at the same time he was also designing churches in the Gothic Revival style and schools in an eclectic Late Victorian fashion. Between 1918 and 1920 Menes and his wife and a daughter moved to the city of Madison, where Menes was engaged in plying his trade. Unfortunately, nothing is known of his work there. By 1921, however, Menes had returned to Lodi and designed a fine brick Twentieth Century Commercial style building for M. R. Heggstad (115 Lodi Street) that was built in Lodi in that year. Two years later he also designed and built the very fine Craftsman style wood shingle-clad Summerville Park Hotel on Lake Wisconsin in nearby Okee, Wisconsin, (1923, non-extant), and his last known project was the construction of Lodi's sole Spanish Colonial Revival style house in 1935. Clearly, Menes was able to move with the times and the fact that he remained active as a designer and builder until at least the mid 1930s means that there is a great deal more about his career that is yet to be discovered. Finally, in 1944, Menes moved to the city of Baraboo, in Sauk County, to live with one of his daughters and it was there that he died in 1948 at the age of 78.(4)

Given our lack of knowledge about so much of Menes' life it is especially fortunate that many of his projects have been identified and have survived largely intact. Most of these projects are residences and of these it is his exceptional Queen Anne style houses that are the most notable. The following list shows all the known Dane County projects Menes was involved with. Unfortunately, available information does not always make

the extent of Menes' participation clear. For instance, in some of these projects Menes acted solely as the carpenter contractor. For others, however, he was both the designer and builder, and for still others, the designer only.

Dane County Projects: (Note: it is not known if the last two of these buildings were built and if they were, where they are located)

Carl C. & Nellie Menes House	4692 CTH DM (extant)	1893	Hamlet of Morrisonville
George Ayer Residence	102 Park Lane (extant)	1902	City of Verona(5)
G. H. Stewart Farmhouse	Location Unknown	1903	Town of Dane(6)
Lodi Outing Club Cottage	Location Unknown	1909	Lake Mendota(7)

Footnotes:

1. Englesby, John. *Morrisonville: Origin and Early History*. Morrisonville: 1980, p. 33 (illustrated).
2. *Lodi Enterprise*: April 7, 1894, p. 4; April 20, 1894, p. 4; April 27, 1894, p. 4; July 13, 1894, p. 4. See also: *Lodi Valley News*: May 15, 1894, p. 3.
3. Heggland, Timothy F. *City of Lodi Intensive Survey Report*. Lodi: 1999, pp. 59-60.
4. *Lodi Enterprise*. December 16, 1948, p. 1 (obituary of Carl C. Menes). See also: *Baraboo News-Republic*. December 16, 1948, p. 4 (obituary of Carl C. Menes).
5. *Lodi Enterprise*. March 28, 1902, p. 4. See also: *Middleton Times-Herald*: March 14, 1902, p. 1; July 11, 1902, p. 1; August 15, 1902, p. 1; October 10, 1902, p. 1.
6. *Lodi Enterprise*: April 3, 1903, p. 4.
7. *Ibid*, July 30, 1909, p. 5.

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*Windsor Herald.*

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Endnote:

(1) Only three of Dane County's hamlets had newspapers of their own: Morrisonville; Mount Vernon; and Windsor. Information about the county's hamlets is typically found in correspondent columns found in the county's city and village newspapers, the more important of which are listed here. A much more complete guide to Dane County's newspapers is the Dane County chapter in: Oehlerts, Donald E. *Guide to Wisconsin Newspapers: 1833-1957*. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1958, pp. 44-59. Correspondent columns for some Dane County hamlets were also published in newspapers in surrounding counties as well..

**POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL RESOURCES**



As noted previously, the survey inventoried 184 resources within the thirty-two project areas. Of these, the following twenty-four resources or groups of resources are being recommended as being potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) on an individual basis.

**Town of Albion**

**Albion:**

584 Academy Drive      House      DA 184/13

1. This T-plan one-and-one-half story house is a very fine, highly intact example of the Side Gable form that is especially notable for the influence that the Gothic Revival and Queen Anne styles had on its form and detailing. The house is clad in clapboards and its symmetrically designed three-bay-wide main facade features a centered, projecting, two-story gable roofed pavilion that has a round-arched entrance door opening in its first story and a nearly identically sized round-arched window located directly above in the second story. Stretched across the width of this facade is a highly intact, elaborately decorated front porch and a similarly decorated porch is also attached to the rear ell of the house as well. Because this modest-sized house so effectively recalls the period when it was built it is believed to be eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C (Architecture).

