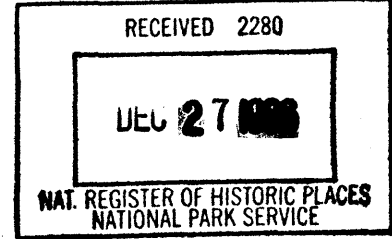


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National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Church Hill Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number (See Inventory) N/A not for publication  
city or town Portage N/A vicinity  
state Wisconsin code WI county Columbia code 021 zip code 53901

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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    X meets    does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally    statewide X locally. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 12/10/96  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria.  
(   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

Church Hill Historic District

Columbia County, Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

**4. National Park Service Certification**

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register.
    - See continuation sheet.
  - determined eligible for the National Register.
    - See continuation sheet.
  - determined not eligible for the National Register.
    - See continuation sheet.
  - removed from the National Register.
  - other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Edson A. Beall Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include listed resources within the count)

		Contributing	Noncontributing	
		61	20	buildings
		0	0	sites
		0	0	structures
		0	0	objects
		61	20	Total

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

RELIGION/religious facility

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

RELIGION/religious facility

GOVERNMENT/city hall

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

Italianate

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls BRICK

Weatherboard \_\_\_\_\_

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD

BRICK

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## 7. Narrative Description

### **Setting and General Appearance of the District**

Located in the city of Portage, Columbia County, Wisconsin, the Church Hill District represents a relatively early, middle to upper class residential area which developed immediately north of Portage's retail area. The district lies along a hillside which slopes gently southeast toward the Portage Canal located just south of the Portage Retail District. The entire city occupies a narrow strip of land between the Wisconsin and Fox rivers which are connected by the canal. The Church Hill District occurs approximately between Lock and MacFarlane to the west, W. Franklin and W. Carroll to the north, Adams to the east, and east and west Pleasant to the south. This area encompasses three entire city blocks and portions of five additional blocks. Listed in 1995 (McKay 1993), the Portage Retail District, which includes much of Portage's downtown, lies one to two blocks to the south. Composed primarily of large, mid to early twentieth century, stylish residences belonging to Portage's prominent families, the Society Hill Historic District, which was listed in 1992, occurs immediately to the west of the proposed Church Hill District (Cartwright 1992). The areas immediately to the north and east of the Church Hill District are somewhat later, middle and upper class neighborhoods whose dwellings lack the building integrity of the Church Hill District. Of the 81 buildings which occur in the district, 61 are contributing and 20 are noncontributing. Five of these buildings functioned as churches, and the remaining include 71 dwellings, one noncontributing office building, and four carriage houses/stables. Carriages houses are denoted by the letter "A" on the district map. Small in scale, garages were not counted.

Settlement of the city within the boundary of the district probably began in the early 1850s when the community became formally established. The construction of dwellings between existing houses began about 1900 and continued into the fourth decade of the twentieth century. This in-filling process and some replacement of early housing stock continued into the 1960s, ending with the building of four ranch type dwellings and one small office building. The contributing dwellings

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and churches which compose the district date between 1855 and 1933. Two dwellings reflect influence from the Greek Revival and Gothic Revival style, and the dominant styles in the district are the Italianate and Queen Anne. Because the churches dominate their surrounding area through their height, extent, and degree of architectural detail, their styles tended to visually dominate the district. These architectural styles include the Romanesque Revival, Neo-Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, and Colonial Revival. Additional styles in the district include the Second Empire; Colonial, Georgian, and Dutch Colonial Revivals; American Foursquare; and Bungalow. Generally the buildings which have undergone the most alteration, the vernacular dwellings include the gabled ell, front-gabled, side-gabled, and one-story-cube forms.

Surrounded by lawns and low planting, these buildings face onto tree-lined, paved streets with concrete curbs and sidewalks. They generally occupy standard-sized, approximately 60 by 115 foot urban lots. Placed along several northwest-southeast major streets which lead into the downtown area, the district encompasses the southern portion of a neighborhood which developed just north of the retail area adjacent to the six churches located along its west and south sides.

#### **General Architectural Description**

The district's generally larger high style dwellings are two to two-and-a-half stories in height, and the vernacular houses range between one and two stories. Dwelling forms are squarish, rectangular, and T- or L-shaped. Church forms vary considerably. One church has an ell-shaped form which is dominated by twin steeples built flush with the facade (235 W. Howard, 38/14). A second, rectangular form is dominated by a central steeple (701 MacFarlane, 42/23). A third has the form of a Latin cross organized adjacent to an interior steeple (120 W. Pleasant, 35/13). The fourth has an L-plan with a side-steeple (211 W. Pleasant, 35/7). The fifth example is rectangular in plan with a simple projecting portico along its facade (417 W. Wisconsin, 35/24). Originally T-shaped with a central steeple, a sixth example was converted to a duplex in ca. 1900 and has lost its steeple (214-218 W. Howard, 38/28).

Foundation materials include stone and poured concrete. The more recent dwellings and those dwellings on foundations which represent replacements stand

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on concrete block. The foundation stone varies considerably. Much of the rubble foundation stone probably derived from glacial till of the Green Bay Lobe of the Wisconsin Glaciation. These deposits include granite, rhyolite, limestone, and sandstone. An 1898 study of Wisconsin stone quarries emphasized the existence of this unlimited supply of stone which was well-suited to foundation work (Buckley 1898: 353; also Martin 1965: 317; Wyatt 1986 [vol. 2, architecture]: 4-6). Ashlar stone foundations generally appear under the large, nineteenth century dwellings and churches. Much of the bedrock immediately adjacent to Portage is sandstone and limestone. Several sandstone quarries occur in the Portage-Baraboo area (Buckley 1898: 90-105, 230, 351-52; Martin 1965: 363; see also McKay 1993: 252).

The walls of many of the larger dwellings and churches are cream brick. Some are veneer and supported by a wood frame, and others are brick masonry buildings. With few exceptions, most of the brick is laid in a common bond with multiple rows of stretchers separated by a single row of headers. In Portage, cream brick remained the primary material for the construction of not only large dwellings and churches but also for commercial, civic, and industrial buildings through the first two decades of the twentieth century. The fire laws of Portage mandated fireproof materials for buildings in the central business district of Portage as early as the 1860s (Portage, City of, 1868). Large pockets of white clay occurred no deeper than 39 inches below a red surface clay within and near the city of Portage. A heavy concentration of calcium and magnesium in these clays produced the buff or cream color of the Portage brick (Salkin 1980: 9). The four brickyards in Portage produced sufficient quantities of brick, primarily pressed brick, to supply local builders and export small quantities (Butterfield 1880: 599). William Armstrong opened the first identified commercial yard as Armstrong, Pixley and Reeder at the site of Pauquette Park in 1847. This same deposit produced clay for Fort Winnebago as early as 1828. Additional yards included those operated or rented by Conrad Collipp beginning in 1854, the yard opened by James Sanborn in 1873, and Herman Affeldt's extension of the Collipp operation in 1878. The small Portage yards closed as the clay supply dwindled by the end of the first decade of the twentieth century (McKay 1993: 138-40, 250-52).

The vernacular dwellings, a small number of the large dwellings, and one church (214-218 W. Howard, 28/38) are balloon frame covered with clapboard. The only identified timber frame structure supports the former 1855 Methodist Church at

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214-218 W. Howard. Many of the vernacular dwellings have received a cladding of recent, primarily aluminum or vinyl siding. The area immediately adjacent to Portage supplied little timber for construction by the 1850s. During the nineteenth century, the source of timber remained the pineries along the Wisconsin River to the north of Portage. Small steam-operated sawmills did produce pine lumber in Portage in the 1840s and 1850s. After that date, Portage's mills finished rough-cut pine lumber. For example, by 1860, Josiah Arnold had established a small sash and blind factory and planing mill (Butterfield 1880: 633, 876; U.S. Bureau of the Census 1850-1910 [1860: industrial schedule]; River Times 1853 [5/2: 2/3]). In 1850, Carnegie and Learmouth operated a planing mill. Carnegie located the site of his operation to the north bank of the canal and west of W. Wisconsin in 1857. Between 1876 and ca. 1891, he maintained a partnership with James O. Prescott, a building contractor. The business became a major supplier of lumber and wood products for Portage, and Carnegie and Prescott also operated as one of the major building contractors in the city during this period. Additional lumberyards were established along the canal between the 1860s and 1880s including the yard founded by Robert Wentworth in 1863 or 1864. This yard was later ran by Oscar Van Dusen and became the Mohr-Stotzer, yard in 1901. Lumberyards remained in this vicinity through 1955 (McKay 1993: 248-50).

Roof shapes across the district vary considerably depending on the building shape and style. They are predominately gable and also include multi-gable, gambrel, hip, pyramid, and mansard roofs. With a single exception, the roofing material in the district is asphalt shingle or tile. Wood shingles cover the roof of 214-218 W. Howard (28/38).

The four carriage houses are frame, one-and-a-half to two-story, front and side gabled outbuildings (127A E. Howard [53/7], 212A W. Howard [53/10], 118A W. Carroll [39/35], and 223A. W. Pleasant [50/36]). They stand on stone or in one instance on a poured concrete foundation and are covered with clapboard, board and batten, or asbestos siding. These carriage houses were built prior to 1900, and two date before 1889 (Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Inc. 1889; 1894; 1901; 1910). The carriage house at 118A W. Carroll, which is covered with asbestos siding, has been converted to a dwelling. Originally associated with the Marvin Waterhouse property at 211 W. Howard (38/9), the outbuilding was purchased by Bryon Meacher of 207-209 W. Howard (38/8) in 1892 (Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1891-92]). The carriage house at 212A W. Howard appears to have been moved from the

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southwest corner to the southeast corner of the property between 1918 and 1929, perhaps when the property underwent renovation in 1926 (Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Inc. 1889; 1918; 1929; Taylor 1993). Probably erected in 1877 (Wisconsin State Register 1877 [8/11: 3/1]), the "barn" at 223A W. Pleasant received a visually similar addition along its east elevation in the 1970s (Fandrich 1994).

#### **Description of Individual Dwellings in the District**

Buildings which currently represent the variety of dwellings belonging to one style or dwelling type and the individuals who occupied them are individually discussed in this section.

#### **Greek Revival Influence (1)<sup>1</sup>**

**214-218 W. Howard (38/28):** Little evidence of the Greek Revival style remains within the district which was initially settled when the style still remained popular in the Midwest. Erected in 1855 (Independent 1855 [6/28: 2/2]); Smith-Rogers Abstract Co. 1953), the former Methodist Episcopal Church constructed by the Methodist Church Society of Portage displays Greek Revival influence. The T-shaped, timber frame and clapboard building stands on a granite stone foundation, and wood shingles cover its multi-gable roof. Greek Revival detailing includes the pediments and entablature along the facade and side gables and the corner pilasters. The society improved the church in 1877 by finishing an audience room in the original building and added a 30 by 40 foot rear extension in 1882 (Wisconsin State Register 1877 [6/23: 3/1; 7/21: 3/2; 8/18: 3/1; 1882 [12/15: 3/1]). In 1900 after the church's sale to Ralph Baker in 1899, the steeple was removed, and the church was converted to "a double residence" (Wisconsin State Register 1900 [1/13: 1/2]). The central entrance was closed and two hooded windows with panels beneath were added (Taylor 1993 [photographs]). Entrance is gained into each apartment through a side door with porch which carries a spindle frieze, delicate brackets, turned posts, and rails. The duplex is most commonly associated with Emma Sprecher who purchased the

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<sup>1</sup> The number in parentheses represents the number of buildings within the style or type.

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building in 1904 (Smith-Rogers Abstract Co. 1953; Columbia Co. Treasurer 1863-[1899, 1903-04]).

The Methodist Church became established in Portage in 1851. The 1898 move to the considerably larger church which once sat at the southeast corner of DeWitt and E. Pleasant provided badly needed space (Register Democrat 1935 [2/15: 2/1-2]; 1940 [10/16: 1/4-5, 3/7<sup>2</sup>]; First Methodist Church 1946). Emma Sprecher with whom 214-218 W. Howard is most closely associated continued to own the duplex between 1904 and 1939 (Smith-Rogers Abstract Co. 1953; Columbia Co. Treasurer 1863-[1903-04; 1938-39]). Because the removal of the steeple and central entrance and interior division significantly altered its appearance, the current building is viewed as a contributing residence with detailing from both the Greek Revival and Eastlake styles.

#### **Gothic Revival Influence (1)**

**134 W. Franklin (42/24):** The Gothic Revival style also has limited representation in the district. Erected in 1876-78 (Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1874-80]; Stone 1882), the dwelling at 134 W. Franklin is spatially a side-gabled building displaying Gothic Revival elements. The two-story cream brick dwelling has a two-story centered pavilion along the facade. The pavilion and two wall dormers, which are symmetrically positioned in relation to the pavilion, are covered with steep gable roofs finished with gable ornaments. The round and segmental arch window lintels along the facade are elaborated with cast iron, stylized keystones. The main entrance is closed with paired glass and panel doors, and an overlight is placed above them. A screened porch which replaces the original somewhat obscures this entrance area. A canted, one story bay detailed with brackets and a porch supported with chamfered posts with capital pieces and elaborated with brackets and frieze with incised detailing are placed along what appears to be a relatively early rear addition. Exterior modification appears limited to the porch replacement and the loss of some detailing such as the roof cresting.

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<sup>2</sup> The news articles cited without their page and column numbers were located in the archives of the Portage Public Library.



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William Fulton owned the dwelling from its construction to ca. 1919. The property remained in the ownership of his heirs including Mrs. Agness Collipp through 1940 (Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1910; 1920; 1930; 1940]; Farrell 1917-18: 35; Smith-Baumann 1929: 50). Fulton immigrated from England and came to Portage in 1866. In 1872, William Fulton in partnership with Alexander Thompson purchased John Fulton's grocery business, established in 1853. In 1889, William Fulton acquired his partner's interest and operated the store until about 1900. By 1886, he advertised as a dealer in "Groceries, Seeds, Crockery, Glassware, etc" (Rockwood and Goodell 1886: n.p.). He located his business at 118-122 W. Cook between ca. 1885 and 1905 and at 124 W. Cook by 1901 to about 1917. He also operated a creamery at the corner of Edgewater and Lock between approximately 1897 and 1906 (Butterfield 1880: 898; Portage Daily Register 1889 [12/23]; Democrat 1897 [7/30: 5]; Jones 1914 [2]: 591-93; Polk, R.L. & Co. 1897-98: 914; 1004).

#### **Italianate Style (9)**

The Italianate style is one of the dominate styles within the district. With one exception, it appears as a squarish or L-shaped, two story, cream brick dwelling.

**131 E. Howard (37/10):** Erected in 1883-84 (Stoner 1882; Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1883-84]), the two-story, frame and cream brick veneer, T-shaped dwelling at 131 E. Howard has a two-story, centered pavilion finished with a steep, gable roof. In Portage, this form is more commonly associated with dwellings displaying Gothic and Queen Anne detailing. A low, hip roof covers the house. The broad eaves are detailed with a denticulated and bracketed cornice. Quoins on the corners, the pavilion, and the two-story canted bay produce a vertical emphasis. Additional elements along the entrance area include the circular window in the gable and the wooden hood and overlight and closed sidelights along the main entrance. Other than the alteration of window lights, this dwelling has undergone little exterior alteration. Robert Thomson owned the dwelling at the time of its construction until 1925. He operated as a cattle dealer by 1886 through 1918 (Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1925]; Rockwood and Goodell 1886: n.p.; Farrell 1917-18: 36).

**208 W. Howard (38/26):** Erected in 1884 by P. Mills and Sanborn Brothers (Columbia County Treasurer 1884-85; Stoner 1882; Wisconsin State Register 1884 [3/29: 3/2,

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4/19: 3/1]), this two-story, cream brick dwelling with low, pyramidal roof has the squarish massing common to the Italianate. It was intended to duplicate the dwelling of Mr. James Gowran at 223 W. Pleasant. Detailing includes the broad eaves with denticulated and bracketed cornice; two, one-story canted bays with similar cornice treatment; a centered, one-story, entrance vestibule detailed with wooden hood and fanlight and sidelights around the main entrance. This dwelling has undergone little exterior alteration.

Miss Juliette W. Treadway owned the dwelling at the time of its construction until 1888. For a brief period between ca. 1889 until 1892, D.G. Muir and William T. Muir owned and resided at the residence. His mother, Anna or Mrs. Daniel Muir, lived at 229 W. Howard (38/12) between 1870 and 1895. In 1865, David Muir had joined the firm of Parry and Muir which had begun as Parry & Bebb in 1856. Parry and Muir ran the business as partners after 1869, probably in a new commercial building erected at 124 W. Cook by Conrad Collipp in that year. This business advertised as a drugstore and later as a mercantile store selling dry goods, clothing, boots, shoes, hats, and caps (Wright 1890: 58, 61; Maher and Eckstein 1885: 169; Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1870-71; 1883-85; 1890-92; 1895]; Rockwood and Goodell 1886: n.p.; Butterfield 1880: 663, 891, 916, 918; Merrill, Woodard & Co. 1887; Portage Daily Register 1889 [12/23]; Muir 1878; Wolfe 1973: 269).

