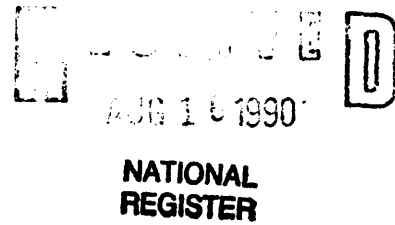


United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Brisbane, William Henry, House
other names/site number Stone House Farm; The Thudium Place

2. Location

street & number Reimann Road, 6/10 mile south of Hwy. 14.
city, town Town of Arena
state Wisconsin code WI county Iowa code 049 zip code 53503

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public ownership and building/site/structure/object categories.

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: State Historic Preservation Officer- WI
Date: 7/31/90

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official
Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
[X] entered in the National Register.
[ ] See continuation sheet.
[ ] determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[ ] removed from the National Register.
[ ] other, (explain:)
Signature of the Keeper: Melores Byrum
Date of Action: 9/13/90

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: I-house

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone  
walls Limestone

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roof Metal

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other Wood

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Brick

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The William Henry Brisbane house is located in Arena Township in Iowa County, Wisconsin. It is situated just outside the village of Arena at the end of Reimann Road, six-tenths of a mile off Hwy. 14. Set on a rural, but currently unfarmed property of approximately 18 acres, the Brisbane house, in form and surroundings, presents a striking appearance. It is an extremely tall, narrow structure, built of native limestone. Its unornamented exterior and steeply pitched roof give it a Medieval flavor, typical of much earlier examples of the I-house vernacular form(1). It has the characteristic I-house floorplan: two rooms wide, one room deep; and the typical parallel orientation and fenestration symmetry. In several aspects, however, it departs from the standard appearance of I-houses of that period(late 1800s) (2). Its dimensions are 32' by 16'. There are 2 1/2 stories above ground and a full basement. Basement walls are two feet thick and above ground walls are 18 inches thick; both are built of rough-cut limestone laid in irregular courses. From the floor of the basement to the gable peak, the height is 44'. The side-gabled roof is covered with tin and is pitched at 60 degrees. The paired end-wall chimneys are of yellow brick. The front facade of the house faces west and front and rear facades are identical, each having a centrally-placed, panelled door with a window centered on either side. All first floor windows are unusual in that they are triple- rather than double-hung. All windows of the house are original. They have six-paned sashes and lintels of timber. The first floor pattern is window-door-window and the second floor windows are placed directly above the three first floor openings. At the south gable-end of the house are a pair of double-hung windows on the second floor above a door and a triple-hung window on the first floor. The pattern is the same on the north side except for the puzzling absence of a second floor window. There is no evidence that an opening of any kind was ever there, indicating that the symmetry of the house was intentionally broken when it was designed. On the attic story, there are two narrow double-hung windows on each gable end.

The interior of the house conforms to the I-house pattern of two rooms on each floor. The central hall on the first floor has been partially removed to form one large and one smaller room. Walls are plastered and ceilings are 10' high(3). Upper floors remain divided into original rooms, having somewhat lower ceilings. There is a fireplace at either end of the first floor, but none on either of the upper floors(4). It is quite possible that Brisbane would have found it unnecessary to have a source of heat on the upper floors, as he used the house primarily in the summer months(5).

The landscape within the nominated area is uncultivated and contains two outbuildings, described briefly below. Vegetation consists of unmowed grass and weed areas, some deciduous trees and many pines and cedars. A few fruit trees of unknown age are located to the east(rear) of the house. The ground is fairly level for the most part, with a small knoll covered with pines and cedars rising to the southwest of the house.

See continuation sheet

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Town of Arena  
Iowa County, WisconsinSection number 7 Page 1Outbuildings

A smaller limestone and timber structure stands approximately eight feet from the south end of the house. This building was originally used as a summer kitchen. It is one-and-a-half stories high and its dimensions are 16' by 20'. It is slightly offset from the rear of the house with its length perpendicular to the lateral walls of the house. The first floor is of limestone construction and the upper floor is of timber, sheathed with wooden clapboards. The roof, which is also steeply pitched, is of wooden shakes. This building was altered considerably in the 1950s by its owner during that period, Mr. A.P. Trier. The badly deteriorated limestone walls were taken down and replaced with concrete block construction. The limestone slabs were salvaged and reused as a facing over the concrete blocks. Large window openings were cut into both the first and second floor walls and windows and doors are of modern design. This building is non-contributing because it has been significantly altered and no longer retains its historic integrity. The limestone slabs no longer provide the structural framework for the building; they are merely a decorative veneer and their application to the building walls creates a distinctly different appearance from that of the house. In addition, large windows, such as those found in this structure, became common only in the 20th century and depart dramatically from the original windows found in the house.