591 Albion Rd.      House      DA 184/17

2. This house has only minor Gothic Revival style details but it is otherwise a fine and intact example of the influence the style had on home builders. This clapboard-clad T-plan house has the steeply pitched roofs that are characteristic of the style and it also has a single pointed arch window placed in the dormer that surmounts the entrance porch. Because Gothic Revival style houses are so rarely found in Wisconsin and intact ones are even more rare it is believed that this house is individually eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C (Architecture).

783 Bliven Rd.      J. Saunders House      DA 184/16

3. The finest residential example of the Italianate style found by the Intensive Survey in any of Dane County's hamlets is the J. Saunders house in the hamlet of Albion. This exceptional example is clad in clapboard and has a two-story main block with a symmetrical five-bay-wide facade that is crowned by a shallow-pitched hipped roof whose overhanging eaves are supported by brackets and on which is centered a square plan cupola. Such a design is not uncommon but in addition to the main block the house also has two balancing one-story hipped roof wings attached to its two side elevations, and each of these wings has an inset porch inserted into its main facade as well. The resulting symmetrical composition is an imposing one and may be unique in Wisconsin. Consequently, it is believed that this still largely intact building is individually eligible for listing in the NRHP as an outstanding example of the Italianate style under Criterion C (Architecture).

**Town of Berry**

**Marxville:**

8785 STH 19      George Cutler Farmhouse      DA 181/34

4. The best and most intact of the stone-clad examples of the Gable Ell form in any of Dane County's hamlets is also one of the earliest extant examples of the form. This is the now uninhabited but still highly intact stone George Cutler house, located in the hamlet of Marxville. The Cutler house is believed to have been in existence as early as 1860 and may be of still earlier date. Both the two-story front-facing gable wing of this house and the attached one-and-one-half story ell have two-foot-thick exterior walls built out of locally quarried limestone and the ell portion of this house also has a very rare catslide (saltbox) rear roof. Because intact early stone examples of the Gable Ell form are rare and ones with catslide roofs are

even more rare, this house is believed to potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C (Architecture).

George Cutler, the owner of this house in 1861, was a native of England who came to Mazomanie about 1850. He was a trustee of the British Temperance Emigration Society, whose members were the first Euro-American settlers of this area, and he was sent here to close out the affairs of the Society by the Society's English trustees. He later became a prominent local minister and died about 1890.(1)

6141 CTH KP                      Walser House and farmstead                      DA 181/30

5. Good clapboard-clad examples of the Queen Anne style are located in every part of Dane County, but the elaborate Walser family farmhouse in the hamlet of Marxville is both an early and an unusually intact example of the style. The two-story house has a cruciform plan and a stone foundation and its exterior wall are clad in a mix of clapboards and wood shingles that is typical of the time. Also notable are the house's wooden gable end and porch decorations, intact examples of which are now very scarce, especially in a rural setting. Built as a farmhouse, the building is also said to have incorporated within it portions of an earlier log house located on the same site and it, and its surviving farm outbuildings are believed to be potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C (Architecture)..

**Town of Bristol**

**East Bristol:**

1935 CTH V                      St. Joseph's R.C. Church Complex                      DA 182/12-15

6. One of rural Dane County's largest and most elaborate Gothic Revival style churches is St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, which is located in the hamlet of East Bristol and was built in 1890 to the designs of Milwaukee architect Henry Messmer.(2) This church is built out of limestone and it is still in an excellent, highly intact state of preservation and is also still surrounded by its accompanying American Foursquare style convent, built in 1905, its brick-clad American Foursquare style rectory, built in 1914, and its brick-clad Front Gable form parish hall, built in 1923. Also part of the church grounds is St. Joseph's cemetery, established in 1847.(3) Consequently, it is believed that the St. Joseph's Church Complex is eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C (Architecture) because it is an excellent example of an intact Roman Catholic Church complex and because its church is an excellent and largely intact example of Gothic Revival design.