**111 E. Pleasant (36/6):** The two-story, cream brick Italianate at 111 E. Pleasant originally displayed an L-plan prior to the addition of the frame side wing. Detailing includes the low hip roof with broad, denticulated and bracketed eaves; a pediment with circular window centered along the facade; a two story, canted bay; an overlight and sidelights along the main, centered entrance; and a later porch supported with Tuscan columns. While retaining its general appearance, this example has undergone modification by the addition of the wing and porch. Hugh O. Lewis occupied the dwelling at the time of its construction in 1879 by Alexander Carnegie until sometime after 1911. By 1917, his son Hugh G. Lewis owned the dwelling (Wisconsin State Register 1879 [4/19: 3/1, 6/7: 3/2, 8/16: 3/2, 10/8: 3/1]; Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1870-82]; Stoner 1882; Harrison and Warner 1873; Farrell 1917-18: 41). H.O Lewis advertised as a blacksmith by 1873, and in 1874 and 1875 Lewis with James Gowran cooperated to presumably manufacture and sell agricultural implements. In later advertisements it appears that Lewis returned to selling his own implements (Wisconsin State Register 1878 [5/25: 3/2]). By 1880, he operated a shop with four employees. Lewis continued

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to work as a blacksmith until the turn of the century, retiring by 1910. By 1880, he also produced farm implements. The blacksmith shop was located near the site of the Hugh G. Lewis hardware store at 208 DeWitt (Butterfield 1880: 662, 663; U.S. Bureau of the Census 1850-1910 [1880: industrial schedule]; Columbia County Historical Society 1982; Platt 1873: 206; Wright 1890: 56; Voshardt 1910: 55; Wisconsin State Register 1874 [4/25: 3/1]).

**223 W. Pleasant (35/05):** Erected in 1877 (Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1876-77]; Stoner 1882; Harrison and Warner 1873; Wisconsin State Register 1877 [6/2: 3/1; 9/15: 3/1]), this two-story, cream brick dwelling is L-shaped and covered by a low hip roof. It displays detailing common to Portage Italianate dwellings: the broad eaves with brackets; one-story canted and rectangular bays with brackets; one-story, centered vestibule with overlight above the entrance; and a later, wrap-around front porch with elaborate spindle frieze, brackets, turned posts, wood rail, and shingling in the pediment. It was considered "a fine dwelling" by the contemporary newspaper (Wisconsin State Register 1877 [9/15: 3/1]). Other than the elaborate porch erected between 1894 and 1897, the dwelling has suffered relatively little exterior modification. Although the interior is divided into apartments, at least a significant portion of the interior wood, window and door trim and baseboard remains. Arriving in Portage about 1874, James Gowran owned the dwelling at the time of its construction until ca. 1916. The dwelling remained in the family until after 1935. Gowran made his living as a farm implement dealer by 1874 and 1875 when he cooperated with H.O. Lewis marketing of these products. As the agricultural lands around Portage became settled, his business increased markedly from the late 1860s onwards (Wisconsin State Register 1878 [6/27: 3/1, 3/4]). He remained in the business until ca. 1902. He had retired by 1910 (Polk, R.L. & Co. 1884-85: 651; 1901-02: 896; Wright 1890: 38; Voshardt 1910: 43; Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1930; 1935]; Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Inc. 1894; Democrat 1897 [7/30, w/ drawing]; Butterfield 1880: 662, 900; Portage Public Library n.d. [photograph ca. 1900]; Wisconsin State Register 1874 [4/25: 3/1]; 1875 [8/22: 3/1]).

**220 W. Pleasant (35/21):** Built in 1881 (Stoner 1882; Harrison and Warner 1873; Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1880-83]; Wisconsin State Register 1882 [3/31: 3/1]), this two-story, cream brick dwelling is L-shaped with a low, hip roof which visually emphasizes the height of the comparatively narrow dwelling. Italianate detailing includes the broad eaves with double brackets; the two-story canted bay with "dog tooth" brickwork and shingling in the gable; an overlight

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and single sidelight at the entrance located near the east elevation; and a front entry porch elaborated by chamfered posts with capitals, brackets, and frieze. Except that the porch was replaced to parallel the original, the dwelling has undergone little exterior alteration (Portage Public Library n.d. [photograph ca. 1900]).

E.W. Farrington owned the dwelling at the time of its construction in 1881, but sold the new residence which stood nearly opposite St. John's Episcopal Church in 1882 to Mr. O.D. Van Dusen. Farrington erected several houses in the area as a source of income. He gained \$2600 on this sale (Wisconsin State Register 1882 [3/31: 3/1]; 1883 [7/14: 3/1]). Oscar D. Van Dusen owned the dwelling between 1882 and 1892. In 1884, Van Dusen owned two lumber mills in Dorchester, had 124 men and twenty teams of horses in the woods, and shipped 512 car loads of lumber (Wisconsin State Register 1884 [2/16: 3/2]). By that year, Van Dusen operated the former Goodyear lumberyard jointly with Charles R. Gallett and Llywelyn Breese. The company was located along the north side of the canal east of W. Wisconsin. Van Dusen sold one-half of the yard to Prentice and Mohr and the other half to A.J. Wier in 1888. By 1890, he was associated with the Register Printing Company (Polk, R.L. & Co. 1884-85: 653; Rockwood and Goodell 1886: n.p.; Wright 1890: 77; Portage Daily Register 1889 [12/23]; 1936 [5/12]; Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Inc. 1885; 1889; Jones 1914 [2]: 563, 639). James E. Jones acquired the dwelling in 1893 and remained there until 1920. In 1881, Jones purchased the Democrat which was established in 1877 from Irving Bath. He published the paper until 1919 when he sold it to the Register Printing Company which combined it with the Wisconsin State Register to produce the Register-Democrat. He also published the 1914 Columbia County history (Jones 1914 [1]: 133-37; Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1920-21]; Register-Democrat 1919 [4/3]; 1923 [3/1]; Portage Daily Register 1942 [10/3: 1]). Harlan B. Rogers purchased 220 W. Pleasant in 1921 and remained in the dwelling until 1976. He began his law practice with his father Josiah H. Rogers in the firm of Rogers and Rogers in 1910. In that year, he married Carol Jones, daughter of James E. Jones. Shortly after 1910, Rogers also served as a director and chairman of the board of the City Bank of Portage until his retirement. In 1930, he formed the law firm of Rogers and Owens with Philip Owens (Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1921-22]; Johnson Printing Co. 1955: 161; Columbia County Historical Society 1982: 367; Daly 1995).

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**Second Empire (1)**

603 DeWitt (37/17): Although several other examples stand in Portage, 603 DeWitt represents the only Second Empire style dwelling in the district. Completed in September, 1873, it was described by the paper as follows: "It is to have a Mansard roof, and will be in style generally" (Wisconsin State Register 1873 [4/12: 3/1; 9/6: 1/3]; see also Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1873-74]; Stoner 1882; Harrison and Warner 1873;). It is a frame and asbestos, two-and-a-half story dwelling finished with a mansard roof. Dormers with round arch windows pierce the roof. Double round arch windows occur along the upper floor of the facade. The porch which replaces an earlier structure covers the double, heavily molded, round arch entrance doors and overlight. Thus, although the current siding now covers the walls and eaves, the dwelling retains its basic shape and some of its features.

Harvey Smith owned the dwelling at the time of its construction until ca. 1891. Little is known of Smith who resided in Portage and worked as a cooper as early as 1860. By 1886, he had retired. The news article printed in 1873 indicated that Smith rented the dwelling and lived elsewhere. During the winter of 1873, for example, F.G. Randall of Columbus occupied the dwelling through the winter (Wisconsin State Register 1873 [4/12: 3/1]; U.S. Bureau of the Census 1850-1910 [1860: industrial schedule]. George E. York purchased the house in ca. 1905 and continued to occupy it until about 1925. With his brother, Irving York, he ran I.W. York Company which operated the grain elevator at 131 E. Mullett by 1890 and the Portage Roller Mills. York remained with the company through 1919 (Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1890; 1892; 1905; 1925]; Smith-Baumann 1929: 46; Wright 1890: 81; Register-Democrat 1923 [12/11, 18]). Charles Gale, father of Zona Gale who was Portage's poet and novelist, may have rented all or a portion of the house ca. 1886. Although locating to Portage in 1861, Gale who worked for the railroad did not live continuously in Portage until 1882. One source suggests that he also lived at 603 DeWitt at the birth of Zona Gale in 1874 (Rockwood and Goodell 1886: n.p.; Wisconsin Visual and Sound Archives n.d. [filed under place names]; Milwaukee Journal 1928 [9/2]; Wisconsin, State of 1977: 121-33).

**Queen Anne (15)**

The Queen Anne style is numerically the dominate architectural style in the

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district. While most are constructed of cream brick, frame examples also exist. The dwelling size and amount of detail associated with Queen Anne style dwellings varies widely within the district.

**110 E. Howard (37/21):** The frame and clapboard Queen Anne house at 110 E. Howard lacks the massive appearance of many of the Queen Anne dwellings within the district. The steep gables of the T-shaped, two-and-a-half story house provides a vertical emphasis. Its delicate detailing includes gable ornaments with spindles and shingling along the closed gables; a two-story bay elaborated with pendants and brackets along its canted first story; molded lintels; a rear porch with turned posts and brackets; a modified, pedimented front porch with closed rail and unelaborated posts; and an entrance vestibule. Silas M. Smith owned the dwelling from the time of its construction in 1907 to ca. 1910 when his widow, Anne Jeanette Gallett, gained ownership of the property. As a member of the firm of Smith and Dering, he purchased the abstract business of Alverson and Yule in 1876 and by 1886 advertised his firm as a law, abstract, real estate, loan, and insurance office. He remained in business through 1910 (Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1905-11]; Voshardt 1910: 74; Wright 1890: 73; Polk, R.L. & Co. 1884-85: 653; Rockwood and Goodell 1886: n.p.; Butterfield 1880: 928).

**101 E. Pleasant (36/3):** Erected in 1904 following the design of Frank L. Lindsay prepared in 1904 (Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1902-05]; Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Inc. 1901; 1910; Meier 1995; Wisconsin State Register 1903 [9/26: 8/2]), the two-and-a-half story dwelling is a large frame and clapboard, irregularly shaped building. The gables along the hip roof are relatively steep. The rather profuse detailing includes the brackets, recessed windows with miniature Ionic columns and swags, and shingling in the closed, front gable; a two and a half story bay finished with a gable sharing features of the front gable; stick work; broad eaves; and wrap-around porch with denticulated frieze, brick columns and rail, and windows with fanlights.

Arthur Amasa Porter owned the dwelling at the time of its construction until his death in 1946. Gladys Boies Porter continued to live in the house through 1955 (Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1939]; Voshardt 1910: 67; Smith-Baumann 1929: 57; Commonwealth Telephone Co. 1947; Johnson Printing Co. 1955: 158). Porter lived in Pacific, Columbia County until the 1890s. After operating a grocery with Frank Porter in 1890, he was elected Register of Deeds in 1894 through ca. 1898. He then established himself as a lucrative realtor in Portage, later

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building several apartment buildings and rental housing in the city (e.g., 110 E. Conant and 138 and 140 E. Howard). Between 1902 and 1910, Porter served as the post master. He purchased the Wisconsin State Register from Maurice Goodman in 1908 and became its editor. In the same year, he directed the construction of the Register Building at 309 DeWitt, its current location. Porter ran the paper until 1942 except for the years between 1918 and 1920. During this period, the Register was combined with the Democrat, producing the Register-Democrat (Ogle, Geo. A. & Co. 1901: 610-11; Register-Democrat 1919 [4/3]; 1923 [3/1]; 1956 [10/4]; Portage Daily Register 1908 [8/4: 3/1]; 1942 [10/3: 1/3-5]; 1969 [11/9]; Jones 1914 [1]: 133-37, 143; Wright 1890: 63; Polk, R.L. & Co. 1897-98: 916; 1903-04: 988; 1909-10: 1056; Democrat 1897 [7/30: 2]; Milwaukee Journal 1942 [9/24]).

**513 DeWitt (37/19):** Erected in 1892-93 (Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Inc. 1889; 1894; Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1892-93]), this dwelling represents the more massive, cream brick Queen Anne dwellings characteristic of the district. Its visually irregular shape and height is emphasized by the multiple steep, gables of the roof; the two-story canted bay; and the oriel window. Bargeboards occur along all the gables, decorative brick work enhances the bay and oriel window, and brackets elaborate the roof gable. A pedimented lintel with corbel stops occurs above the double window along the facade, and shaped lintels emphasize the other window openings. The porches along the facade and the west elevation which faces DeWitt, a main street, are now enclosed.

C.D. Maine owned the dwelling when it was erected until at least 1897. C.D. may represent Clinton Maine who was the son of Dr. E.C. Maine. He worked as a railroad employee in 1886 and later in a variety of other rather speculative occupations (Rockwood and Goodell 1886: n.p.; Wisconsin State Register 1883 [1/6: 3/1]; 1900 [8/18: 1/1]). James Baird occupied the house by 1905 through the mid-1920s (Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1897; 1905; 1925; 1935]; Voshardt 1910: 28; Portage Public Library n.d. [photograph]). By 1893, James Baird & Co. owned the Portage Iron Works which manufactured brass and iron casting and undertook complete engine and machinery repair. In addition to agricultural equipment, his company produced architectural cast iron ornament. In 1905, Baird sold a partial interest in the firm which then became Baird and Slinger. After 1905, the company shifted toward automobile repair. Baird remained with the Portage Iron Works at the corner of E. Wisconsin and Dodge until 1920 or 1921 (Polk, R.L. & Co. 1893-94: 801; 1903-04: 986; 1911-12: 1030; 1919-20: 1021; Voshardt 1910: 28).

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**114 E. Howard (37/22):** Although not found elsewhere in the district, the two story, cream brick, L-shaped dwelling form represented by 114 E. Howard occurs elsewhere in Portage. The form is typically elaborated with either Gothic Revival or Queen Anne detailing. The steep gables along the roof of 114 E. Howard, the two-story bay, and the wall dormer detailed with gable ornaments and spindles produce a vertical emphasis to the design. It carries little additional elaboration: an entry porch with turned posts, rail, spindle frieze, and brackets and a side porch with turned posts. Fred Hoefs owned the dwelling at the time of its construction in 1892-93 through the 1890s. A Fred C. Hoefs worked as a carpenter in 1886 (Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1893-93; 1899]; Rockwood and Goodell 1886: n.p.).

**105 E. Pleasant (36/5):** The example at 105 E. Pleasant is a two-and-a-half story, irregular plan cream brick dwelling. Its several steep gables provide a vertical emphasis to the design. Decorative detailing is profuse and includes: a shingled gable with broad, bracketed overhang and Palladian window placed over a two-story rounded and canted bay; one-story bay with denticulated cornice; metal cresting rail; pedimented front porch with turned rails and Tuscan columns; and side porch with turned posts and pediment. In April, 1900, C.J. Sharkey moved an earlier frame dwelling from the Lewis property to the corner of E. Conant and Jefferson. H.G. Lewis contracted with C.H. Williams, an architect in Pardeeville, to prepare the plans. Lewis remained in the house through 1955 (Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1900-01, 1939]; Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Inc. 1894; 1901; Commonwealth Telephone Co. 1948: 9; Johnson Printing Co. 1955: 159; Wisconsin State Register 1900 [2/3: 1/1, 2/10: 1/2, 4/14: 1/3]). Hugh G. Lewis established a hardware store at 208 DeWitt in 1895 through 1910. After 1910 through 1929, Lewis, occasionally with a partner became a dealer in farm implements and hardware (Date stone on 208 DeWitt; Polk, R.L. & Co. 1897-98: 897; 1911-12: 1038; 1913-14: 910; 1925: 1124; Voshardt 1910: 55; Farrell 1929: 57).

**224 W. Pleasant (35/22):** Erected in 1904 (Sanborn-Perris Map Co. 1901; 1910; Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1903-05]) by contractor H.C. Brodi (Portage Daily Register 1904 [3/25: 4/2]; Wisconsin State Register 4/2: 8/4]), the dwelling at 224 W. Pleasant is a two-and-a-half-story frame and cream brick veneer, T-shaped building. Its steeply gabled roof emphasizes the height of the building. The decorative detailing includes the closed, gables with shingling, double windows surmounted by an entablature, bargeboards, and brackets; belt and string courses and watertabling along the walls; front porch supported by fluted



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columns and detailed with denticulated frieze; an overlight above the entrance; and triple windows with leaded glass. The interior woodwork is generally intact. James R. Paterson, Jr., the owner, contacted with Brodi in 1904, and he continued to occupy the dwelling through 1940. Patterson was employed at the Portage Hosiery by 1910 Portage Daily Register 1904 [3/25: 4/2]; Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1940]; Voshardt 1910: 65).

**235 W. Pleasant (35/2):** Erected in 1897 (Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1896-97]; Sanborn-Perris Map Co. 1894; 1901; Ogle, Geo. A. & Co. 1901: 864; Portage Public Library n.d. [photograph]), the two-and-a-half-story, cream brick dwelling at 235 W. Pleasant is an elaborately detailed, irregularly shaped building. The steep gables of the hip and gable roof and the tall, corbeled chimney emphasize the height of the dwelling. The detailing includes the stickwork, colonettes, brackets, spindles, and sunburst design of the closed, projecting gables; a two story, canted bay under one of the gables; a wrap-around porch with spindle frieze, brackets, turned posts and rail, and screening at the corner; an overlight above the main entrance; and a side, entry porch with floral design in the gable, a denticulated frieze, turned posts, and brackets.