There is currently an lean-to type structure of wooden shakes sheltering the walkway between the house and the summer kitchen. This is not original, although photographs taken at various times show a history of construction and removal of several such structures over time.

The only other original Brisbane farm building is a stable located 80' from the south side of the house. The foundation is of limestone; 16' by 24', with the short side facing the house. It is 6' high with a doorway centered on the east side. The upper level is of timber construction with weatherboard cladding. There is a door in the west side of this floor, reached by a series of wooden steps. The roof is less steep than the house and kitchen and is of wooden shakes. This building is rather unremarkable in appearance and has not been maintained. The foundation is badly cracked and the entire structure is leaning. Because of its deteriorated condition, this building is a non-contributing resource. It has lost its structural integrity and is beyond the point of being restorable.

Footnotes

(1) According to Allen G. Noble, the I-house evolved from a form called the stack house. Of English origin, it was a tall, narrow structure with a steeply pitched roof. As the I-house form spread across the country, it gradually lost its Medieval character; decoration was added and the pitch of the roof was lowered. Noble, Allen G. Wood, Brick, and Stone p.52.

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William Henry Brisbane House  
Town of Arena  
Iowa County, Wisconsin

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Footnotes, cont.

(2) By the latter part of the 19th century, the midwestern I-house form appeared most commonly of balloon frame construction with a fairly low-pitched roof. Dimensions ranged between 16' and 24' in depth and 28' to 48' wide. Noble, Allen G. Wood, Brick and Stone pp. 52 and 53.

(3) The original staircase was removed when the remodelling was done. A new set of stairs was built against the east wall of the house at the north end in the kitchen. The current owner, Mrs. Learn, is unsure where the original stairs were.

(4) The fireplaces are original, although the hearths were replaced by Mrs. Learn in a fashion sympathetic with the style of the fireplaces.

(5) Cass, Betty. "Mysteries of Ancient Arena House Solved" The Capitol Times 6/29/1963.



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when he moved into the village due to ill-health. He died in 1878(9).

For a short period, the farm was rented out and then Brisbane's son, Benjamin and his family came there to live. The property remained in the Brisbane family until 1892, when it was purchased by F.D. Yaw. He resold it within a month to Vard Cockrill, who sold it to Albert Thudium in 1895. The property remained in the hands of the Thudium family until 1948 when it was purchased by Mr. Trier. In 1964 it was purchased by the current owner, Inez Learn, who for a while during the 1980s operated a toy store in the summer kitchen(10).

William Henry Brisbane was recognized on the state and national level for contributions he made as a physician and a religious leader(11). At the time that he built the Arena house, however, Dr. Brisbane was nearing retirement. The house is not associated with the period of his life when he was engaged in the political and social activities for which he became well-known. It has little significance within the context of Brisbane's contributions and for this reason, the Brisbane house is not nominated under Criterion B.

## Architectural Significance

The I-house is thought to have evolved from a couple of Vernacular house types introduced by the British in the Colonial period. These are the stack house and the hall-and-parlor house. The use of the I-house, which is an enlargement of these simpler types, spread with the movement of settlers across the continent. It gained particular popularity in the midwest, but never became common in Wisconsin. The I-house served many midwestern farmers as basic housing, and as stylized designs became popular, the simple form of the I-house lent itself to embellishment(12).

The William Henry Brisbane House, however, retains the simplicity of the original I-house design. It is architecturally significant because of its uniqueness of form and of construction. It possesses the typical two-room-wide, one-room-deep floor plan, parallel orientation, paired end chimneys, and a height of two-and-a-half stories--all fitting the I-house form. But it is set apart from the majority of I-houses of the era in its location and in its building design and materials. The I-house of the mid-to late-19th century is of frame construction with low pitched roof. Brisbane departed from this standard with the use of limestone and the exaggerated height and steepness of the roof. Other unique features are the full basement and the original, triple-hung windows on the first floor.