**Town of Christiana**

**Utica:**

1390 CTH B                      District School #3                      DA 184/22

7. An example of adaptation of the Front gable form for use as a school building is the Utica District School No. 3, located in the hamlet of Utica. This cream brick-clad school was built in 1896 and has a rest room addition built with WPA labor in 1936. The school has round-arched windows and doors and a small bell tower and the DHP is on record as stating that this school is potentially individually eligible for listing in the NRHP under both Criteria A and C (History and Architecture).(4)

2157 CTH W                      Store Building                      DA 184/25

8. This highly intact clapboard-clad T-plan store building located at 2157 CTH W in the hamlet of Utica is an especially intact example of the Boomtown Style and it of unusual interest for incorporating a second story and a side wing, either of which may have originally been the home of the storekeeper. This building

is believed to be potentially individually eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A and C (History and Architecture) because rural examples of this style are scarce and are an endangered property type, and because it also represents the only surviving resource associated with the history of commerce in the hamlet of Utica. It is also worth noting that this store is still in use as a general store/grocery store today and thus is the only active retail building found in any of Dane County's hamlets by the Intensive Survey.

### **Town of Medina**

#### **Deansville:**

6111 CTH TT                      House                      DA 182/25

9. The largest and most extravagant American Foursquare style house found in Dane County's hamlets is this one located just outside the hamlet of Deansville, which is also the only surveyed example built out of concrete blocks. This example was built in 1902 and rock-faced concrete block was used to build its foundation walls and first story while the second story is clad in regular smooth-faced concrete block. The resulting contrast in surface textures traces its origin back to the Italian Renaissance and its use here can be seen as an attempt to give the design of the house a classical aspect that was very much in tune with the growing interest in the Classical Revival style of that time. Adding to this classical feel is the front veranda, which spans more than the full width of the main facade, and the smaller side porch that is located at the rear of the south-facing side elevation of the rear wing. Both porches are constructed out of concrete blocks as well and while the designs of the supporting pillars do not reflect classical precedent the whole is highly suggestive of classical models. Consequently, it is believed that still highly intact house is individually eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C (Architecture).

### **Town of Montrose**

#### **Paoli:**

1301 STH 69                      House                      DA 182/26

10. A fine, albeit a simplified example of the Italianate style is the farmhouse located at 1301 STH 69 just outside the hamlet of Paoli. This very intact house has a two-story main block whose main facade is three-bays-wide, and it is clad in dressed stone blocks and is surmounted by a somewhat steeply pitched hip roof. Although lacking some of the details such as a bracketed cornice that are typically associated with the style, this example still retains its bracketed wooden front porch and is an excellent example of the influence the Italianate style exercised on building tastes of its day. In addition, the house is also still in excellent, largely original condition and is believed to be individually eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C (Architecture).

6904 Canal St.                      Fischer Hall                      DA 182/37

11. Surviving Italianate style commercial buildings were also once common in Wisconsin. These buildings are usually two-to-three stories tall and typically have bracketed cornices, flat or very shallow-pitched roofs, and tall windows decorated with hood molds or pediments. Examples may be clad in both clapboards or in stone, but brick is a far more common choice. There is only a single true example of an Italianate style commercial building located in any of Dane County's hamlets. This is the outstanding two-story, rectilinear plan Fischer Hall Building located at 6904 Canal St. in the hamlet of Paoli. (5) Built in 1851 for William Fischer, this multi-purpose building is clad in clapboards and it originally housed a saloon in the basement, a first story general store, a second story dance hall, and it also housed a cheese factory. The building has now been beautifully restored and is in an excellent state of preservation. (6) Consequently, it is believed to be individually eligible for listing in the NRHP under both Criteria A and C (History and Architecture).

1371 Union St. (CTH PB)  
182/36

St. William Roman Catholic Church

DA

**12.** The only example of the Spanish Colonial Revival style found in any of Dane County's hamlets is an unusual one. This is St. William R.C. Church, located in the hamlet of Paoli. This brick church was built in 1925 on the foundation of an earlier church of the same name that had been built in 1900 and destroyed by fire earlier in 1925.(7) The use of Spanish Colonial features such as the shaped upper termination of the main facade, a corner bell tower, and the use of round arched openings, are limited just to the main facade of the church, the nave having flat-arched openings. It is likely that the current church was architect-designed but the name of the architect has not yet been found. Nevertheless, the church is still in largely original condition today and examples of this style are so rare that it is believed that St. William may be individually eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C (Architecture).