Otto Krisch owned the dwelling as it was being constructed in 1897 and died prior to its completion. Krisch emigrated from Prague, Austria and arrived in Portage in 1854. He established a grocery in 1857 which he operated until 1897. Trained in music with Robert Vogel prior to emigration, he remained active in the Portage Leiderkranz as well as the Portage Turnverein (Butterfield 1880: 633, 910; Ogle, Geo. A. & Co. 1901: 364-65; Turner 1903: 22-23). Although his wife continued to own the dwelling through 1930, Jacob C. Leisch lived at the residence by 1910 through 1937. By 1885, Jacob Leisch worked as a cutter for Phillip Goodman, a large mercantile tailoring establishment in Portage. C.C. Buckley and J.C. Leisch formed their own tailor shop from the Goodman establishment in 1895. By the late 1890s, Buckley and Leisch became the largest mercantile tailor shop in Portage and much of Wisconsin outside Milwaukee, serving customers in Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota. By 1908, they also formed a men's clothier shop located at 131 W. Cook where the retail and tailoring business remained through 1921 (Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1930]; Voshardt 1910: 53; Smith and Baumann 1929: 59; Commonwealth Telephone Co. 1937: 20; Wright 1910: 51; Portage Daily Register 1889 [12/23]; 1909 [9/3]; Democrat 1897 [7/30]; Butterfield 1880: 900; Turner 1903: 17).

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**Colonial/Georgian/Dutch Colonial Revival (5)**

**207-209 W. Howard (38/8):** The William S. Stroud dwelling either replaces an earlier dwelling or represents the substantial remodeling of an earlier dwelling which stood on the property. After Stroud purchased the property in 1892, its value gradually rose between 1892 and 1895. Although the overall shape of the property remains substantially the same, the Sanborn Map indicates a considerable number of new porches and a reorientation of the building's interior space between 1894 and 1901 (Sanborn-Perris Map Co. 1894; 1901; Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1893-95]). The Wisconsin State Register of August 18, 1900 noted that Judge Stroud had begun remodeling his dwelling on Howard Street (1900 [8/18: 1/1]). It appears that Stroud gradually altered the dwelling between 1893 and 1895 and again at the turn of the century.

By 1901, the house at 207-209 W. Howard represents an early example of the Dutch Colonial Revival style. It is a one-and-a-half-story, rectangular, frame dwelling which is now covered with aluminum siding. The front-facing gambrel roof, pierced by a series of gable roof dormers with pedimented lintels along its elevations, contains almost a full story of floor space. Additional detailing includes the hooded windows and the pedimented oriel window along the facade; bracketed eaves; bay; and entry porch supported by Ionic columns. The dwelling has suffered some loss of detail. In addition to the aluminum siding, the front porch which once crossed the front of the house and wrapped around the east elevation is reduced to the current entry porch (Portage Public Library n.d. [photograph, ca. 1900]).

William S. Stroud owned the dwelling from 1895 through 1936, the date of his death (Columbia County Treasurer 1863 [1940]; Register-Democrat 1936 [8/11, 8/14]). Originally establishing a law office in Wisconsin Dells, Stroud also maintained an office in Portage by 1881 or 1882. He settled in Portage in September, 1882 (Wisconsin State Register 1881 [5/28: 3/1]; 1882 [9/30: 3/1]). He became the district attorney in 1893-94, and between 1898 and 1910 he served as a judge in the Columbia County court. Stroud located his office at 202 W. Cook in the former City Bank building. He retired from his law practice in 1920 but continued his role as a director of the First National Bank of Portage (Polk, R.L. & Co. 1884-85: 653; Register-Democrat 1936 [8/11]; Democrat 1897 [7/30]; Polk, R.L. 1893-94: 803).

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**615 Lock (39/29):** Now known as the Kutzke Apartments, the dwelling at 615 Lock was erected as a two-story, cream brick veneer Italianate in ca. 1867. Only the general shape, low, hip roof, broad eaves, and pilasters along the elevations indicate its former style. Between 1908 and 1925, the dwelling served as the privately owned Portage Hospital and residence (Rugen 1868; Foote, C.M. & Co. 1873; Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1866-67; 1908-09; 1925]; Sanborn-Perris Map Co. 1901; 1910). In 1908 (Portage Daily Register 1908 [4/10: 3/4; 6/29: 3/1]), the frame and clapboard Colonial Revival front was added to the dwelling. This addition included a second story enclosed sun porch and a small sun porch and open porch below. Detailing included the broad eaves and wide frieze board, the denticulated frieze along the open porch, and the Tuscan columns.

Mrs. Carolina E. Thomson owned the dwelling at the time of its construction until 1908. It served as a private residence and also a boarding house by 1890. Dr. William T. Thomson, her son, attained ownership during the 1908 remodeling and continued to own it until 1925 when he sold it to George Stamison who operated a restaurant in Portage. Thomson and his family occupied the first floor as a residence, and the Portage Hospital was located on the second floor. It contained six rooms for twenty patients, a sterilizing room, a diet kitchen, bathroom, operating room, and convalescing porch. The hospital served patients from Portage and the adjacent rural areas. Such small, private hospitals provided space for operating procedures and care of the seriously ill. They filled the gap between the performance of operations in the physician's office and the care of the seriously ill at home and the founding of institutionalized facilities such as Portage's Divine Savior Hospital which was established in 1916-1917 (Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1908-1909; 1940]; Polk, R.L. & Co. 1927-28: 849; Voshardt 1910: 77; Wright 1890: 76; Portage Daily Register 1908 [4/10: 3/4; 6/29: 3/1]; 1917 [5/17]; Register-Democrat 1916 [12/26]; Jones 1914 [2]: 726).

**212 W. Howard (38/27):** Like 615 Lock, the dwelling at 212 W. Howard represents the remodeling of an Italianate. The two-story, cream brick dwelling with low, pyramidal roof was first erected in ca. 1875 for the Methodists, who appear to have had their parsonage in this dwelling. Later references to the Methodists parsonage indicate that the Methodist erected the parsonage shortly before or in the year they purchased the property in 1876 (Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Inc. 1889; Stoner 1882; Harrison and Warner 1873; Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1873-74, 1876]; Wisconsin State Register 1875 [8/21: 3/1]; 1877 [11/3: 3/1]; 1883 [1/6:

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3/2]; 1884 [4/19: 3/1]). It displays a small amount of Italianate detailing: the broad overhang, and canted, one-story bays along each side elevation. The 1926 remodeling designed by Law, Law, and Potter of Madison (date carried by interior structural elements; Taylor 1995) added the facade which incorporates the first and second floor sun porches, an open porch, and a porte cochere. The Georgian Revival detailing includes the pedimented gable with round arch window and lintel and keystone; entablature with wreath detailing along the frieze; colossal pilasters; panels with applied detailing below a band of windows; recessed entrance surrounded by pilasters and entablature; and porte cochere supported by Tuscan columns and finished with a decorative railing. At this time, the dwelling may have also received the first story of the garage addition along the east and an addition to the west side of the rear ell.

When constructed, the dwelling served as the parsonage of the adjacent Methodist Episcopal Church at 214-218 W. Howard until 1898. Wilbur W. Bacon owned the dwelling between 1900 and 1922. However, Peter J. Barkman occupied the residence between at least 1910 and perhaps as early as 1903 and 1917. Bacon, a plumber, lived at 714 DeWitt in 1910. Beginning in 1874, Barkman with Joseph Wells and H.W. Williams purchased the I.W. Bacon hardware business, and Barkman initially worked as foreman of the tin department. He became the proprietor of J.E. Wells and Company in 1912. Barkman continued to operate the business through 1918 (Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1898, 1900, 1922]; Wisconsin State Register 1903 [8/2: 8/3]; Voshardt 1910: 28, 37; Farrell 1917-18: 37; Polk, R.L. & Co. 1921: 1068). Dr. William Taylor who had the remodeling of the house completed in 1926 acquired the dwelling by 1923. The family continues to own the residence. A graduate of Rush Medical College, Dr. Taylor began his practice in the office of Dr. Bryon Meacher above Graham's Drugstore at 301 DeWitt in 1919. They continued in practice together until Meacher's death in 1937 (Wisconsin State Register 1874 [2/14: 3/1]; Portage Daily Register 1969 [8/23]; 1981 [2/8]).

**117 E. Howard (37/14):** This house is another example of the Dutch Colonial Style, an offshoot of the Georgian Revival style (Wyatt 1986 [vol. 2, architecture]: 2-29). It is a one-and-a-half-story, T-shaped, frame dwelling covered with a steep gambrel roof which flares at its ends. Because of the side additions, addition of the front sun porch across the facade, and the recent aluminum siding, the dwelling is a noncontributing building. Herman F. Schulze owned the house at the time of its construction in 1906-07 until ca. 1916. Schulze was employed as a plumber for the Schulze Hardware Company at 122 W. Cook by 1895 and purchased

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an interest between 1909 and 1914 while he continued to work in the family business. Working in the hardware business since at least 1908, Herman H. Senger owned the dwelling between at least 1929 and 1948. In 1917, he and Martin Heller purchased the Schulze Hardware Company and established the Senger-Heller Hardware. Senger ran the business until his death in 1948 (Sanborn-Perris Map Co. 1901; 1910; Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1906-07; 1930; 1940]; Voshardt 1910: 72; Farrell 1917-18: 36; Smith-Baumann 1929: 52; Commonwealth Telephone Co. 1948: 15; Register-Democrat 1955 [4/27]; 1940 [3/15]; Polk, R.L. & Co. 1895-96: 863; 1913-14: 910).

**American Four Square (5)**

**116 W. Howard (38/24):** Erected in 1917 (Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Inc. 1910; 1918; Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1916-17]), the two-story, frame dwelling is clad with clapboard along the first floor and wood shingle along the upper floor. A comparatively, steeply pitched roof covers the house. Additional detailing includes the broad eaves; hip roof dormers centered along the side elevations and facade; a shallow bay window; and a front porch across the facade supported by square, wood posts and closed with a clapboard rail and half posts. Andrew R. Slinger occupied the building after its construction through 1938. He purchased a partial interest in the Portage Iron Works at the corner of E. Wisconsin and Dodge from James Baird about 1905. By 1913, Baird and Slinger operated primarily as machinist by entering the automobile repair business and placed less emphasis on the iron foundry portion of their concern. Between 1920 and 1921, Baird left the Portage Iron Works, and it became known as the Slinger Foundry, Machine, and Auto Co. with Andrew Slinger and son as proprietors. The company also retailed automobiles by 1920. By 1940, Wallace Murison had purchased the dwelling but lived at 202 W. Howard (Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1940]).

**202 W. Howard (38/25):** Erected in 1913-14 (Sanborn-Perris Map Co. 1910; 1918; Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1912-14]), this American Foursquare dwelling, which displays the horizontal lines of the Prairie School style (McAlester and McAlester 1990: 439), is a two-story, squarish, tile and stucco dwelling on a granite foundation. Its broad eaves reduce the verticality of the pyramid roof. Additional details include the centered, shingled, hip roof dormers; the tile string course connecting the lintels along the upper half of the second story;

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front sun porch with closed tile rail and series of triple windows; and sidelights along the main entrance.

Wallace Murison occupied the dwelling from its construction through 1948. Murison joined his father who established his cabinetmaking, furniture retail, and undertaking business in 1853. George Murison's Sons which included Wallace and George, Jr. continued the business located at 310 DeWitt after their father's death in 1917 until 1950 (Commonwealth Telephone Co. 1938: 31; 1948: 10; Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1930; 1940]; Farrell 1917-18: 37; Smith-Baumann 1929: 53; Portage Daily Register 1917 [9/14]; Register-Democrat 1953 [9/14]; Jones 1914 [2]: 565-66).

**101 W. Pleasant (35/12):** Like the example at 202 W. Howard, this 1916-17 dwelling (Sanborn-Perris Map Co. 1910; 1918; Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1916-17]) also displays the horizontal lines of the Prairie School Style. The two-story, frame dwelling is more elongated from front to rear than the more frequent, squarish examples. Tile clads the first floor, wood shingling finishes the upper story, and a low, hip roof covers the dwelling. Additional detailing includes the broad eaves; the hip roof dormer centered along the facade; the sun porch across the facade detailed with closed, tile rail and pillars, brackets, windows, and a small, gabled entry; the Palladian windows; and the one story bay along the east elevation. The 1929 (Taylor, S. 1995), two-story tile apartment at the rear is attached to the dwelling by an wide entryway.

Frank Van Epps, Sr. owned the dwelling at the time of its construction in 1916-17 until 1930. In 1909, Lloyd Freeland and Frank Van Epps founded a branch of the Freeland Steel Tank Company of Sturgis, Michigan at Portage. The city provided a site at 1203 Adams for the company to produce its galvanized barnyard equipment. Van Epps purchased Freeland's share in 1912 and ran the business until his death in 1930. By 1935, A.A. Porter who continued to live at 101 E. Pleasant had purchased the dwelling (Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1925; 1930, 1935]; Smith and Baumann 1917-18: 41; Wisconsin Power and Light Co. ca. 1925; Columbia County Historical Society 1982: 324; Portage Daily Register 1959 [7/6: 5/1-3]).

**Bungalow (2)**

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**123 E. Howard (37/12):** Two examples of the Bungalow style exist in the district. Both have undergone alteration. Erected in 1925-26 (Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Inc. 1918; 1929; Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1925-26]), the example at 123 E. Howard as well as the one at 512 DeWitt are one-and-a-half-story, side-gabled frame dwellings with a porch across the facade and a gable roof dormer centered along the roof above. Both are covered with aluminum siding, and their porches are enclosed. The example at 123 E. Howard retains its 4/1 window lights, the knee braces under its broad eaves, and the gable above the entrance. Emil Zimmerman owned this dwelling from the date of its construction until 1928 (Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1927; 1929]; Smith-Baumann 1929: 52).

#### **Vernacular Dwellings**

The vernacular dwellings fall into four types: the side gable, front gable, gabled ell, and one-story-cube. They are generally more modest in size than the high style dwellings and have often undergone some modification including residing with aluminum or vinyl, enclosure of the porch, window modification, and/or the addition of wings.

#### **Side Gable Type (8)**

Rectangular dwellings constructed with the gables of their gable roofs perpendicular to the facade, side gable houses in the district were constructed between the mid-1870s and 1929. They were built using frame and clapboard, brick, or tile and were one-and-a-half to two-and-a-half-stories in height. Most examples lack decorative detailing except for an occasional turned post along the front porch. Several examples display Colonial Revival elements. As noted, most of the frame examples have undergone at least limited modification, usually the addition of recent siding or the enclosure of a porch.

#### **Front Gable Type (5)**

The front gable dwelling is rectangular in shape, and its main entrance occurs under the gable of its gable roof. In the district, one dwelling of this type was constructed in 1871, and the remainder were erected between 1910 and 1924 in

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frame and tile and range in height from one-and-a-half to two-and-a-half-stories. Most examples lack decorative elaboration except for limited detailing along several porches. A small number of elements from the Greek Revival, Queen Anne, and Colonial Revival occur on some of these dwellings. These frame examples are resided.

#### **Gabled Ell Type (11)**

Constructed between ca. 1867 and 1908, the dwellings representing the gabled ell type in the district range in size from one-and-a-half to two-and-a-half stories in height. In most cases, the longitudinal wing and the upright wing with its gable facing the street are the same height. The gabled ell was constructed only in frame within the district. Most examples lack decorative elaboration except for a limited detailing along the porch. A small number of Eastlake and Colonial Revival elements may be found on some of these dwellings. Of the vernacular types, the gabled ell has suffered the most modification through residing and alteration of the fenestration.

#### **One-Story-Cube (1)**

One unusual example of the one-story-cube house type exists within the district at 120 E. Howard. The frame, one-story, hip roof dwelling was constructed in 1917-18 (Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Inc. 1910; 1918; Columbia County Treasurer 1863-[1917-18]). Although it retains its one-story tower with pavilion roof, its porch is closed and asphalt siding covers the original clapboards. It was therefore viewed as non-contributing.

### **Description of Individual Ecclesiastical Buildings in the District**

#### **Romanesque Revival: 235 W. Howard (38/14) and 701 MacFarlane (39/27) (2)**

Known as the Zions Kirche de Ev. Gemeinschaft when first founded in ca. 1866, the Zion Church of the Evangelical Association as it was identified after its incorporation in 1881 erected its Romanesque Revival church in 1871. It



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gradually altered the front of the building sometime after 1901, completing the second, east steeple prior to 1918 (date stone; Rugen 1868; Harrison and Warner 1873; Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1870-71]; Wisconsin State Register 1871 [4/15: 3/1]; Sanborn-Perris Map Co. 1901; 1910; 1918). The cream brick church is an L-shaped building designed in relation to the steeple and the tower which stand on either side of the facade. The east, square tower is irregularly counterbalanced by the steeple along the west side of the facade. Corbeling, round arch windows, and string courses elaborate the area under the gable between the steeple and tower. The steeple is composed of a square tower with the round arched entrance and corbeling; the lantern with louvered, round arch openings and string course; and the pyramidal spire. The east tower is finished with corbeling and a parapet. Placed under a stained glass fanlight, double doors close the recessed, main entrance. A series of round arch windows and pilaster strips divide the east and west side elevations. The congregation added a basement under the church in 1905. In ca. 1973, the interior of the church was converted to a residence. The limited exterior modification includes the replacement of the window lights (Portage Daily Register 1974 [4/27]; Democrat 1946 [10/18]).