The use of limestone for house construction is not uncommon in southwestern Wisconsin. A nearby example of a typical limestone house type is located on Hwy 14 in the village of Mazomanie. Numerous limestone buildings of various designs occur in and around the village of Mineral Point and in western Dane County and in rural Iowa County. These structures are, for the most part, typical of Wisconsin's limestone construction tradition. Many are gabled-ell or upright-and-wing house types. Others exhibit more stylized detailing and can be classified as Greek Revival or reflect other popular designs of the latter part of the 19th century(13). The Brisbane house stands out as a marked deviation from this tradition. Its narrow width, its height and the steep roof pitch give the house its unique and attractive appearance. There doesn't appear to be another house like it in the state of Wisconsin.

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The setting of the farmstead reinforces the integrity of this nomination. It is approached by a gravel road extending from the end of a deadend road. It is completely obscured from view by vegetation until one enters the northeast corner of the property. Because the land is no longer farmed, the setting has a timeless quality. There is little that detracts from the building's historic appearance. The Brisbane house is valued by people of the Arena area for its striking appearance and historic integrity as well as its association with the area's history. For these reasons the William Henry Brisbane house should be included in the National Register of Historic Places.

## Footnotes

- (1) Because the building is being nominated for architectural significance alone, the period of significance is the construction date of the house.
- (2) Date of construction as indicated in the journal of William Henry Brisbane. (State Historical Library Manuscripts Collection).
- (3) Butterfield, C.W. History of Iowa County Western Historical Company, 1881. p.
- (4) Iowa County Register of Deeds.
- (5) Butterfield, C.W. History of Iowa County Western Historical Company, 1881. p.
- (6) Iowa County Register of Deeds.
- (7) Brisbane, William. Journal State Historical Society Manuscripts Collection.
- (8) Brisbane, William. Journal. State Historical Society Manuscripts Collection.
- (9) Biography, William Henry Brisbane Papers, State Historical Society Manuscripts Collection.
- (10) Learn, Inez. Town of Arena. Interviews, several, between March, 1989 and June, 1990.
- (11) Milwaukee Sentinel. Indexed Headlines, 1853-1878.
- (12) Noble, Allen G. Wood, Brick and Stone. University of Massachusetts Press Amherst, 1984. p.52-53.
- (13) Perrin, Richard W.E. Historic Wisconsin Buildings. Milwaukee Public Museum. Milwaukee, 1981. p.103-105.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Brisbane, Wm H. Papers. State Historical Library Manuscripts Collection.  
Butterfield, C.W. History of Iowa County. Western Historical Company. Chicago, 1881.  
Cass, Betty. "Mysteries of Ancient Arena House Solved" The Capitol Times 6/29/1963.  
Demby, Lois, Arena, Wisconsin. Interviews; April 8 and 16, 1989.  
Learn, Inez, Arena, Wisconsin. Interviews, several between January and April, 1989.  
McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses Alfred A. Knopf Co.  
New York, 1988.  
Noble, Allen G. Wood, Brick, and Stone University of Mass. Press. Amherst, 1984.  
Perrin, Richard W.E. Historic Wisconsin Buildings Milwaukee Public Museum, 1981.  
Wyatt, Barbara. Cultural Resources in Wisconsin, vol. 2 State Historical Society  
Madison, WI 1986.

Iowa County Register of Deeds  
State Historical Library Iconographic Collection.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Wisconsin State Historical Library

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property 3.75 acres

UTM References

A 

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2	6	3	4	6	0
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4	7	8	1	7	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Laura Paine  
organization N/A date 6/18/1989  
street & number 4320 Maher Avenue telephone (608)-222-4065  
city or town Madison state Wisconsin zip code 53716



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### Verbal Boundary Description

The Property is located in T8N, R5E, Section 21 of Arena Township in the Southwest quarter section. The boundary of the nomination is as follows: Beginning at the northeast corner of the southwest quarter section of section 21, proceeding west along the northern boundary line of the southwest quarter section (which is the current property line) for 320 feet; then proceed south for 520 feet along the current property line for 520 feet; then proceed east-southeast for 300 feet; then proceed north-northeast along the property line to the point of origin. (See Attachment A)

### Boundary Justification

The boundaries are based on the current ownership of the property. The 3.75 acres encompass the William Henry Brisbane House and its immediate surroundings, and recognizes the area of land adjacent to the house which has been historically associated with the Brisbane House. The boundary includes the parcel of land which retains its historic integrity and association with the Brisbane House and is necessary to convey the property's historic setting and contribute to its architectural significance as a rural dwelling.