### **Town of Perry**

#### **Forward:**

9998 CTH A

Gladen & Hanson Store Building

DA 186/04

**13.** The very intact clapboard-clad Gladen & Hanson Store Building was built in 1898 in the hamlet of Forward and it is an especially intact example of the Boomtown Style. It is therefore believed that this building is potentially individually eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A and C (History and Architecture) because rural examples of this style are scarce and are an endangered property type, and because it also represents the only surviving historic resource associated with the history of commerce in the hamlet of Forward.(8)

10828 CTH A

Forward District School

DA 186/07

**14.** Originally a T-plan building that was constructed in 1910 as the local school, this small Astylistic Utilitarian style one-story building is clad in clapboards and rests on a partially exposed cut stone foundation.(9) The building's hip-roofed main block originally contained the school's two classrooms while its gable-roofed front pavilion contained its entrance vestibule and the school's coatroom. After the building ceased to be used as a school, it was taken over for the Town of Perry's town hall in the 1970s and it is still utilized as such to this day. Historic photos show that the shed-roofed ell that is attached to the building's east-facing side elevation is not original to the building but it is not known when the addition was built. Never-the-less, it is believed that this building is potentially individually eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A (History) for its associations with the history of education in Perry Township.

#### **Daleyville:**

ca. 1033 STH 78

Gulbert & Bertha Jensvold House

DA 186/10-12

**15.** The Gulbert & Bertha Jensvold House is a very fine stone-clad example of the Side Gable form that is located in the hamlet of Daleyville. The house has a T-plan consisting of a dressed stone two-story-tall main block to which is attached a frame construction clapboard-clad two-story rear ell. Originally a farmhouse, the building was built for Gilbrand Jensvold and his wife shortly after they were married in 1868. Jensvold was a school teacher and a lay preacher who taught at the Perry Lutheran Church school from 1866 until his death in 1882.(10) This highly intact but deteriorating house is now empty and seriously threatened but it is one of the finest of the early stone houses identified by the Survey and it is believed that this building is potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C (Architecture).

10779 Evergreen Ave.

Onon B. Dahle House

DA 186/23

**16.** Another excellent example of the Italianate style is the highly intact Onon B. Dahle house located in the hamlet of Daleyville. Daleyville was founded by Dahle (Daley is an Americanization of the original spelling), whose general store at this location (non-extant) he opened in 1853, and this house was built for him in 1864 and he lived there until 1895, when he moved to the nearby village of Mt. Horeb. His house in Daleyville has a two-story-tall five-bay-wide block sheltered by a shallow-pitched hip roof whose overhanging eaves are supported by paired brackets, and it is built of stone and has corner pilasters made of the same material. This house is a very fine vernacular expression of the Italianate style and it also has a high degree of integrity as well. Consequently, it is believed to be individually eligible for listing in the NRHP under both Criteria B & C (Associations with a Significant Person and Architecture).(11)

**Town of Roxbury**

**Roxbury:**

ca.8841 CTH Y

Roxbury District No. 2 School

DA 181/13

**17.** An excellent example of the application of Gothic Revival style elements to an otherwise vernacular style building is the Roxbury District No. 2 School, built out of dressed stone ca.1874 and later called the Frey School. This small Front Gable form one-room school building possesses just a single Gothic Revival feature, its pointed arch main entrance door opening, but even so simple a detail is rare in buildings of this type, as is stone construction, and this, coupled with the extremely intact state of this building is believed to make it individually eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C (Architecture).(12)

8901 CTH Y

B. Reuter Commercial Building

DA 181/08

**18.** The B. Reuter Commercial Building was built in 1869 in the hamlet of Roxbury and was the first building built in that community other than the original buildings associated with St. Norbert Church. The Reuter building originally contained a post office, store, tavern and Reuter's living quarters and it is still very much in use today as a tavern and restaurant and is one of the social centers of Roxbury and the surrounding area.(13) The building is a rectangular two-story block of Italianate style-influenced design that is built out of dressed stone laid in the locally significant block and stack fashion and it is crowned by a hipped roof having overhanging boxed eaves. The Reuter building was originally a free-standing building, but a one-story Boomtown Style frame construction, clapboard-clad building housing the Roxbury Garage was subsequently built adjacent to the south-facing side elevation of the Reuter building and this much altered later building is now joined to the older building internally.(14) Even so, the Reuter Building is believed to be individually eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C (Architecture) because it is the only commercial building in Dane County that is an example of the locally significant block and stack stone construction technique and under Criterion A (History) because it is also the oldest and nearly the only historic building in Roxbury that is associated with that hamlet's commercial past.