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized in 1859. It replaced its first frame church erected in 1864 with a cream brick, Romanesque Revival church in 1874. Local builders including Gustav Mattke and Ferdinand Schultz as the carpenters and M. Brand as the mason completed the construction. At the time of construction, the church measured 38X70 feet and forty-four feet to the top of the tower (St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church ca. 1934; 1944; Portage Daily Register 1944 [10/26: 3/5-6]; WPA 1940-42: folder 9; Wisconsin State Register 1874 [5/12: 3/2; 5/9: 3/2]). The center steeple projecting from the gable dominates the design of the church. The parapet along the gable roof, pilasters and narrow, round arch windows enhance the vertical emphasis to the facade. The tower of the steeple is opened by the double door entrance surrounded by a voussoir and stained glass fanlight and detailed with a circular window and corbeling. The lantern is pierced by the double, louvered openings with round arch lintels and corbel stops. Series of round arch, stained glass windows with corbeled window hoods and pilasters divide the north and south elevations. A small, cream brick, rear wing was added to the church in 1894-95, and the low, frame north wing was constructed after 1974 (Columbia County Historical Society 1982; St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church ca. 1934; 1944).

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**Neo-Gothic Revival: 207-211 W. Pleasant (35/7) (2)**

St. John's Episcopal Church was organized in 1853. The current, cream brick, T-shaped Neo-Gothic Revival church erected in 1898 replaces the 1855 frame church. I. Jay Knapp of Milwaukee provided the design for the 1898 building (Independent 1855 [6/28: 2/2]; St. John's Episcopal Church 1953; Portage Daily Register 1953 [11/11: 3/1]; Register-Democrat 1942 [6/11: 3/2-5]; date block). In this side-steeple plan, the steep, corbeled parapet of the front gable balances the steeple off-set to the west. Both are divided into three horizontal planes. The gabled main facade is composed of two paired, Gothic arch, stained glass windows, the rose window, and then the corbeling along the gable. The steeple includes the tower with the stone, Gothic arch lintel above the double, wood doors and buttresses along its corners; the lantern with louvered openings and corbeling; and a steep, four-sided spire with dormers. Gothic arch, stained glass windows also pierce the side elevations of the church. The interior of the church underwent limited remodeling in 1952 (Portage Public Library n.d. [photography]; St. John's Episcopal Church 1953).

During a period of rapid growth in the church led by Rev. H.F. Rockstroh, the congregation constructed Rockstroh Parish Hall as a frame building in 1906. In 1907, the church added a brick veneer to the building. The hall was enlarged across the rear by a cream brick, lean-to addition in 1913 (Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Inc. 1901; 1910; 1918; St. John's Episcopal Church 1953; Register-Democrat 1943 [6/11: 3/2-5]). The one-story, side-gabled, cream brick building also displays a small number of elements attributable to the Neo-Gothic Revival Style. A Gothic arch entry is placed at the west side of the building's facade. Paired, Gothic arch windows are separated by buttresses along the remainder of the facade. The church remodeled the hall's interior in 1947 (St. John's Episcopal Church 1953).

**Richardsonian Romanesque Revival: 120 W. Pleasant (35/13) (1)**

The First Presbyterian Church of Portage was established in 1850. The congregation constructed its first church at 301 E. Cook in 1855. After the church was partially destroyed by fire in 1892, the Richardsonian Romanesque style church at 120 W. Pleasant was completed in 1893. Architects Valk and Sons of Brooklyn provided the design, William Kutzke laid the foundation, and William

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Prehn, local builder, completed its construction (Independent 1855 [6/28: 2/2]; date stone; Ogle, Geo. A. & Co. 1901: 271; Curtis, Anacker, and Curry 1993: 5-6; Democrat 1900 [7/20: 1-4]). Although the overall horizontal plan of the building is a Latin cross covered with an intersecting gable roof, the offset tower; projecting entrance, bell tower, and multiple roof lines and gables; varying planes of the building; and the multiple materials create a visually irregular massing. Materials include the ashlar stone of the high basement, cream brick veneer walls, and wood shingling. The broad expanse of the building contrasts with the height of the steeple. The profuse detailing includes the broad, shingled, multi-plane gables with brackets; the steeple with its square, cream brick tower, shingled lantern with shingled turrets and round arch windows, and four-sided spire; vestibule with recessed, arched entrance; arcade adjacent to the entrance; buttresses; Palladian and round arch windows with stained glass; and series of dormers along the east roof line and single dormer along the west roof. The exterior of the building has undergone little modification. While the replacement of wood shingling with asphalt shingling is almost universal in the district, the visual impact on this building is more noteworthy because of the broad roof expanses and their function in joining the many decorative elements. The congregation remodeled the interior of the church in 1948-49. Edward Tough, Madison architect, with Gunderson Construction Company and W.A. Kutzke Company completed this work (Portage Daily Register 1950 [7/19: 3/1-2]). In 1955 (date stone), the church added the one-story, tile, Westminster Center which is connected to the church along its east side.

**Georgian Revival: 417 W. Wisconsin (35/24) (1)**

The Christian Science Church first formed in Portage in 1899 and the group formally organized as the Christian Science Society of Portage in 1909. The society reorganized as the First Church of Christ Scientist in 1927. Lloyd Stensrud, general contractor, completed its construction in 1933 following the design provided by architect Charles William Valentine of Milwaukee (Portage Public Library n.d. [undated history]; Milwaukee Journal 1934 [1/7]; Register-Democrat 1934 [1/25]; WPA 1940-42: folder 7). The Georgian Revival limestone veneer building is simply designed. The church is essentially rectangular in shape and a squat tower of three stages forming a square base which supports a cupola occurs along the center of the ridge of the front-gabled roof. The facade under the gable of the building is elaborated with a nearly full-height, semi-

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circular portico supported by Tuscan columns. Placed in the center of the gable end which is finished with gable returns, the entrance is elaborated with a fanlight. Wall dormers carrying stained glass windows occur along both side elevations. Exterior alterations are primarily limited to the replacement of the red tile roof with asphalt shingle. Although this alteration has some visual impact, the broad roof reduces the visibility of the roof. The building now contains the attorney offices of Vytas Salna.

#### **The Composition of the District**

The twenty noncontributing buildings in the district belong primarily to the four vernacular building types. Typical alterations most commonly include the addition of more recent siding which in itself does not necessarily produce a non-contributing property. However, this modification accompanied by the enclosure of the front porch, the modification of the fenestration, and/or the placement of a post-1945 wing along or near the facade which changes the overall appearance or identity of the property produces such a designation. Including five dwellings, one small office building at the edge of the district, and the 1974 city hall, seven of the noncontributing properties post-date 1945 (Aero Service corporation 1957). Except for the city hall, which is clearly visible as a two-story, tile building with a tower adjacent to the fire station and associated parking lot, the remainder are one to one-and-a-half-story, modest-sized buildings. Primarily contributing buildings, the large Italianate, Queen Anne, American Foursquare, and revival style dwellings and the churches located along the district's west and south edges dominate the streetscapes of the district.

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**Inventory of Properties Within the Church Hill District<sup>3</sup>**

<u>Address</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Contributing</u> <u>Noncontributing</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>
508 Adams	1915	53/3	noncontributing	Anne Sprague
118A W. Carroll	by 1901	39/35	contributing	M. Waterhouse Bryon Meacher
135 W. Carroll	1868-80	39/32	noncontributing	W.H.H. Bingham
141 W. Carroll	1904	39/31	contributing	parsonage
512 DeWitt	1926-27	38/19	contributing	Freeland Van Epps
513 DeWitt	1892-93	37/19	contributing	C.D. Maine James Baird
516 DeWitt	1892-93	38/20	contributing	Samuel Schulze
603 DeWitt	1873	37/17	contributing	Harvey Smith George E. York
134 W. Franklin	1876-78	42/24	contributing	William Fulton
138 W. Franklin	1928-29	42/22	contributing	Bryon Taylor
105 E. Howard	1940-55	37/16	noncontributing	George L. Devine
108 E. Howard	1923-25	37/20	contributing	Tillie La Fleur
110 E. Howard	1907	37/21	contributing	S.M. Smith
111 E. Howard	1873-74	37/15	contributing	J.C. Holden
114 E. Howard	1892-93	37/22	contributing	Fred L. Hoefs Frederick Davis
116 E. Howard	1919-20	37/23	contributing	George Jones
117 E. Howard	1906-07	37/14	noncontributing	Herman F. Schulze Mathias C. Hettinger Herman Senger
119 E. Howard	1903-04	37/13	contributing	J.C. Holden

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<sup>3</sup> "A" refers to carriage houses/stables. They are counted separately from their associated dwellings. Small in scale, the garages are not included in the building count.

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120 E. Howard	1917-18	37/24 noncontributing	Sarah E. Dates
123 E. Howard	1925-26	37/12 contributing	Emily A. Zimmerman
124 E. Howard	1916-17	37/25 noncontributing	F.L. and S.L. Van Epps
126 E. Howard	1910	37/26 contributing	Deabold Blass
127 E. Howard	1887-88	37/11 contributing	F.A. Tanzer
127A E. Howard	prior to 1901	53/7 contributing	carriage house
130 E. Howard	1866-67	37/27 noncontributing	J.J. Orthman
131 E. Howard	1883-84	37/10 contributing	Robert Thomson
134 E. Howard	ca. 1875, 1901-10	37/28 contributing	Robert Taylor
137 E. Howard	1907-08	37/9 noncontributing	T.C. Evans
138 E. Howard	1924-25	37/29 contributing	A.A. Porter, owner
139 E. Howard	1880-81	37/8 contributing	Thomas C. Evans
140 E. Howard	1923-24	37/30 contributing	A.A. Porter, owner
108 W. Howard	1912-13	38/22 contributing	Nora Farr, Alvin Leeg
109 W. Howard	1905	38/5 contributing	Christian Ehr
112 W. Howard	1913-14	38/23 contributing	Charles Brockman Herman Senger
113 W. Howard	1895-96	38/6 contributing	George Murison, Sr. Dr. John A. Roberts
116 W. Howard	1917-18	38/24 contributing	Andy Slinger Wallace A. Murison
202 W. Howard	1913-14	38/25 contributing	Wallace A. Murison
203 W. Howard	post-1957	38/7 noncontributing	residence
207-209 W. Howard	1893-1901	38/8 contributing	William S. Stroud
208 W. Howard	1884	38/26 contributing	J.W. Treadway David G. Muir
211 W. Howard	1867-68	38/9 contributing	Marvin Waterhouse George A. Murison
212 W. Howard	ca. 1875, 1926	38/27 contributing	parsonage, W.W. Bacon William A. Taylor
212A W. Howard	by 1889, moved?	53/10 contributing	carriage house
216-218 W. Howard	1855	38/28 contributing	Methodist Church Emma Sprecher
217 W. Howard	1961-64	38/10 noncontributing	residence
219 W. Howard	1961-64	38/11 noncontributing	residence
220 W. Howard	1884-85	38/29 contributing	Orson H. Warriner

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224 W. Howard	ca. 1883	38/30 contributing	M.B. Warriner
229 W. Howard	1870-71	38/12 noncontributing	D.G. and Anna Muir Charles W. Baker
230 W. Howard	1901-02	38/33 contributing	Ole Johnson Thomas J. Wells
231 W. Howard	1871	38/13 contributing	parsonage
235 W. Howard	1871, 1901-18	38/14 contributing	German Evangelical Church
236 W. Howard	post-1957	38/22 noncontributing	residence
609 Lock	1924	38/16 contributing	parsonage
615 Lock	ca. 1867, 1908	39/29 contributing	Caroline E. Thomson Dr. Wm. J. Thomson
701 MacFarlane	1874	39/27 contributing	St. John's Lutheran Church
711 MacFarlane	1918	42/23 noncontributing	Mary L. Raab
101 E. Pleasant	1904	36/3 contributing	Arthur Amasa Porter
105 E. Pleasant	1900	36/5 contributing	Hugh G. Lewis
111 E. Pleasant	1879	36/6 contributing	Hugh O. Lewis
117 E. Pleasant	1900-1901	36/7 contributing	Alvin C. Taylor
119 E. Pleasant	prior to 1863/ 1863-67	36/8 noncontributing	H.A. Knapp A.D. Forbes George H. Bryant
125 E. Pleasant	1894-95	36/9 contributing	Patrick J. Lennon
131 E. Pleasant	1921-22	36/10 noncontributing	William Scarf
135 E. Pleasant	ca. 1867	36/11 noncontributing	Elizabeth Arthur
137 E. Pleasant	1921-22	36/12 noncontributing	Anna Sprague
101 W. Pleasant	1916-17	35/12 contributing	Frank Van Epps
115 W. Pleasant	1974	53/30 noncontributing	city hall
120 W. Pleasant	1893	35/13 contributing	Presbyterian Church
203 W. Pleasant	1871	35/10 contributing	parsonage
207 W. Pleasant	1906	35/9 contributing	church hall
211 W. Pleasant	1898	35/7 contributing	St. John's Episcopal Church

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<u>Address</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Photo Contributing/</u>	
			<u>Noncontributing</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>
219 W. Pleasant	1876-77	35/6	contributing	E.W. Farrington Josiah Arnold William Baird S.S. Rockwood
220 W. Pleasant	1881	35/21	contributing	E.W. Farrington Oscar Van Dusen James E. Jones Harlan B. Rogers
223 W. Pleasant	1877	35/5	contributing	James Gowran
223A W. Pleasant	1877	50/36	contributing	carriage house
224 W. Pleasant	1904	35/22	contributing	James Patterson, Jr.
229 W. Pleasant	1896	35/3	contributing	Chancey C. Britt
235 W. Pleasant	1897	35/2	contributing	Otto Krisch Jacob C. Leisch
415 W. Wisconsin	post-1957	35/23	noncontributing	office building
417 W. Wisconsin	1933	35/24	contributing	Church of Christ Scientist

total number of properties: 81  
 contributing properties: 61  
 (carriage houses (A): 4)  
 noncontributing properties: 20



Church Hill Historic District  
Name of Property

Columbia County, Wisconsin  
County and State

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

Applicable National Register Criteria  
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the  
criteria qualifying the property for the  
National Register listing.)

Areas of Significance  
(Enter categories from  
instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

A Property is associated with events  
that have made a significant  
contribution to the broad patterns of  
our history.

B Property is associated with the lives  
of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive  
characteristics of a type, period, or  
method of construction or represents  
the work of a master, or possesses  
high artistic values, or represents a  
significant and distinguishable entity  
whose components lack individual  
distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to  
yield, information important in  
prehistory or history.

Period of Significance

1855-1933 (1)

Significant Dates

1855-1933 (1)

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

A owned by a religious institution or  
used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or  
structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age achieved  
significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is  
marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

see continuation sheet

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## 8. Significance Statement

### Introduction

The Church Hill Historic District gains local significance under criterion C in the area of architecture and under criterion A in the area of social history. The district contains both representative and distinctive examples of the residential Gothic Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, American Foursquare, Georgian Revival, and Colonial Revival architectural styles and ecclesiastical examples of the Romanesque Revival, Neo-Gothic Revival, Richardsonian Romanesque Revival, and Colonial Revival styles. The district also acquires significance in the area of social history because its five churches strongly contributed to the unification of the community. By associating members in many areas of the community, these churches socially crosscut the community. While the Presbyterian, Episcopal, and Christian Science Churches contained a diverse membership, the Lutheran and Evangelical churches served the German community. Because of the social importance of the religious denominations which these churches represent, they gain local significance under criterion exception A. The period of significance between 1855 and 1933 represents the beginning and end building dates of contributing buildings in the district: 214-218 W. Howard (38/28), the former Methodist Church (Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1863]; Rugen 1868; Independent 1855 [6/28: 2/2]), and 517 W. Wisconsin (35/24), the former Church of Christ Scientist (date stone; Milwaukee Journal 1934 [1/17]; Register Democrat 1934 [1/25]; WPA 1940-42).

The architectural survey of the district and the remainder of the city and development of the historical background and contexts were completed as part of the intensive historical and architectural survey of the city of Portage between 1992 and 1993. This project and the current district nomination are sponsored by the Portage Area Chamber of Commerce (see McKay 1993).

### Historical Background

The city of Portage lies along the watershed between the Fox and the Wisconsin rivers in northwest Columbia County. While Ward I of the city occupies the one-

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and-a-half-mile-wide lowland between the rivers, much of the city lies along the hill which rises just to the northwest of this lowland. Connecting the two rivers, the Portage Canal runs near the base of this hill. The adjacent low, marshy section of land between the two rivers served as a portage or carrying place for canoes and other small craft. The portage which linked Lake Michigan at Green Bay to the Mississippi River at Prairie du Chien permitted the transportation of goods across Wisconsin during and prior to Wisconsin's fur trade era. Listed on the National Register, the portage gained significance as early as the 1670s as part of the Fox-Wisconsin waterway. It permitted the transport of furs gathered in Wisconsin and west of the Mississippi to eastern markets. Attracted by its importance as a transportation point in the fur trade, temporary settlement at the portage did not occur until the 1760s when use of the portage as a minor rendezvous point had probably begun. Active fur trading at the portage began by the 1770s, and by the 1790s a small number of traders and those active in the transport business permanently occupied the portage and adjacent areas (Jones 1914 [1]: 40; WPA 1938: 25-26; Thwaites 1882: 148-50; 1902: 10-15, 22-25, 135-39, 323; 1908: 280-282, 333-34; Vieau 1888: 218-23; Turner, F.J. 1963 [1893]: 73; Turner, A.J. 1904: 45).