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Photographic Materials-identification:

Brisbane, William Henry, House  
Arena Township, Iowa County, Wisconsin  
Photos by Laura Paine  
March, 1989

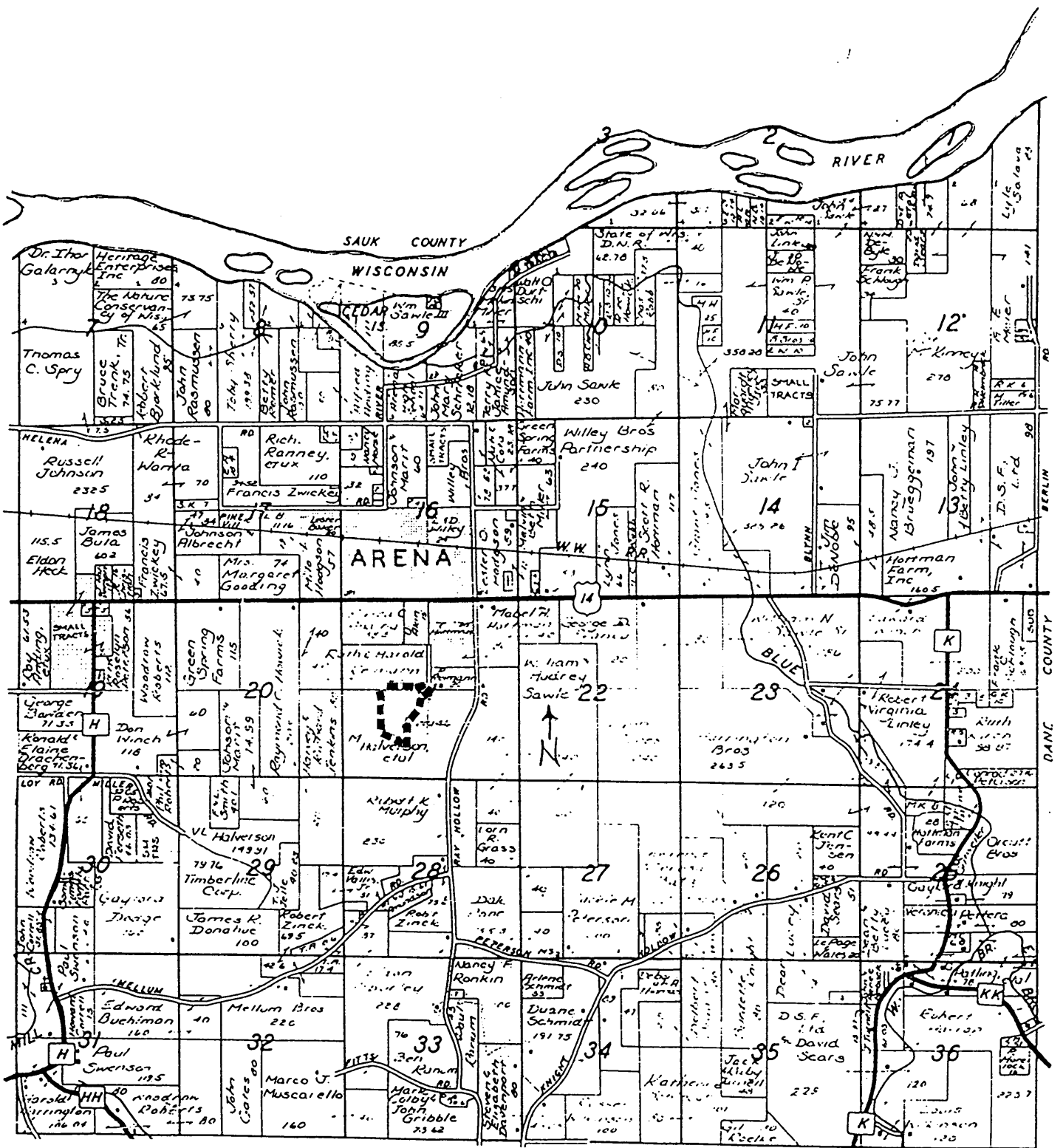
Negatives held by the Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society.

Photo #1: Southwest elevation(Front of house).

Photo #2: East elevation (Rear of house).

Photo #3: Northwest elevation, showing asymmetrical north facade.

Photo #4: Stable, northwest elevation.



WILLIAM HENRY BRISBANE HOUSE  
 Town of Arena, Iowa County, Wisconsin

ATTACHMENT A

Not to scale

■■■ = Boundary

↑ NORTH