8944 CTH Y

St. Norbert's Roman Catholic Church Complex

DA 181/4-7

**19.** The only surveyed example of the Romanesque Revival style in Dane County's hamlets is St. Norbert Roman Catholic Church in the hamlet of Roxbury, one of Dane County's most outstanding rural churches. The earliest part (the nave)of the present church is built out of stone and was begun in 1856 and completed in 1860, at which time it was attached to an earlier brick church built in 1853 that served as the sacristy for the new church. The 1860 church was subsequently enlarged in 1896 when Madison architect John V. Nader produced designs for a new steeple, transepts, and sanctuary.(15) The stone steeple and transepts were built in 1896 and the new transept replaced the older brick portion dating from 1853. The church did not achieve its current appearance until 1906, however, when the stone sanctuary was finally completed.(16) The exceptionally intact and beautifully cared for church that one sees today is a beautifully composed and harmonious composition that gives little hint of the additive process that created it. The significance of the church is further enhanced by the survival of its still extant Queen Anne style

cream brick rectory, built in 1903, and its school, built in 1864 and remodeled and expanded in 1937, and the entire complex is believed to be eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C (Architecture).

### **Town of Rutland**

#### **Rutland:**

687 USH 14

United Brethren Church

DA 185/06

**20.** One of the most intact examples of the Greek Revival style in Dane County's hamlets is also one of the smallest. This is the clapboard-clad Front Gable form United Brethren Church in the Hamlet of Rutland, which was built in 1852. The church has a rectangular plan and its only Greek Revival style features are the returns on its cornices. Never-the-less, both the exterior and especially the interior of this church still retain an extraordinary degree of integrity and while the church is no longer in use, it is believed that it is individually eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C (Architecture).

### **Town of Springdale**

#### **Mount Vernon:**

1668 STH 92

Mt. Vernon-Primrose Joint District No. 8 Schoolhouse

DA 185/21

**21.** The Mount Vernon-Primrose Joint District No. 8 school building is a very early example of a small scale consolidated school that was built in 1911 to designs supplied by the State of Wisconsin State Superintendent of Public Instruction's office. The school consists of a Colonial Revival style-influenced Astylistic Utilitarian form building that has a clapboard-clad, hip-roofed, one-story-tall, T-plan main block whose principal feature is a the unusual gable-roofed oriel bay that is located over the centered main entrance on the principal facade. This bay has returned cornices and it is supported by two cast iron posts that historic photos show are original to the building. This multi-room school replaced two earlier buildings on the same site that had been previously used as schools and it stayed in use until 1964.**(17)** Today, the building is still in excellent, highly intact condition and it is believed to be individually eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A (History) for its role in the educational history of the towns of Springdale and Primrose.

8668 Liberty St.

Mt. Vernon Roller Mill

DA 185/23-24

**22.** The Mt. Vernon Roller Mill is an Astylistic Utilitarian form grist mill that was built ca.1887 on the edge of the hamlet of Mt. Vernon to replace the original stone mill, which was destroyed by fire earlier in that year and which had been built in 1858 by Ed Britts and Charles Smith.**(18)** The current mill has a two-story, gable-roofed, clapboard-clad main block, portions of which have now been partially covered over with vinyl clapboards, and historic photos show that at least two of the shed-roofed one story additions that are still attached to the main block were in place in 1908, but it is not known if these were original to the building or a later addition.**(19)** The mill is still in use as such today, although the raceway and mill pond that originally served it are no longer in evidence. Never-the-less, this building is the only building associated with an historic industrial enterprise that was found in any of Dane County's hamlets and it is believed to individually eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A (History) for its role in the industrial and agricultural history of the hamlet of Mt. Vernon and of the Town of Springdale.

### **Town of Springfield**

### **Martinsville:**

5958 Martinsville Rd.      St. Martin's Roman Catholic Church Complex      DA 181/19-22

23. St. Martin Roman Catholic Church, located in the hamlet of Martinsville, was built out of dressed stone by settlers from Germany who began this fine example of the Gothic Revival style in 1861 as a replacement for their first church, a log building built in 1853. Their new church was completed in 1869 and its highly visible hilltop location made it an instant area landmark. In 1873, the congregation also built a new school, a new convent, and a new rectory next to the church, the latter two of which were replaced in the early 1900s and are still extant. The first school was then replaced with a new one in 1923 and in 1968, the 1923 school was replaced with the present school. The church, however, remained unaltered until 2000, when a new stone-clad education wing was attached to its north-facing side elevation. Even so, it is believed that the St. Martin's Church Complex is eligible for listing in the NRHP because it is a good example of an intact Roman Catholic Church complex and because its church is still an excellent and largely intact early example of Gothic Revival design.(20)