Civilian settlement gradually increased at the portage after the U.S. Army established Fort Winnebago at the east end of the portage in 1828. With forts Howard and Crawford, Fort Winnebago protected military and civilian communications and trade between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River. The government placed the post at the strategic communications link along the waterway. The petition by John Jacob Astor for protection of the portage from the Winnebago and the 1827 Winnebago uprising led to the establishment of the fort (Powell 1978: 20-21; Clark 1908 [1879]: 309-10; Turner, A.J. 1898b: 66-67, 70). The fort functioned as a small community and served as an important point of contact between the Euro-American and primarily Winnebago communities. It was a small commercial center periodically receiving goods from Green Bay. When troops were needed in the Mexican War, the army permanently abandoned Fort Winnebago. However, it and the area along the Wisconsin River remained the center of the Portage community until after the acquisition of the Menominee lands in 1848 (Kinzie 1932 [1856]; Merrell 1908 [1876]: 374; Turner, A.J. 1898b: 98; Wisconsin State Journal 1923 [12/13]; Powell 1978: 34-39; Schultz 1941; Clough 1957 [1924]; River Times 1853 [6/27: 1/6]).

In 1836, Wisconsin Territory created Portage County which then included most of Columbia and parts of Dodge and Sauk counties. The portage, or the Town of Winnebago, then served as the county seat. Even though designated as the county

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seat until 1838, the portage remained unorganized as a platted community until 1849 and later. After 1838 until 1841, Portage County appears to have had no legal county seat, and no permanent county seat was designated for Columbia County until 1852. Created from Portage County in 1846, Columbia County legally received its lands in the Menominee Territory which then stood to its north and included much of the business area near the intersection of Cook, DeWitt, and Main and the Church Hill District in 1851. The Town of Winnebago portage, which included the south part of the portage as well as that part of the portage north of the canal even though still nominally part of the Menominee land, became the Town of Fort Winnebago in 1850. Later the same year, the town's name was altered to the Town of Portage City. In 1852, the Town of Portage City became the permanent county seat, and it was incorporated as Portage City in 1854. The city council altered the name to Portage in 1875 (Smith 1973: 204-206; Jones 1914 [1]: 80, 103-106; Butterfield 1880: 362-68, 378, 603-604; Turner, A.J. 1898a; 1904: 14-37, 73, 76; Nesbit 1973: 124; Titus 1930: 783).

Although most of the lands within the city of Portage were essentially unavailable for individual land purchase until 1852, three informal communities totaling about 200 residents emerged within or adjacent to it beginning in the 1830s. The earliest one gathered along the Fox adjacent to Fort Winnebago by the time of Henry Merrell's arrival in 1834. Portage's early retail and commercial services and a mill were located in this area. These businesses served both the civilians and military personnel as well as those working along the first canal in 1835 and 1838. A small number of private dwellings were built adjacent to the fort. During the late 1830s and 1840s, a second community emerged in Ward 1. This settlement located near the site of the first canal and slightly later extended to and along the Wisconsin River from the mouth of the current canal south to Wauona Trail. This community included hotels, taverns, mercantile stores, a warehouse, a sawmill, and a steamboat landing. Many of the enterprises emerged to serve the lumber trade then developing to the north along the Wisconsin River.

Although sparse settlement emerged across the area north of the canal by the late 1830s, the third community began along current Main Street and adjacent Cook in the late 1840s. Later becoming the business center of the current city, the retail district at the corner of Cook and Main remained limited to an area east of DeWitt, south of E. Pleasant, north of the canal, and probably west to Jefferson in 1850. Retail enterprises began to appear in the late 1840s and early 1850s. A small number of dwellings were scattered along the hill adjacent to this retail district. The community adjacent to Fort Winnebago declined in

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the mid-1840s when the military evacuated the fort. Not far from the main business district, the second community failed to develop as rapidly as the area along Main and Cook and eventually merged with it (Butterfield 1880: 430-32, 439, 589, 591-93; Portage Public Library n.d.; Portage Daily Register 1972 [8/19]; Wisconsin State Register 1874 [6/13, 10/13]; Curtis 1974: 45; De La Ronde 1908 [1876]: 345-52).

The settlement at the portage finally emerged as a platted, incorporated community in the early 1850s. Benjamin Webb and Alvin Bronson, non-resident investors, purchased the 648 acre Grignon Claim, the portion of the current city south of the Menominee lands, and directed John Mullett to survey the Webb and Bronson Plat of the Town of Fort Winnebago in 1849. The Menominee lands were open for settlement in 1851. The federal townsite law of 1844 permitted citizens acting as a corporate body through representation by a county judge to enter improved lands as a townsite. Acting in such a role, Judge Joshua Guppy had the original part of the city platted by Henry Merton in 1852. The Guppy Plat encompassed the business district and adjacent residential lands including the Church Hill District. The boundaries of the plat reached north to Oneida, west to MacFarlane, and southeast to the canal (Ligowski 1861; Butterfield 1880: 601-03; Turner 1903: 2-3, 8-9; Columbia County Register of Deeds 1849-1950 [1849: sheet 103; 1852: sheet 102]; Democrat 1874 [7/30]; Jones 1914 [1]: 186-87; Merrell 1908 [1876]: 390; Smith 1973: 421; U.S. General Land Office 1851).

The first unsuccessful attempts by the Portage Canal Company to excavate the canal in 1835 and in 1838 attracted much of Portage's transient population. A second effort to excavate the canal under the State Board of Public Works between 1849 and 1851 produced a waterway of limited utility. It was used to transport goods until the arrival of the railroad in December, 1856. Afterwards, it continued to carry bulk goods, especially lumber and grain. The completion of the canal by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1876 continued its use through the turn of the century (Schaffer 1937: 90, 93, 99-103; Wisconsin HPD n.d.c [memo from Richard W. Henneger, 3/31/76]; Mermin 1968: 25-49; Butterfield 1880: 436, 449; River Times 1851 [7/20: 1-2/1]; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1981: B-126-127).

The River Times of 1850 (1850 [11/4: 2/2]) reported that as the canal rapidly neared completion just south of the central business district,

Good buildings have been erected and are still going up at all seasons for a little over a year. The number built within that

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period is over two hundred. Among them are stores of all descriptions, mechanics' shops, taverns, offices, &c., &c.

By 1853, Portage enterprises included (Hunt 1853: 177-78):

... 12 stores, 7 hotels, 1 steam saw mill, 2 harness makers, 4 waggon [sic] makers, 6 blacksmiths 3 cabinet, 3 paint, 8 shoe, 3 tin and sheet iron, 3 butchers, 6 millinery and 4 tailor shops, 2 breweries, 2 livery stables, 2 jewelry stores, 2 drug stores, 1 brick yard, 1 iron foundry, 1 blind and sash factory, 1 chair factory, and 1 tannery; 12 lawyers and 5 doctors....

Although the description is likely exaggerated, growth in population, number of buildings, and trade was clearly proceeding at a more rapid pace than during the preceding decade (Wisconsin State Journal 1874 [6/13]). Portage had become a supply center for the lumber trade operating to the north and provided services to the lumbermen taking rafts to the Mississippi by the 1850s. With promise of railroad connections, expansion in business, crafts, commerce, and small industry continued until the panic of 1857. Although the Milwaukee and LaCrosse, later the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad, located its tracks at the north side of Portage along Oneida in late 1856, continued expansion did not immediately result. Because its economy lacked sufficient time to respond to the presence of the railroad, the depression of 1857 and the Civil War checked development until the 1870s (Wisconsin State Register 1879 [4/19: 2/3]). But by 1857, Portage served the needs of a growing rural population within a distance of about 20 miles to the south, perhaps as many as 40 miles to the east and west, and 50 or more miles to the north. Its role as the center of county government and consequently as the retail and commercial center of the county sustained its economic activity through the Civil War (Smith 1973: 188; Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul ca. 1944; Scribbins 1987: 19-21; Butterfield 1880: 485-89; Jones 1914 [1]: 100-101; Wisconsin State Register 1863 [8/17: 3/1]).

Between the late 1860s and the 1880s and especially after the mid-1870s, the business district expanded south of the Church Hill District along Dewitt between Edgewater and Conant and along Cook and Edgewater between Adams and Lock (Wisconsin State Register 1867 [5/4: 3/1]; 1879 [4/19: 2/3]). The city's retail center with its businesses and small crafts shops and its commercial trade began rapid growth again in the second half of the 1860s prior to the 1873 depression as the agricultural lands became settled. This expansion which included the development of small industry by the 1870s continued to the early 1890s.

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However, this growth was unstable, resulting in occasional downturns reflecting the state of the agricultural economy. At the end of this period, the Cook Street retail area and the commercial and industrial center along the canal were fully developed. The depression of the early 1890s closed smaller industries and crafts and some of Portage's businesses. The late 1890s and early twentieth century saw the restructuring of Portage's businesses; the continued expansion of several of the city's industries and the emergence of new ones; and the disappearance of most of its craftsmen. The turn of the century saw the proliferation of small, often ephemeral specialized services. More stable department and later chain stores offering a general stock of goods threatened long-established merchants in the retail center. These trends continued through the 1930s (Nesbit 1973: 84-85; 1985: 165, 178, 267, 573-74; Current 1976: 96, 374-75; WPA 1938: 45; Sanborn-Perris Map Company, Inc. 1894; 1901; 1910; 1918; 1929; Muir 1878). Many of the upper class residents living in the Church Hill District founded, financed, and/or operated retail, craft, industrial, and commercial enterprises in the Cook Street retail district and area adjacent to the canal during these years of expansion.

Portage's periods of population growth paralleled the periods of economic expansion in the retail area. Between 1830 and 1850, settlers of primarily Yankee and Irish background located in the city. By the 1860s, a small number of English, Scotch, and Welsh also arrived in Portage. Beginning in the 1850s and continuing through the 1880s, a large number of German immigrants located in Portage. Their presence is reflected in the German churches, the German Leiderkranz whose hall once stood within the Church Hill District at the location of the city hall, a patriotic society known as the Verband, the Turnverein, the German Odd Fellows, the German Protestant Cemetery Association, the German Pasture Association, the German Excelsior Engine Company No. 2, the German lager breweries with their German beer halls, the German Portage Journeymen's Tailor Association, and two German newspapers. The Church Hill District includes two German church organizations (McKay 1993: 71-73, 82-83).

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### Area of Significance: Architecture

#### Introduction

The Church Hill District gains significance for the examples of residential and ecclesiastical architecture contained within its boundaries. It represents a portion of the neighborhood which developed just north of the business district between several main arteries leading to the downtown. The lands within the Church Hill District were not open for settlement until 1851 and were platted as part of the Guppy Plat of 1852. Many of the adjacent residential areas of the city were platted between 1852 and 1856, often well before significant settlement occurred within the boundaries of the plat. The area north of the retail district and within the district and adjacent areas between Conant and Franklin and MacFarlane and Monroe remained sparsely settled in the 1850s. Residences were erected across the portion of the district east of DeWitt by 1868. But, dwellings were sparsely placed in the area west of DeWitt as late as 1868. Residential development here occurred between the late 1860s and the 1890s. Much of the in-fill settlement occurred from the beginning of the century through the 1920s (Ligowski 1861; Snyder 1878; Butterfield 1880: 601-03; Turner 1903: 2-3, 8-9; Columbia County Register of Deeds 1849-1950 [1849: sheet 103; 1852: sheet 102]; U.S. General Land Office 1851; Rugen 1868; Stoner 1882; Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Inc. 1889; 1894; 1901; 1910; 1918; 1929; WPA 1938: 36, 43, 50-52).

During its period of significance between 1855 and 1933, Church Hill was a residential area whose residents generally belonged to the middle and upper classes of the community. Household heads included doctors one of whom operated a hospital in the district, lawyers, real estate investors and financiers, local merchants, newspaper editors, operators of large craft shops, ministers living in the five parsonages, and wholesalers and the post master, salesmen, craftsmen, clerks, railroad employees, house painters, plumbers, carpenters, workers in Portage's industries, and some laborers. By the twentieth century, single female homeowners and investors who purchased some of the dwellings rented rooms or apartments to boarders.<sup>4</sup> More modest, vernacular dwellings were interspersed between the larger high style dwellings along most of the streetscapes in the district. Churches frequently appear in the residential neighborhood along the edges of the business district. The churches in the Church Hill District, the

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<sup>4</sup> These data were garnered from city directories pre-dating 1910, the county histories, and other biographical materials. Portage directories post-dating 1910 rarely provided the type of employment.



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residential area just north of the business district, similarly occur along W. Pleasant just north of the business area and along MacFarlane, a main artery leading to the downtown.

### **The Architectural Styles in the District**

Detailing of the Greek Revival style is now exhibited only along the dwelling at 214-218 W. Howard (38/28), the former Methodist Episcopal Church. At the turn of the nineteenth century, American architects adapted but did not copy massing, orientation, and elements from Greek architecture. Immigrants from New England and New York brought this form to Wisconsin during early settlement. While the style was waning in popularity in the East by 1850, it was erected into the 1870s in the Midwest. In Wisconsin, the symmetrically organized Greek Revival buildings frequently displayed a front-facing gable framed in heavy molding. This temple-like building frequently displayed attached wings along the side elevations creating an L- or T-form. Heavy moldings and engaged columns might emphasize the door, and pilasters defined the corners. The low-pitched roof gave the building a heavy appearance (Wyatt 1986 [vol. 2, architecture]: 2-3; Perrin 1967: 42-45). Many of the examples in Wisconsin and in Portage included only a few details and were therefore vernacular styles influenced by the Greek Revival. Without professional architects, local builders built familiar forms and added Greek Revival details as illustrated in architectural handbooks. In Portage, these less elaborate buildings displayed rectangular massing, symmetrical organization including fenestration, pediments, returned cornices, and pilasters.

The 1855 (Independent 1855 [6/28: 2/2]), frame Methodist Episcopal Church (214-218 W. Howard, 38/28) was one of the most elaborate, identified examples of the style in Portage (McKay 1993: 257-58). While the main entrance centered under the pediment and the steeple placed behind it is removed (Taylor 1993 [photographs]), the symmetrical organization of the T-shaped building, the three pediments with their entablature along its gables, and corner pilasters remain. Its ca. 1900 conversion to a duplex added Queen Anne style detailing including the hooded windows with panels beneath along the facade and the side porches with turned posts, delicate brackets, spindle frieze, and rail at the two new entrances on either side of the intersection of the two wings. Because of this alteration, the building is a contributing dwelling with Greek Revival and Queen Anne elements.

One example in the district reflects the influence of the Gothic Revival. The

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asymmetrical shapes of the Gothic Revival represented not only a departure from but a rejection of the formal and regular classical styles including the Greek Revival. Andrew Jackson Downing introduced this early picturesque form in his The Architecture of County Houses published in 1850 (1969 [1850]). In it, Downing familiarized builders with the style by illustrating elaborately decorated dwellings against a rustic setting. Builders frequently adopted some but not all of the illustrated details to familiar house forms. The style was a product of the ideals of the reform movement which began in the 1830s. The movement viewed the society of the large cities as tumultuous and sinister and idealized the peaceful life of family-centered, small communities and rural areas. Irregular building shapes and plans, steeply pitched roofs and gables, chimney pots, pinnacles, pointed arch openings, hood moldings over the windows, and the curvilinear trim created primarily by bargeboards and brackets along the porches and gables characterized the Gothic Revival. Although the style became popular in the East by the 1830s, it did not emerge in Wisconsin until the 1850s and was constructed until the 1880s (Wyatt 1986 [vol. 2, architecture]: 2-5; Perrin 1967: 53-56; 1967: 76-84).

Examples of this cottage form illustrated by Downing (1969 [1850]: design 31; fig 156) and reflected at the 134 W. Franklin house also occur outside the district in Portage (McKay 1993: 258-59; Cartwright 1992). Built in both frame and cream brick, this symmetrical, one and a half to two story, side-gable, form is usually elaborated with a projecting central vestibule covered with a steep, gable roof and two wall dormers with parallel gable roofs placed symmetrically on either side of the vestibule. The projecting vestibule creates a T-shape plan. Gothic Revival detailing is applied to the form. The example at 134 W. Franklin (42/24) displays this form and preserves detailing commonly found on other examples in Portage. Its gables are elaborated with bargeboards. Its round and segmental arch window lintels are accented with cast iron, stylized keystones along the facade. The vestibule includes paired glass and panel doors with overlight. A canted, one story bay with bracketed cornice occurs along the west side elevation. While the front porch is replaced with a frame, screened porch, the side porch with chamfered posts with capital pieces and bracketed frieze with incised detailing is typical of the style.