### **Town of Windsor:**

#### **Windsor:**

6767 Depot St.      House      DA 184/5

24. This two-story Side Gable form house is located in the hamlet of Windsor and it appears to be an early example of the form. This building is now clad in vinyl clapboards but its size and location opposite the railroad tracks in that community both suggest the possibility that it once served as a hotel. If this proves to be correct it is possible that this building could be potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A (History) for its associations with the early history of Windsor and as an early hotel.

### **Endnotes:**

1. Kittle, William. *The History of the Township and Village of Mazomanie*. Madison: State Journal Printing Co., 1900, p. 100.
2. Klein, Rev. A. (pastor). *Geschichte der St. Josephs-Gemeinde von East Bristol, Wisconsin von 1847-1907*. East Bristol: 1907, p. 64.
3. Drury, John. *This is Dane County, Wisconsin*. Chicago: Inland Photo Co., ca.1960, p. 164.
4. DHP site file.
5. Stith, Grace. "Bootstrap Restoration." *The Wisconsin Architect*: December, 1985, p. 13 (illustrated).
6. Parks, William J. *Madison, Dane County, and Surrounding Towns*. Madison: W. J. Parks Co., 1877, p. 486.
7. Brophy, William K. (ed.). *Commemorative History: Catholic Diocese of Madison*. Madison: Roman Catholic Diocese of Madison, 1997, p. 180 (illustrated).
8. Perry Historical Center. *The Historic Perry Norwegian Settlement*. Daleyville, WI: The Perry Historical Center, 1994, p. 102 (illustrated).
9. *Ibid*, p. 93 (illustrated).
10. *Ibid*, p. 62 (illustrated).
11. Mandel, David. *Settlers of Dane County: The Photographs of Andreas Larsen Dahl*. Madison: Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission, 1985, pp. 79-81 (illustrated).
12. *St. Norbert Congregation, Roxbury: One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Anniversary, 1846-1971*. Roxbury, WI: 1971, pp. 49-52 (illustrated).
13. *Ibid*. pp. 131-32. See also: Parks, William J. *Madison, Dane County, and Surrounding Towns*. Madison: W. J. Parks Co., 1877, p. 497. There is also a date and name stone affixed to the building's principal facade.

14. "Wisconsin Revisited." *Wisconsin Magazine of History*: Vol. 81, No. 3, Spring, 1998, p. 237 (illustrated). This full-length article contains an excellent historic photo dated 1924, that shows the B. Reuter building and the later garage next door in its original state.
15. *Madison Democrat*. June 19, 1919 (obituary of John Nadar).
16. *St. Norbert Congregation, Roxbury: One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Anniversary, 1846-1971*. Roxbury, WI: 1971, pp. 29-32, 74-78, 82-84 (illustrated). See also: *The Catholic Church in Wisconsin*. Catholic Historical Publishing Co.: Milwaukee: 1895-1898, pp. 522-523 (illustrated). See also: Brophy, William K. (ed.). *Commemorative History: Catholic Diocese of Madison*. Madison: Roman Catholic Diocese of Madison, 1997, p. 187 (illustrated).
17. Zumbrennen, Mary Hanna. *A History of the Township of Primrose*. DeForest, WI: 1990, pp. 81-84 (illustrated).
18. *Ibid*, pp. 168-170.
19. *Ibid*, p. 168 (illustrated).
20. *The Catholic Church in Wisconsin*. Catholic Historical Publishing Co.: Milwaukee: 1895-1898, pp. 544-545 (illustrated). See also: Brophy, William K. (ed.). *Commemorative History: Catholic Diocese of Madison*. Madison: Roman Catholic Diocese of Madison, 1997, pp. 20, 171 (illustrated).



## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Recommendations for the Registration and Protection of Resources

#### A. Survey and Research Needs

It is believed that the thirty-two hamlets covered by the Unincorporated Hamlets of Dane County Intensive Survey have been adequately documented and further survey work in these areas is not recommended.

Future research needs have already been suggested in the Architects and Builders theme. These include: studying the various census tracts pertaining to the county that are kept at the Wisconsin Historical Society in order to identify inhabitants calling themselves builders or contractors (i.e. masons, carpenters, etc.); and undertaking a systematic search of all Dane County-related newspapers in order to identify building activity in these hamlets and the persons related to it. Microfilm copies of some of these newspapers are available at the Madison Public Library and other Dane County community libraries and all of them are available at the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison, and these are the best and virtually the only resources available for such a study. Both of these are projects that should ideally be undertaken by local historical societies, and it is believed that the database created by the intensive survey will be of benefit to these efforts. Other needed research efforts should concentrate on the potentially eligible individual buildings noted in the preceding section. In addition, an immediate effort should be made to identify any areas within the County's hamlets that might contain either prehistoric or historic archeological remains.

#### B. National Register Listings and Determinations of Eligibility

Dane County's hamlets currently have two listings in the National Register and two others have been officially designated as being potentially eligible for listing. The listed resources are: the Paoli Mills in the Hamlet of Paoli (Town of Montrose) (NRHP 3-30-79); and St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church in the Hamlet of Ashton (Town of Springfield) (NRHP 9-23-80). In addition, two other resources located in the hamlet of Springfield Corners (Town of Springfield) were both determined eligible for listing in 1995 but have not yet been listed, the Jacques Gross Store/Farmstead (DOE 2-27-95), and the Louis Martini Store (DOE 2-27-95).

#### C. Threats to Resources

The major threat to the historic resources in Dane County's hamlets is growth or the lack of it. The first and most immediate threat is the continuing growth that the city of Madison and its satellite communities are experiencing. The ongoing expansion of the urban area surrounding Madison in particular but also other nearby cities and villages, and the accompanying increase in population has already all but completely enveloped those hamlets nearest to the cities of Madison and Sun Prairie such as Burke and Token Creek, and those near the village of DeForest, such as Windsor and Morrisonville. The growth of Madison is also affecting most of the other communities in the county as well, nearly all of which have experienced substantial growth of their own in the past decade and are expecting to experience even more in the current one. With this growth has come the need for more and larger roads, more services, larger and newer public facilities, and more and larger stores, all of which is having and will continue to have an impact on the existing historic infrastructure in the county's hamlets.

And yet, while many of the county's communities are experiencing rapid growth, others are having the opposite experience. It has already been noted elsewhere in this report that Dane County's hamlets come in a considerable range of sizes today and that this was true historically as well. Hamlets in Dane County have appeared and then disappeared with some frequency in the past and this cycle is still very much in evidence today. A number of the county's present hamlets now contain only a handful of buildings and some contain even fewer and are on the brink of vanishing altogether. The reasons for this are complicated but they essentially boil down to the fact that these places currently have no retail establishments and are located too far away from goods and services to attract population. This means that the ability of these

places to function as true communities is very limited, which makes it even harder for them to protect their historic resources.

The considerable age of many of Dane County's hamlets has also meant that many of their oldest buildings have been demolished and replaced with larger, more modern ones. Comparing the existing building stock of these places with what can be seen in old maps and photos makes this loss especially evident. Most noticeable now is the lack of early Greek Revival and Italianate style buildings and their vernacular form equivalents, which, in the beginning, formed the bulk of the building stock in these hamlets. The intensive survey also noted that Dane County's hamlets contain many older residential buildings of all kinds that would have been surveyed except for the fact that they have been poorly remodeled; inappropriate additions, siding choices and window replacement choices being the most common problems. Thus, there is clearly room for improvement in terms of educating the general public as to the range of options that can be considered when remodeling or restoration projects are contemplated. It is possible, however, that one of the greatest threats to the residential buildings in these hamlets is starting to pass. Beginning in the 1930s and continuing to the present, many of the older owner-occupied single family residential buildings in these project areas were converted into either single family or multi-family rental housing, a change that was often accompanied by interior and exterior alterations. As part of the same process, the ownership of many of these buildings shifted from an owner-occupied to an absentee status and this was often attended by a gradual lessening of maintenance standards and by the casual construction of inappropriately designed income-producing additions. Recently, however, there are signs that this trend may be reversing. Housing costs in Dane County are rising to the point where its older housing stock is once again becoming attractive to single family purchasers and a number of the older houses found in the project areas now show signs of thoughtful, sometimes meticulous recent renovation.