Portage and the district contains numerous examples of Italianate style dwellings. This style formed part of the picturesque movement begun by Downing in the early 1850s. Typical examples of the Italianate have a boxy, squarish but occasionally a rectangular, two story form. Their hip, pyramid, or gable roofs have broad eaves with numerous brackets. Although the roof is typically gently

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sloping, the pitch may be comparatively steep in Portage. Trim such as dentils or paneling may also decorate the wide frieze board under the eaves. Italianate dwellings almost always included a front veranda with chamfered posts and decorated frieze board. In Portage, many of these porches underwent change or were removed. Hood molds, pediments, or moldings often occur over the round-head windows. Tall, narrow windows along the first floor facade are common. One and two story bay windows with bracketed friezes occur along the facade or side elevations. A two story, gabled ell form, often originally with wrap-around porch also displays similar detailing. As with the Gothic Revival, local builders also applied a very limited number of Italianate details, particularly brackets, a porch with chamfered posts and heavy brackets, and/or a bracketed, bay window to vernacular forms such as the gabled ell (Wyatt 1986 [vol. 2, architecture]: 2-6; Perrin 1967: 68; 1967: 88-89).

Most of district's squarish Italianate dwellings are cream brick and two story and covered with a low pitched, hip or pyramid roof. The dwelling at 208 W. Howard (38/26) is an intact example displaying broadly overhanging eaves with a denticulated and bracketed cornice; symmetrically placed, segmental arch windows; a canted, one story bay with denticulated and bracketed cornice; and a one story vestibule with main entry surrounded by sidelights and overlight and decorative hood. Decorative elements displayed by other examples include a two story bay with denticulated and bracketed cornice and a gable centered along the roof facade. Additional examples some of which now lack the decorative elaboration of 208 W. Howard include 219 W. Pleasant (35/26), 203 W. Pleasant (35/10), 111 E. Pleasant (36/6), 139 E. Pleasant (37/8), and 111 E. Howard (37/15). A two story, cream brick, T-shaped form with the two story, centered projecting vestibule resembles the T-shaped form elaborated with Gothic Revival detailing. The T-shaped example at 131 E. Howard (38/26) displays a broad, bracketed overhang, a bracketed front gable with returned cornices and circular window over the vestibule, quoins along the corners, a two story bay, and an overlight and closed sidelights surrounding the hooded, main entry centered in the vestibule. Although not located in the district, similar examples occur in Portage (McKay 1993: 260-63).

The decorative detailing of the L-shaped Italianate dwellings is similar to the squarish and T-shaped forms. The dwelling at 220 W. Pleasant (35/21) has its shorter elevation to the street. Detailing includes double brackets along its wide eaves; a two story bay with "dog tooth" brick work and shingled gable; segmental arch windows; an overlight and one sidelight along the main entry; and front entry porch elaborated with chamfered posts with capitals, brackets, and

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decorative frieze. The porch closely resembles the original porch. The example at 223 W. Pleasant (35/5) presents a broader facade to the street. Except for the elaborate, 1894-97, wrap-around front porch with spindle frieze, brackets, turned posts, wood rail, and shingling in the pediment, its elaboration is similar to the other examples in the district.

Portage includes four identified examples of the Second Empire style one of which stands in the Church Hill District. The mansard roof is the primary defining element of the Second Empire style which was erected in Wisconsin primarily in the 1870s. The squarish shape is usually symmetrically proportioned, and these buildings tend to be tall in their massing. Dormers commonly pierce the mansard roof, and heavy moldings frequently define its edges. Elaborate detailing is common to this style. Although the Second Empire and Italianate which were erected in Wisconsin in about the same period were conceived as two different styles, they frequently share decorative elements. Paneling and bracketing along the frieze board, long, narrow windows with window hoods, bays, and a long veranda include common details (Wyatt 1986 [vol. 2, architecture]: 2-11)). The two story, frame example at 603 DeWitt (37/17) is now covered by later siding and a later porch obscures the main entrance (Wisconsin Visual and Sound Archives n.d. [photograph]). However, elements of the Second Empire remain visible including the mansard roof with dormers which contain round arch windows; the double, narrow, round arch windows joined by a keystone along the second floor facade; and double, heavily molded doors in a round arch entry placed under the overlight.

The Queen Anne style is the numerically dominant style in the district. It initially emerged in England in the 1860s, spread to America in the 1870s, and became evident in Wisconsin's architectural repertoire by the 1880s. It continued to be built in Wisconsin into the second decade of the twentieth century. English architects such as Norman Shaw developed the Queen Anne in reaction to the Gothic Revival movement which had dominated English architecture as the only proper approach to design. English architects drew the Queen Anne style from the medieval traditions of English vernacular architecture. With it, Shaw attempted to revive the hand craftsmanship then replaced by industrial production. The style attained considerable popularity in England by the mid-1870s. However, while American architects utilized similar notions of massing and application of materials and detailing, they employed their interpretation of the American colonial detailing. In the 1880s, Americans as a whole acquired considerable interest in their own colonial history in part as a stabilizing force against the changes engendered by rapid industrialization.

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Defining elements of the American Queen Anne include irregular plan and vertical massing, frequent use of more than one cladding material, steeply pitched and multiple roof lines often with a dominate gable along the facade, and wall projections. The profusion of decorative details usually relied on the use of the different patterns created by shingling and carved, turned, and applied ornament. The use of brick along the first story and clapboard and shingling along the second became relatively common in the Queen Anne style. Decorative details often include bays, cut-away bays, round or polygonal towers and turrets, vestibules, stained and leaded glass windows, recessed windows in the upper stories, bargeboards, profuse bracketing, and porches elaborated with turned posts, brackets, and spindle friezes, particularly along wrap-around verandas. Classical details such as columns and Palladian windows were included. The details are usually small in scale by comparison to the size of the building. After the turn of the century, the profusion of detailing became more restrained and shapes generally became more squarish or classical but continued to carry some Queen Anne detailing. Additionally, local builders often applied Queen Anne ornament to traditional forms which lacked the irregularity and vertical emphasis of the original style (Wyatt 1986 [vol. 2, architecture]: 2-15).

Dating between 1892 and 1914, the examples of Queen Anne residential architecture within the district are varied in the use of materials and shapes and include a wide range of ornamental detail. In the district, dwellings displaying Queen Anne elements may be divided into those which possess an overall irregular and massive form and those which have a simpler L or T-shape and generally display less profuse ornamentation. This division does not appear to suggest modification of the style through time but perhaps reflects the owner's financial status. The L- or T-shaped Queen Anne dwellings are both frame and cream brick, one and a half to two and a half stories in height, and covered with multi-gable roofs. They generally display a strongly vertical emphasis. The less profuse decorative detailing includes steep gables with bargeboards, some with spindle friezes; shingles in closed gables or gables finished with returns; stickwork defining the building's edges; canted or shallow, rectilinear, one story bays; two story, canted bays; and porches with turned posts, brackets, and perhaps a spindle frieze or porches or wrap-around porches with pediments and columns. Examples include 110 E. Howard (37/21), 109 W. Howard (38/5), 112 W. Howard (38/23), 114 E. Howard (37/22), and 516 DeWitt (38/20). Similar examples of the cream brick, two and a half story, L-shaped example at 114 E. Howard occur in Portage outside the district. The steep gables of the up-right wing of the ell, the dormer above the entrance, and the two story bay at the end of the longitudinal wing display bargeboards with spindle friezes. Turned posts,

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spindle frieze, and brackets elaborate the entry porch.

The rather massive, irregularly shaped, two to two and a half story, Queen Anne dwellings are constructed more commonly in brick, but also in frame. The juxtaposition of several or more of the following elements including varied roof shapes; multiple, sometimes projecting gables, often of different pitches or heights; one and two story bays; one or more porches; and a profusion of decorative detailing enhance the asymmetrical appearance. The frequently small-scale decorative detailing include those just noted above as well as shaped and pedimented window lintels; decorative brickwork; classical elements such as swages, garlands, colonettes, fanlights, and Palladian windows; major windows with transoms; leaded glass; the sunburst design; roof cresting; flared walls; denticulated friezes; and spindle work and pendants along the gables of bays. Except for the greater use of Classical detailing, the variation between the two types lies not so much in the kind of detailing displayed but in the greater abundance of detail.

The following examples indicate the combination of detailing along this second variety of Queen Anne dwelling. The detailing along the cream brick house at 235 W. Pleasant (35/2) includes steep, closed gables with stickwork, colonettes, spindles, a sunburst design, and brackets below the gable; a two story, canted bay; wrap-around porch with spindle frieze, brackets, and turned posts and rail; and a side porch with floral design in the gable, spindle frieze, and brackets. The cream brick example at 105 E. Pleasant (36/5) displays very steep and broadly overhung gables providing a strong sense of vertical emphasis and irregularity. The closed gables are detailed with Palladian windows and shingling. One occurs over a two story, rectilinear bay while the other projects over a rounded oriel window and is elaborated with knee braces. A cresting rail along the roof line, a pedimented front porch supported with Tuscan columns, a one story bay detailed with denticulated cornice, and a pedimented side porch supported with turned posts completes the detailing along the dwelling. The elements along 101 E. Pleasant (36/3) includes steep, closed gables with brackets, shingling, and a recessed window elaborated with swages and colonettes; a two story bay; stick work; broad eaves; a wrap-around porch with denticulated frieze, brick columns and closed rail which enframe windows with fanlights above them. Additional examples include 224 W. Pleasant (35/22), 113 W. Howard (38/6); 141 W. Carroll, 230 W. Howard (38/3), 229 W. Pleasant (35/4), and 125 E. Pleasant (36/9).

Part of a movement to simplify architectural design in domestic architecture and make it accessible to the middle class citizen, the American Foursquare became

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a very prevalent style in the early years of the century. Because of its simplicity and availability of plans through mail order catalogues, the American Foursquare became very popular during the first three decades of the twentieth century among local builders as well as home owners. The style possessed a box-like or cubic massing. The dwelling is characterized as a two story dwelling with a low pitched, hip or pyramidal roof; broad eaves; a central, often hip roof dormer present at least along the facade; and a single story porch across the facade. Tuscan columns with a closed or balustraded rail usually occur along the front porch. Windows and doors generally lack elaboration. Prairie style elements such as the emphasis of horizontal lines through broadly overhanging eaves, variation of the cladding materials between the floors, or elongation of the plan also appeared along American Foursquare dwellings. The style was constructed in a variety of materials, and occasionally each floor was built with a different cladding material. Common decorative details include the Palladian window, exposed rafters, stained glass windows, and major windows. The interior floor plan became relatively standardized to four large rooms per floor and the corner stairhall (Wyatt 1986 [vol. 2, architecture]: 2-25).

A typical example of the American Foursquare stands at 116 W. Howard (38/24). This frame example displays a squarish form covered with clapboards on the first floor and shingles on the second. Found along other American Foursquare dwelling in Portage (McKay 1993: 271), the pyramidal roof is rather steeply pitched for the style. Additional details include the broad eaves, wide frieze board, hip roof dormer centered along the facade and side elevations, shallow bay, and front porch across the facade supported with square posts and finished with a closed rail and half posts. The added screening has little visual impact. The former, German Evangelical Church parsonage at 609 Lock (36/16) which is constructed in tile and the frame dwelling at 116 E. Howard (37/23) are similar examples of this style. More elaborate versions displaying the horizontal emphasis of the Prairie School Style also exist in the district. The dwelling at 101 W. Pleasant (35/11) has a squarish appearance along the facade but is much longer than wide. Tile and wood shingle cladding finish the first and second stories, and a relatively low, hip roof covers the dwelling. The broadly overhung eaves of the roof and the center, hip roof dormer also emphasize the dwelling's horizontal dimension. A one story bay; the classically derived Palladian windows and sidelight along the main entrance; and an originally enclosed, front porch with pedimented entry, closed tile rail and brackets complete the detailing. The squarish, tile example at 202 W. Howard (38/25) also displays a horizontal emphasis. The stucco cladding immediately below the eaves; and the broad eaves of the roof and shingled, centered, hip roof dormers along three elevations, and the dark tile

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string courses contribute to this appearance. The sun porch along the facade has a closed tile rail and pillars and a series of triple windows. Sidelights occur along the entrance.

Perhaps the clearest expression of the return to more regular forms and past decorative elements blossomed as the revival styles of the twentieth century. These styles gained particular popularity because they tended to evoke a feeling of stability by creating associations with the past. Much of the nation sought these referents as it adjusted to the swift changes engendered by the Industrial Revolution of the late nineteenth century. The revival styles reached their zenith in the 1920s. One form, the Colonial Revival erected between 1895 and 1940, received its initial inspiration from the revival of interest in American traditions by the Philadelphia Centennial of 1876. At the turn of the century, architects incorporated the regular, boxy forms of the eighteenth century Georgian and Federal styles and the Dutch colonial forms remaining in the Hudson Valley of New York into their designs. The type of detailing adapted to this form generated different kinds of revival styles. The rectangular, symmetrically pierced shapes sparingly and informally adorned with an interpretation of colonial detailing created the Colonial Revival style. When applied to domestic architecture, a relatively symmetrical, two story residence pierced by multi-light windows and clad in clapboard, tile, or brick resulted. Detailing focused on the main entrance and included the classical entry porches with columns, pilasters, and denticulated cornices, swags and festoons, and pediments and sidelights along the main entry. The use of symmetrically placed dormers, shuttered windows, end chimneys, and sun porches is also common (Wyatt 1986 [vol. 2, architecture]: 2-17, 29; Perrin 1967: 107-109).

The two examples in the district include an early interpretation of the Colonial Revival based on the Dutch Colonial form and a much simpler, Colonial Revival front added to an earlier Italianate cream brick, two-story dwelling (615 Lock, 39/29). Built in 1895 (Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1893-95]; Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Inc. 1894; 1901), the example at 207-209 W. Howard (38/8) is a story and a half, frame, gambrel roof dwelling whose eaves are oriented toward the street. Pedimented dormers with fluted surrounds pierce the roof along the elevations. Hooded windows and a pedimented oriel window along the facade, bracketed eaves, a bay, and entry porch supported by Ionic columns compose the detailing. However, a portion of its porch and the railings which once wrapped around the dwelling to the east are removed, and it is covered with aluminum siding. The 1908 Colonial Revival front placed along 615 Lock, the Portage Hospital, (Portage Daily Register 1908 [6/29: 3/1]), includes the clapboard sun porch along the



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second story and open porch elaborated with a denticulated frieze and supported by Tuscan columns adjacent to the first floor sun porch.

The Georgian Revival also drew its initial inspiration from the Philadelphia Centennial of 1876 and later from the Chicago Exposition of 1893. Georgian Revival architecture tended to be larger in scale and utilize an interpretation of classical details derived from the American Georgian and Federal styles of the eighteenth century. Because it tended to have a more monumental appearance than the Colonial Revival, the style was used not only in domestic but also in public architecture. The Georgian Revival utilized relatively formal, symmetrical facades, rectangular plans, and hip roofs. The main entrance often occurs in the center with two proportionately spaced, flanking windows on either side. Or, the entrance is positioned at one side with approximately three proportionately spaced windows flanking it. Following the original styles, the classical details were primarily applied to the doors and eaves and, in more formal examples, to the windows. These details included denticulated cornices, elliptical fanlights, sidelights along the main entry, Palladian windows, broken pediments positioned above the entrance, and classical columns and pilasters (Wyatt 1986 [vol. 2, architecture]: 2-17, 28; Perrin 1967: 107-109). The single example in the district, the Taylor House at 212 W. Howard (38/27), represents a renovation of an earlier Italianate dwelling once very similar to the one at 208 W. Howard (38/26). The main block of the two story dwelling is composed of cream brick while the later Georgian Revival facade is frame and clapboard. Detailing along the facade includes the pedimented gable with round arch window accented by a keystone; decorative wreath detailing along the frieze below; colossal pilasters; panels with carved detailing separating the bands of windows along the two floors; a recessed entrance elaborated with pilasters and entablature; and porte cochere supported by Tuscan posts and finished with decorative railing along the roof.

The bungalow is a minor style within the district. Only one contributing example exists. Built between 1910 and 1940, the Bungalow style dwelling is a modest, one to one-and-a-half-story building. Bands of windows and their low pitched roof with broad eaves extend the horizontal dimension of the general massing. A porch invariably crosses the facade, and additional porches may occur at or near the rear of the building. If a second story exists, it is concealed under the gable. The decorative detailing evident in Portage is often borrowed from the Colonial Revival and Craftsmen styles (Wyatt 1986 [vol. 2, architecture]: 2-26). The side-gabled, one-and-a-half-story example at 123 E. Howard (37/12) displays broad eaves and a centered, broad, gable roof dormer, both detailed with

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knee braces. The gable of the dormer is echoed by the gable along the porch which extends across the facade. However, aluminum siding covers the dwelling and closes the porch.

The five churches visually dominate the district. The earliest two churches, examples of Romanesque Revival architecture, occur along the west edge of the district along MacFarlane Road. By mid-century, the classical styles symbolized paganism to such denominations as the Episcopalians, Catholics, Congregationalists, and Methodists. They often turned to more vertical, irregular forms including the Gothic and Romanesque Revival (Rausch and McKay 1987). The Romanesque Revival possessed medieval antecedents. Architects Richard Upjohn and James Renwick introduced the style in America in the 1840s. However, it did not appear in Wisconsin until after initial settlement. And, German immigrant builders may have established the style in areas of Wisconsin heavily settled by Germans. The two examples in the district were occupied primarily by German-American congregations. Generally a rather monumental style, the Romanesque Revival is characterized by monochromatic brick and stone materials; heavy detailing; a repetition of round arch openings; corbel tables which often echoed the round arches of the windows in their forms; string courses under the eaves of the building; and steeples or towers. Parapets or spires often finished the tower. Although the main block of the building possesses symmetrical form and opening placement, the juxtaposition of the tower or towers to the building often creates an overall asymmetrical massing. The Romanesque Revival is employed not only in domestic but ecclesiastical and commercial architecture. In many churches, a series of round arch windows and doors and monochromatic, masonry materials suggest the Romanesque Revival influence (Wyatt 1986 [vol. 2, architecture]: 2-9).

Erected in 1874, the former St. John's Lutheran Church, now the Grace Bible Church, at 701 MacFarlane (39/27) (Butterfield 1880: 630; Jones 1914 [1]: 219; St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church ca. 1934; 1944; Wisconsin State Register 1874 [5/12: 3/2; 5/9: 3/2]) provides a relatively simple interpretation of the Romanesque Revival in its ecclesiastical form. A cream brick building, it is a symmetrical center tower form whose tower projects from the center of the facade (Gottfried and Jennings 1985: 250). The square tower includes the double door entrance, surrounded by a voussoir and stained glass fanlight, a rose window, and corbeling; and the lantern has louvered, round arch openings and corbeling; and the tower is now finished with a pyramidal roof. A series of pilasters and round arch, narrow windows with hood moldings evenly divide the facade and side elevations. A corbel table occurs under the parapet and along the side

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elevations. The German Evangelical Church, now converted to a private residence, stands at 235 W. Howard (38/14) (Butterfield 1880: 629; Democrat 1946 [10/18]; WPA 1940-42: folder 8; church corner stone). Similar to the twin tower form but without its symmetry (Gottfried and Jennings 1985: 254), the church displays a tower and steeple of unequal size and shape which flank the main block of the building. The square tower at the east elevation is topped with a parapet. The west steeple includes a square tower with the main entrance, a lantern with louvered openings, and a four-sided spire. The front gable of the church displays three round arch windows arranged to resemble a Palladian window and a corbeling table mirroring the shape of the lintels. The round arch entryway leads to a double door entrance with round arch lintel and overlight. A series of equally spaced, round arch windows separated by pilaster strips organize the side elevations.

Three of the churches stand along W. Pleasant just north of the retail district. St. John's Episcopal Church erected in 1898 and its adjacent hall built between 1906 and 1913 display the influence of the Neo-Gothic Style (date block; St. John's Episcopal Church 1953; Portage Daily Register 1953 [11/11: 3/1]; Register Democrat 1943 [6/11: 3/2-5]; 1938 [4/9]; Sanborn-Perris Map Co. 1901; 1910; 1918). Erected by the 1890s into the early decades of the twentieth century, the Neo-Gothic is a simpler, less ornate version of the Gothic Revival and lacks the heavy detailing and color contrasts of the High Victorian Gothic. It is characterized by steeply pitch roofs; irregular, generally vertical massing; pointed arch-headed windows; and random ashlar construction. In Wisconsin, the form also appears in brick. It was perceived as an appropriate form of expression for ecclesiastical, educational, and commercial buildings (Wyatt 1986 [vol. 2, architecture]: 2-31). St. John's Lutheran Church is a cream brick, side steeple form in which the steeple is counterbalanced by bold window treatment (Gottfried and Jennings 1985: 253), here two double, Gothic headed windows placed below an imposing rose window. The rose window is reputedly used in the 1893 Columbian Exposition (Croft 1995). The placement of the steeple on the west elevation of the building and the projecting wings along the east elevation create an overall asymmetrical massing. A square tower with stone, Gothic arch entry; lantern with corbeling and louvered, Gothic arch openings; and four-sided spiral with small, gabled openings compose the steeple design. Almost all openings along the building include a Gothic arch. Windows and buttresses occur at regular intervals along the side elevations. Heavy corbel tables emphasize the parapets. The adjacent, one-story, cream brick hall is much simpler in design. Its facade is divided by a series of buttresses between which Gothic headed windows are placed. The entrance also displays a Gothic arch.

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Erected in 1893 (date stone; Ogle, Geo. A. & Co. 1901: 271; Democrat 1900 [7/16]), the cream brick, Portage Presbyterian Church at 120 W. Pleasant (35/13) displays the massing and detailing of the Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style. Although the main wings of the church exhibit a Latin Cross configuration, it is visually, tremendously irregular in its shape with its tall steeple juxtaposed to the small bell tower, its profuse detailing, many projections, numerous roof shapes, and use of multiple materials. The vertical emphasis of the steeple is moderated by the broad expanse of the roofs. Materials of varying textures include the ashlar stone of the high basement, cream brick veneer walls, and wood shingling of the decorative detailing. The church displays several gables divided into multiple planes and elaborated with shingling and brackets; a bell tower; steeple with square tower, shingled lantern detailed with shingled turrets, and four-sided spire; an arched vestibule with recessed, round arch entrance; an adjacent arcade created by a series of three windows; buttresses; and Palladian and round arch windows with stained glass. Only the asphalt roofing which replaces the original wood shingle and the low, 1955, brick veneer addition to the east detract from this design. The congregation also remodeled the interior in 1948-1949. Edward Tough, Madison architect, with Gunderson Construction Company and W.A. Kutzke Company completed this work (Portage Daily Register 1950 [7/19: 3/1-2]).

Completed in 1933 in the Georgian Revival style, the Church of Christ Scientist (417 W. Wisconsin, 35/24) (Portage Public Library n.d. [undated history]; Milwaukee Journal 1934 [1/7]; Register-Democrat 1934 [1/25]; WPA 1940-42: folder 7) displays a simple, symmetrical composition. Its design focuses on the portico placed along the facade. Rectangular in overall shape, the ashlar, limestone veneer church carries a gable roof with returned cornices. Placed in the gable end, the entrance is simply treated with a fanlight. A curved portico supported by giant Tuscan columns elaborates this otherwise simply treated facade. At the center of the roof ridge stands a squat tower of three stages forming a square base which supports a cupola. Wall dormers with stained glass windows and 6/6 light, double hung windows illuminate the church along each side elevation. The decorative detailing appears to be rather diminutive and not scaled to the size of the building. Charles Valentine, its architect, appears to have designed primarily dwellings rather than public and commercial buildings.

Generally dispersed across the district, the vernacular buildings including the side gable, front gable, gabled ell, and one-story-cube forms have undergone varying degrees of modification, most commonly the application of aluminum, vinyl, asphalt, or asbestos siding. These types generally display no or very

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little decorative detailing, for example a bay or entrance porch with turned posts, spindle frieze, and brackets or columns, pediment, and a denticulated frieze. But, for the most part, they are not well-preserved examples which represent their vernacular type.

#### **The Architects, Carpenters, Masons, and Contractors Associated with the District**

Eight buildings in the district, primarily the churches, were identified with a builder, contractor, mason or architect.

The Portage Independent (1855 [6/28: 2/2]) reported that a Mr. Haynes, a builder, was constructing the Methodist Episcopal Church at 214-218 W. Howard (38/28) in June, 1855. The paper failed to provide his first name, and early directories do not list him.

Local builders Gustav Mattke and Ferdinand Schultz and a mason, M. Brand, completed the construction of St. John's Lutheran Church, a Romanesque Revival style building, at 701 MacFarlane (39/27) in 1874 (St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church 1934; 1944; Butterfield 1880: 630; Jones 1914 [1]: 219; Wisconsin State Register 1874 [5/12: 3/2; 5/9: 3/2]). Born in Pomerania in 1842, Gustav Mattke came to Portage in 1866. He worked as a cabinet maker and carpenter after coming to Portage. Mattke constructed the barn and dwelling on his property at 601 W. Cook and additional barns in the Portage area. The dwelling at 601 W. Cook continues to stand. It is a one and a half story, frame gabled ell clad with recent siding. Bargeboards remain in the gables. All other decorative features are removed or covered. He is not associated with the construction of additional buildings. His sons, Otto and Paul, also worked as part-time carpenters in the area (Columbia County Historical Society 1982: 242). Mathias Brand is listed as a mason in the 1870 city directory. In 1879, he served as the mason on the Dullaghan Opera House (113 E. Cook, 56/7) with George Hurst, the contractor and architect for the project (Chapin 1870: 25; Wisconsin State Register [10/4: 3/3]). Ferdinand Schultz is not listed in the Portage directories of that period.

George Hurst and Robert C. Alexander served as the carpenters for St. John's Episcopal rectory erected at 203 W. Pleasant in 1871 (Wisconsin State Register 1871 [4/29: 3/2]). Both Hurst and Alexander operated as local carpenters in Portage. George Hurst served as the carpenter and perhaps in some cases the mason for a number of buildings in the city. He added the side additions to St.

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Mary's Church, a brick edifice, in 1886, and in the same year replaced the fire station and city hall at the northeast corner of Clark and W. Pleasant. This building no longer stands. He advertised as a carpenter in the city directory of 1870, 1886 and the state directories of 1884-1885 and 1885. By 1890, he had become an engineer (Chapin 1870: 30; Polk, R.L. & Co. 1884-85: 652; Maher and Eckstein 1885: 169; Rockwood and Goodell 1886: n.p.; Wright 1890: 42). R.C. Alexander was noted in the 1870 city directory as a carpenter living on Cook Street. By 1886, he remained on Cook Street, but was then engaged as a "restaurateur" (Rockwood and Goodell 1886: n.p.; Chapin 1870: 24).

Frank L. Lindsay, architect, prepared the design for the Queen Anne style dwelling at 101 E. Pleasant (36/3) 1904. His office was then located in Watertown (Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1902-05]; Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Inc. 1901; 1910; Meier 1995 [plans]). Lindsay maintained an office at 212 Main Street, Watertown by 1900-1901 and at the Webster Block at 199 Main in Oshkosh by 1908. In Portage, he prepared plans for the second, 1897 Methodist Church erected at the southeast corner of DeWitt and E. Pleasant just south of 101 E. Pleasant in the Neo-Gothic style in 1897. This building no longer stands. He may have also executed the design for the Portage Apartments at 110 E. Conant (30/24) just south of the district (Meier 1995). Erected in 1933-1934 (Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1930-34]; Sanborn-Perris Map Co. 1929), this building displays a symmetrically proportioned, simply designed facade with Classical Revival details, a very different style from and considerably later than the Porter House (36/3). He also designed the 1904, three to four story, cream brick, Beals and Torrey Shoe Company Building at 100 W. Milwaukee Street in Jefferson. Quite unlike his work in Portage, Lindsay designed this commercial vernacular industrial building with little decorative relief. This property was entered onto the National Register of Historic Places in 1984 (Wisconsin HPD n.d.b [Lindsay]; Rankin 1984; Portage Public Library n.d. [news article, 1898]).

William Prehn, local builder and contractor, constructed the Portage Presbyterian Church, a Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style building, at 120 W. Pleasant (35/13) in 1893 following the plans of Valk & Sons of Brooklyn, architect (Democrat 1900 [7/16: 1/4]; Ogle, George A. 1901: 271). No further information was located concerning the architectural firm. William L. Prehn operated as a contractor in Portage between at least 1890 and 1928 (Polk, R.L. & Co. 1893-94; 1919; 1927-28). Besides the Presbyterian Church, he also constructed the second Methodist Church erected at the southeast corner of DeWitt and E. Pleasant in 1897 with the assistance of John Diehl. He followed the design of F.L. Lindsay (Ogle, Geo. A. & Co. 1893: 271; Democrat 7/16/1900; Portage Public Library, n.d.

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[unidentified articles dated 7/19/1950 and 1898]].

I. Jay Knapp, architect prepared the design for St. John's Episcopal Church, a Neo-Gothic style building at 211 W. Pleasant (35/7) in 1898 (St. John's Episcopal Church 1953; Register Democrat 1943 [6/1: 3/2-5]; 1938 [4/9]). Little data appeared regarding Knapp. It is known that he maintained his office in the Otis Block in Superior in 1889 and 1890 and in Milwaukee between 1896 and 1898 (Wisconsin HPD n.d.b [Knapp]).

Charles William Valentine served as the architect and Lloyd Stensrud was the general contractor of the Church of Christ Scientist, a Georgian Revival style building, completed at 417 W. Wisconsin (35/24) in 1933 (Milwaukee Journal 1934 [1/7]; Register Democrat 1934 [1/25]; and WPA 1940-42). Lloyd Stensrud was not listed in city or state directories of the period.

Valentine's identified work was generally executed in revival style architecture like the Church of Christ Scientist in Portage. However, the known examples are residences rather than larger scale churches or commercial buildings. Between 1916 and 1922, Charles Valentine also designed at least six dwellings in the W. Washington/N. Hi-Mount Boulevard Historic District in the Neoclassical, Colonial Revival, Arts and Crafts, English Cottage, and Mediterranean Revival styles at 4905, 4906, 5050, and 5037 W. Washington Boulevard and 2024 and 1720 N. Hi-Mount Boulevard, Milwaukee. They are large, costly residences. He also prepared the plans for 6313 Washington Circle (1924) in the Washington Highlands Historic District, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin and the rear of 2814 E. Newberry Boulevard (1915) and the Classical Revival style, Carl A. Miller House at 2909 E. Newberry Boulevard (1917), both in the Newberry Boulevard Historic District, Milwaukee.

Valentine was born in Milwaukee on November 17, 1879. His father, William Valentine worked as a cabinetmaker. By 1895, Valentine worked as a clerk along North Water Street in Milwaukee. Valentine received his training through apprenticeship to the prominent Milwaukee architectural firm of Ferry and Clas. By 1897, he worked as a draftsman in their office. The firm was noted for their designs of Neoclassical and period revival style buildings, styles which later appeared in Valentine's work. He remained with the firm until 1910 when he established his own firm. Valentine became a registered Wisconsin Architect in 1917. He initially worked in his home at 2562 N. Palmer Street, Milwaukee until he moved his office to 324 E. Washington in 1912. Practicing until 1946, he relocated his office in downtown Milwaukee several times. After 1946, he probably continued to work until his death in 1951 by consulting for the

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Milwaukee firm of Brust and Brust. He was a member of the American Institute of Architects, the State Association of Wisconsin Architects, and the Men's Sketch Club (Wisconsin HPD n.d.b [Valentine]; Jakubovich and Vollmert 1992).

Henry C. Brodi served as the building contractor for 224 W. Pleasant, a cream brick Queen Anne, erected in 1904 (Portage Daily Register 1904 [3/25: 4/2]; Wisconsin State Register 1904 [4/2: 8/4]). By 1890, Brodi advertised as a carpenter and contractor in the city directory. He added partner John L. Hardie to his contracting firm by 1893 through 1902. Advertising as a carpenter, he again operated as a single proprietor, between 1903 and 1910 (Polk, R.L. & Co. 1910-02: 896; 1903-04: 986; 1911: 1038; Moore, S.H. & Co. 1908-09: 102; Voshardt 1910: 82, 31; Wright 1890: 24).

The firm of Law, Law, and Potter of Madison (see Wyatt 1986 [vol, 2., architecture]: 6-1) designed the Georgian Revival facade placed on 212 W. Howard (38/27) in 1926 (Taylor 1995). James R. Law established the firm of Law, Law and Potter, which became one of the most successful architectural firms in the city between 1920 and 1940. Natives of Madison, James R. (1885-1952) and Edward J. (1892-1983) Law gained their training at the University of Pennsylvania School of Architecture. Before attending the university, James Law was employed by Claude and Stark, and after graduation he worked in the Office of the State Architect under Arthur Peabody for three years. James R. Law established his practice in 1913, Edward joined him in ca. 1914. The firm of Law, Law, and Potter became established in 1916, and it became Law, Law, Potter & Nystrom in 1944. It remains today as Potter Lawson, Inc. at 15 Ellis Court, Madison. Having graduated from the University of Illinois, Ellis C. Potter (1890-?) entered the firm as a senior draftsman in 1916, worked for the Office of the State Architect for two years, and re-entered the firm in 1919. In 1925, he became a partner in the firm. The firm designed a larger repertoire of building types in Madison and other cities across southern Wisconsin and in Illinois and Iowa including municipal and hospital buildings, office and commercial buildings, schools, many University of Wisconsin fraternity and sorority houses, the Masonic Temple in Madison (1923-25), and industrial buildings as well as residences. Law, Law, and Potter was known for the quality of its period revival designs. Erected in 1916, the Blake house at 1016 Sherman Avenue in the Sherman Avenue Historic District in Madison provides an example of their use of the Colonial Revival style in their work. The Langdon Street Historic District in Madison also incorporates residences designed by the firm including the Georgian revival Sigma Epsilon fraternity house at 627 North Lake Street erected in 1925 (Rankin 1988; Koyl 1955: 442; Wisconsin HPD n.d.b [Law, Law, and Potter]; Wisconsin State



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Journal 1981 [7/5: sec. 1, p. 6]).

Alexander Carnegie, Sr. served as the contractor for the construction of 111 E. Pleasant, an Italianate dwelling erected in 1879 (Wisconsin State Register 1879 [4/10: 3/1]). A native of Scotland born in 1820, Carnegie immigrated to Vermillion County, New York in 1840. In 1848, he settled with his brother-in-law, James Learmouth, in Milwaukee, and they arrived in Portage in 1850. Carnegie and Learmouth became permanent residents of Portage in 1855. Carnegie learned his trade as a builder in Scotland. By 1850, Carnegie and Learmouth began a milling business which would provide much of the lumber for Portage's buildings. In 1857, Learmouth retired from the partnership. In 1868, Carnegie advertised his services (Farnham and Vivian 1868-69):

Proprietor of the Portage City Planing Mill. All kinds of Planing and Sawing done on short notice. Architect and Builder. Special attention given to Plans and Specifications for Public Buildings, Business Houses, and Private Residences.