The future growth of the county is also expected to have an impact on its archeological potential. The city of Madison and most of the county's other cities and villages and even some of its hamlets are now almost completely ringed by modern subdivisions and new commercial buildings, and the population growth forecasts for the near future suggest that this process will continue and even accelerate. Thus, any prehistoric or historic archeological remains that still exist within the boundaries of these community's must be considered to be greatly threatened.

#### D. National Register Priorities

The top priority for listing in the National Register should be the most threatened of the resources that have been recommended for listing. These buildings include the Cutler House in Marxville and the Jenswold House in Daleyville, both of which are currently empty and deteriorating, the no longer used United Brethren Church in Rutland, and the Mt. Vernon Roller Mill in Mt. Vernon, which is still in use but which is vulnerable to obsolescence and has maintenance problems. These resources have the most to gain by the tax credits that are one of the benefits of NRHP listing and the favorable publicity that can also be generated by being listed. This publicity can then be used to prepare the way for the nomination of the other privately owned buildings on the list of potentially eligible individual buildings that is included in this report.

#### E. Community Strategies for Historic Preservation

The most effective means by which to implement meaningful historic preservation in Dane County's hamlets is through the enactment of local landmarks ordinances and the simultaneous creation of local landmarks commissions. Such commissions are the most effective way to protect historic resources and they are also a community's most effective potential educational tool as well. Both the Wisconsin Historical Society's Division of Historic Preservation (DHP) and Dane County's Department of Planning and Development can be of enormous help to communities that want to implement such programs. The implementation of complimentary historic preservation-related activities by Dane County's several historical societies can also be important steps by which local interest in historic preservation can be created and encouraged. It needs to be remembered that the size of a community is not the issue here; enthusiasm, patience, and hard work are what make historic preservation happen. After all, one of the

most progressive communities in the county in terms of historic preservation related activities is the village of Mazomanie and Mazomanie is only slightly larger than the county's larger hamlets.

An important step in increasing public awareness of historic preservation was taken in 2001, when Dane County successfully applied to the DHP for a Survey and Planning grant that could be used to fund an intensive survey of the county's unincorporated hamlets. The County's intent in funding such a survey was twofold; to create a data base of information about the historic resources in these hamlets, and to identify properties that might be eligible for the NRHP. Both of these goals have now been realized and the successful first public meeting that was held in conjunction with this survey suggests that there is also local interest in historic preservation.

The principal questions that the County now needs to answer are: "How can it best make use of the information generated by the survey to better inform the public about the historic resources in their midst?" and "How can public opinion be mobilized to place a higher value on these resources?" The answer seems to be largely a matter of education. The County now has much of the information it needs to assess the importance of the buildings in the survey area and the survey also identified buildings in the survey areas that may meet NRHP criteria for listing. Therefore, one of the best courses for the County to follow would appear to be to sponsor the nomination of some of these buildings to the NRHP as a way of demonstrating to these communities that they do, in fact, contain notable historic resources, some of which, like the Mt. Vernon Roller Mill, are not necessarily of an historic type that is highly valued by the general public.

Listing these resources in the NRHP is an important step because people must first be made aware of their historic resources before they will place a value on them and be motivated to preserve them. Listing these resources is also a good way of introducing the community to the criteria that the National Register uses to evaluate buildings and districts. And finally, listing these buildings would also be a way of showing that a number of the historic resources in the county that are privately owned stand to benefit from available restoration-related Federal and State tax credits.

The need for getting more and better information into the hands of the public is clear. For instance, the intensive survey found that a number of buildings in the survey areas that might otherwise have been eligible for listing in the NRHP have been rendered ineligible because they have been resided, most often with inappropriate materials or with materials that are different in scale from the originals such as when wide gauge metal or vinyl clapboard is used to replace narrower gauge original siding. By disseminating information that is readily available from the NRHP and the DHP about the importance of maintaining a building's original appearance and by making the public aware of the fact that siding of an appropriate size is now widely available, the County can help the public make better informed decisions about renovation projects.

The County can also use the products of the survey to help educate these communities about their historic resources. Historic photos and maps of Dane County hamlets that were identified in the survey could be reproduced (with the aid of funding from local businesses and service organizations) and displayed in appropriate public places and in local schools and businesses. Informational brochures that touch on remodeling issues and the tax advantages of NRHP listings can also be made available by the County as part of its education effort. Finally, lectures and workshops given by the members of the DHP can be used to better inform the community about preservation issues and techniques.