His Portage Planing Mill and lumberyard was located north of the canal in the general area of Adams and DeWitt. In 1885, he still offered his services as an architect as well as serving as the city's assessor (Mahen and Eckstein 1885). In 1876, Carnegie formed a partnership with James O. Prescott and Josiah Arnold known as Carnegie and Prescott & Co. This firm advertised as a general lumber business, manufacturing doors, sash, and blinds (Wisconsin State Register 1876 [6/17: 3/2]). Prescott was a mason who had located in Portage from New Hampshire in 1856 and advertised as a builder and mason between 1870 and 1901-02 (Polk, R.L. & Co. 1901-02; Chapin 1870; U.S. Bureau of the Census 1850-1910 [1870: population schedule]).

Carnegie and Prescott was the major building firm during Portage's expansion from the late 1860s to the early 1890s. The firm constructed several of Portage's early public buildings (now non-extant) including the 1883 masonic temple located at the southeast corner of DeWitt and W. Conant, the first 1864 high school building, the 1865 county jail at the east end of Cook, and the Columbia County Courthouse in 1864-1865. In the 1860s through the 1880s, Carnegie and Prescott built many of the business blocks along Cook, W. Wisconsin, and DeWitt streets. Several identified buildings constructed by the firm include the Graham Block, a commercial Italianate at 301 DeWitt (25/6) in 1873 (Wisconsin State Register 1873 [3/29: 3/1; 4/12: 3/1; 8/23: 3/1]); the N.H. Wood dwelling, a Second Empire dwelling at 225 W. Franklin in 1874 (Wisconsin State Register 1874 [5/2: 3/2]),

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the first wing of the Murison building at 310 Dewitt (25/18) in 1883 (Wisconsin State Register 1884 [1/5: 3/4]), and the south addition to the Emdor House at 228-230 W. Wisconsin (24/31) in 1884 (Wisconsin State Journal 1884 [8/23: 3/4]). In 1882, they erected the Sprecher House, now the Elk's Lodge at 201 W. Conant (31/16), following the design of T.N. Philpot of Milwaukee. In 1892, Carnegie erected the northwest wing of the Murison furniture store at 310 DeWitt (25/18) (Portage Daily Register 12/13/1917; 1943 [9/15: 1/3-4]; 1944 [9/15: 1/5-6]). Outside of Portage, Carnegie constructed the warden's dwelling associated with the state prison at Waupun. He died in 1893 (Portage Daily Register 7/2/1952; Butterfield 1880: 881, 920; Wisconsin State Register 1864 [10/15: 3/1]; Democrat 12/15/1893; Register-Democrat 4/6/1938; Polk, R.L. & Co. 1897-98; 1901-02).

Sanborn Brothers as brick suppliers and masons and P. Mills as the carpenter constructed the Italianate dwelling at 208 W. Howard in 1884 (Wisconsin State Register 1884 [8/29: 3/2]). James S. Sanborn and Thomas Malory established a brickyard in the fifth ward along Prospect Hill in 1874 (Wisconsin State Register [5/30: 3/1]). The company appears to have erected dwellings as well as supplied brick. For example, Sanborn and Malory built a house in the Fifth Ward near the yard for either sale or rent and there are indirect references to the construction of several other houses in Portage (Wisconsin State Register 1876 [7/1: 3/1]). Located in a six acre area bounded by Sanborn and River streets, the yard included both the clay pits in deposits 30 to 40 feet deep and the kiln which produced common cream brick. By 1880, the yard employed about sixteen workers and produced 2,000,000 brick. Frank L. Sanborn joined his brother in the business in 1877. F.L. Sanborn advertised the brickyard under his name by 1885. In 1890 and 1893, the company became Sanborn and Crawford, brick manufacturer and ice dealer. J.S. and F L. Sanborn appear to have operated the company again by 1897 through 1910. After that date, Frank Sanborn continued to manage the brickyard through 1927-1928, and the Sanborn Ice Company survived through 1930 (Maher and Eckstein 1885: 170; Rockwood and Goodell 1886: n.p.; Wright 1890: 68; Voshardt 1910: 82; Polk, R.L. & Co. 1893-94: 803; 1897-98: 916; 1927-28: 849; Smith-Baumann 1929-30: 177; Butterfield 1880: 636, 663, 924; Portage Public Library n.d. [Portage Daily Register 1959]; Harrison and Warner 1873; Democrat 1897 [7/30: 4]; U.S. Bureau of the Census 1850-1910 [1880: industrial schedule]; Ries 1906: 76-77). Also working at 208 W. Howard, Peter Mills advertised as a carpenter in the Portage and state directories between 1870 and 1886. He was also the contractor for the Italianate Commercial style Forbes and Eldred buildings erected in 1883 as part of a building block standing between 316 and 318 DeWitt (24/14-16) (Wisconsin State Register 1884 [1/5: 3/4]; Rockwood and Goodell 1886: n.p.; Maher and Eckstein 1885: 169; Chapin 1870: 33).

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Charles H. Williams, an architect located at Pardeeville, prepared the plans for 105 E. Pleasant (36/5) and probably 117 E. Pleasant (36/6) in 1900 (Wisconsin State Register 1900 [2/10: 1/2, 4/21: 1/2, 11/24: 1/5]; 1901 [8/3: 1/3]). They were erected in the summer of 1900 and in 1900-1901 respectively. While the Lewis house at 105 E. Pleasant retains much of its Queen Anne detailing, it has been removed from the A.C. Taylor house. He also completed the design for the J.A. Graham dwelling whose location remains unidentified. Charles Williams advertised in the 1905-1906 and 1911-1912 state directories and the City of Portage directories of 1908-1909 and 1910 as an architect in Portage (Moore, S.H. 1908-09; Voshardt 1910; Polk, R.L. & Co. 1905-06; 1911-12). He also placed an advertisement for his work in the July 28, 1900 Wisconsin State Register (1900 [7/28: 5-6]). The examples illustrated in his design book entitled Williams Portfolio of Plans published in ca. 1900 are drawn primarily from Pardeeville (Williams ca. 1900). His work also contained the advertisements of builders and suppliers with whom he worked. In Portage, these firms included William Kutzke & Sons who did mason work, stone laying, brick laying, and plastering. They were owners of the Fort Winnebago sandstone quarries, perhaps the ones opened two miles west of Fort Winnebago during the construction of Fort Winnebago in 1829-1830 and utilized for foundation stone by builders in Portage. C.F. Mohr (201 DeWitt, 25/10) provided lumber, shingles, lime cement, and paint. The advertisement of James Baird, proprietor of the Portage Iron Works who manufactured furnaces, store columns, plates, beams, and all kinds of architectural iron work also appeared (106-112-120 E. Mullett, 48/22, 48/23).

Like many other architectural pattern books of the period, Williams' advertised economy of construction, convenience of use through the proper arrangement of rooms, and buildings pleasing in appearance. He advised his clients to select the plan which came the closest to meeting their requirements. He would then design a building to meet his client's individual tasks and needs. Williams illustrated examples of his work which are primarily located in Pardeeville but also in Wyocena, Rio, Kingston, Madison, Oshkosh, Iron Ridge, Berlin, and Cambridge. Identified designs included the Neo-Gothic Christian Church in Pardeeville erected in 1899. He also prepared numerous plans for relatively elaborate Queen Anne dwellings such as the H.G. Lewis house. Many of these designs included in his publication are extremely irregular with multiple, two story bays, projecting pedimented gables, and wrap-around porches. Some examples possess a squarish core elaborated with two story, projecting wings and one and two story bays detailed with both Queen Anne and Classical Revival details. Others were simple, two story, side gable examples with two story bays at one side elevation and perhaps a multi-sided tower elaborated with Queen Anne

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detailing. The book also illustrated Queen Anne details: turned posts, cornices, parquet flooring, bargeboards, and architectural details such as shells, rosettes, incised floral designs, corner blocks, and the like.

William Rueckert, a local carpenter, constructed St. John's Lutheran Church parsonage, a Queen Anne style dwelling, at 141 W. Carroll in 1904 (Wisconsin State Register 1904 [3/5: 8/3]). Rueckert advertised as a carpenter in the city directory of 1910 (Voshardt 1910: 70).

#### **Conclusion**

The Church Hill District thus gains significance under criterion C in the area of architecture as a well-defined district that contains a fine collection of mid- to late nineteenth and early twentieth century residential and ecclesiastical architecture. Large Gothic Revival, Second Empire, Italianate, Queen Anne, American Foursquare, and Period Revival style dwellings and five churches visually dominate the district. The generally smaller vernacular types, although somewhat altered, also contribute to this area of significance.

#### **Area of Significance: Social History**

The district also gains significance under criterion A in the area of social history. St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church at 701 MacFarlane (39/27) and its parsonage at 141 W. Carroll (39/31); the German Evangelical Church at 235 W. Howard (38/14) and its two parsonages at 231 W. Howard (38/13) and 609 Lock (38/16); the Portage Presbyterian Church at 120 W Pleasant (35/13); St. John's Episcopal Church at 211 W. Pleasant (35/7), its church hall at 207 W. Pleasant (35/9), and the parsonage at 203 W. Pleasant (35/10); and the Church of Christ Scientist at 417 W. Wisconsin (35/24) compose the religious properties within the district. The former, 1855 Methodist Episcopal Church at 214-218 W. Howard (38/28) was historically converted to a duplex in ca. 1900 (Independent 1855 [6/28: 2/2]; Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1898-1900]). Because this alteration resulted in the removal of the steeple and central entrance and the addition of two new entrances and side porches, the building does not gain historical significance under criterion A in the area of social history, but is a contributing building as a residence in the area of architecture. The ten religious properties gain significance under criterion exception A: religious properties; because the churches and associated parsonages and church halls

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represent the social role of these religious groups in community. Importantly, these denominations contributed to social cohesion by associating large groups of citizens within the community. For instance, the German Evangelical Church at 235 W. Howard and St. John's Lutheran Church at 701 MacFarlane were composed primarily of German-American members and they played a central role in integrating their members into the larger Portage community.

Organized religion played a central role in the organization of newly-formed communities such as Portage. It became a major vehicle through which early settlers attempted to maintain old values and personal identity. In the absence of other formal institutions in the loosely-knit, diverse frontier community (Turner 1935 [1922]), religious institutions became its focal point and often played a large role in the maintenance of social order. By crosscutting other differences, they fostered cohesion across the community. However, because ethnic groups such as the German and Irish strongly aligned with several faiths in Portage including the German Evangelical and Lutheran churches, the religious institutions also emphasized divisions within the city.

In the early Midwest which was composed of widely dispersed, loosely organized settlements, one community (for example, Portage), often included peoples of many denominations, not one or several. Rather than stressing doctrinal orthodoxy, denominations tended to emphasize the individual and stressed personal piety and conformity to a prescribed code of behavior. The religious groups functioned as a social regulating mechanism in new communities which often lacked a well-developed authority structure. Acting according to a specific set of rules and hierarchy of authority, the church sanctioned members on matters of personal conduct by reproof, community censure, or church dismissal and mediated disputes. It was through such social and fellowship roles that the church attained such importance in early community life (Hine 1973: 228; Rohrbough 1978: 60-61, 145-46, 187-89, 342; Doyle 1978: 28, 57-58, 65, 169; Nesbit 1973: 174; Smith 1973: 598; Smith 1980: 34-45; Wiebe 1967).

Religious institutions in American society underwent gradual theological change in the late eighteenth and first half of the nineteenth century. Conflict within the denomination about the role of the church often splintered the religious group. Evident in the development of several of the denominations in the district, this conflict was in part caused by a tendency to drift from a rigorous interpretation of the original doctrine to appeal to a more secularly-oriented society. The divisions within the denominations between the pietistical and conservative liturgical groups reflected this issue of interpretation. The

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latter advocated a strict adherence to theological teachings as part of a fundamentalist movement resisting change. The pietists de-emphasized theology in favor of enforcing a strict moral and social code. They often participated rather heavily in the social reform movements of the nineteenth century. These divisions characterized many denominations, but one group frequently dominated each. The pietistical groups such as the Methodists, Baptists, United Brethren, Episcopalian, and Presbyterian tended to cooperate in reform movements and common church organizations. Liturgical groups often included the Catholic and Lutherans (Berthoff 1971: 235-40, 245-56; Doyle 1978: 47-50, 61, 169; Smith 1973: 598-600; Roberts 1973: 274, 283).

Traditionally, the midwestern churches symbolized morality and social order to their adherents and their communities (Rohrbough 1978: 187-88; Smith 1980: 34-45). Following the Civil War, the way in which religious institutions became involved in the interpretation and teaching of moral behavior became a focal point of the denominational split. The pietists aimed at reformation of society by enacting laws at all levels of government. They created cross-denominational voluntary organizations to disseminate their message. Believing an individual's morality to be subject to the sanction of the church only, liturgical groups vigorously opposed such reform movements as prohibition.

Churches not only administered to the soul but provided other social programs such as education, assistance to the poor and to orphans, social counseling, recreational activities. For example, St. John's Lutheran Church established a parochial school. Auxiliary organizations such as Ladies' Aids, women's guilds and circles, men's clubs, Young Peoples Societies, missionary societies, Bible schools, Junior Walther League, Junior League, and Christian Endeavor and many others as well as church social events such as the countless suppers, ice cream socials, picnics, bazaars, and lyceums, which increased through the end of the century. Their activities united individuals within the church and occasionally strengthened bonds between the church and the rest of the community (Roberts 1973: 279; Berthoff 1971: 245-46; Current 1976: 541-42).

Like many midwestern communities forming in the mid-nineteenth century, Portage supported numerous pietistical and liturgical denominations including the Catholic, Lutheran, Evangelical United Brethren, German Evangelical, Baptist, Assembly of God, Presbyterian, Episcopal, Methodist, Christian Scientist, and Gospel Tabernacle churches. The Church Hill district represents five of these denominations. The religious community at Portage began to form by 1833 when Protestant missionary Reverend Kent of Galena held services at Fort Winnebago

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(Kinzie 1932 [1856]: 387). Catholic missionaries including Father Mazzuchelli visited the Portage area by 1831 and perhaps as early as 1825 (Jones 1914 [1]: 211). Mazzuchelli inspired Pierre Pauquette to construct perhaps one of the first churches in Portage in 1833-1834 (Turner 1904: 121-22).

**St. John's Lutheran Church: 701 MacFarlane and 141 W. Carroll**

The Lutheran Church eventually became the largest Protestant group in Wisconsin. Because Lutheran immigrants were linguistically and nationally diverse including not only German but Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, Finnish, and Slovak as well as English Lutheran, a proliferation of synodical bodies serving the theological and social needs of each group began to emerge in the 1840s.

A generally liturgical denomination, the Lutheran Church derived its doctrine and institutional organization from those formulated during the German Reformation by Martin Luther in the sixteenth century. These German Lutherans immigrated directly to Wisconsin from the German states beginning in the 1840s. The predominately German Missouri Synod to which St. John's Lutheran Church of Portage belongs formed in 1847. Theologically conservative, the Missouri Synod with the Wisconsin and Old Norwegian Synod constituted the largest Lutheran bodies in Wisconsin. In the last three decades of the nineteenth century, leaders of each group strove to unite the diverse groups into joint synods with limited success. Lutherans in America are generally bound more by theology and practices than by their organization. As reflected in the diversity of organizational bodies, the Lutheran Church did not dictate a specific form of church organization. The congregation as the basic unit associated to form the larger church body whether it be a conference, territorial district, or synod. Theology proclaims the universal priesthood of all believers so that the pastors filled an office of leadership rather than a position separate from the membership.

The German Lutherans immigrating to Wisconsin came first to Milwaukee between 1839 and 1843. Many of them were identified as conservative or old Lutherans because they left in part to avoid participation in the United Lutheran and Reformed Church of the German states. Many of these Wisconsin Old Lutherans initially became affiliated with the Buffalo Synod founded in New York in 1845. Disagreements concerning legalistic issues resulted in separation of the Missouri from the Buffalo Synod in 1847. Organizational leadership of the Missouri Synod, a strict Lutheran orthodox group, was based at St. Louis. Rev. Ernest Keyl of

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Milwaukee gained leadership of this Synod in Wisconsin, and eventually many of the Milwaukee churches affiliated with it. In 1850, Rev. Frederick Lochner who succeeded Keyl founded a private teacher's seminary in Milwaukee, and worked in the synod until about 1875. In Sheboygan, Rev. Ottoman Fuerbringer brought many of the Old Lutherans into the Missouri Synod. Evangelical in their leadership, both leaders furthered the work of the synod by establishing missionary programs and new congregations to serve the rapidly increasing numbers of German Lutherans across southeast Wisconsin in the 1850s.

Because the Missouri Synod lacked a sufficient number of affiliated clergy, they were unable to extend their missionary work beyond southeast Wisconsin during the settlement period. The Iowa Synod served southwest Wisconsin. Unlike the Portage congregation, many of the churches founded in Columbia County belonged to this synod. In 1873, the Missouri Synod began an organized missionary effort through its domestic missions program to reach their outlying German communicants. The Missouri and Wisconsin synods formed a cooperative union in 1868, and the Ohio and Norwegian synods joined them in 1872. During the theological debate concerning the concept of predestination in the 1880s, only the Missouri and Wisconsin synods remained united. But, by 1882 80% to 90% of the Wisconsin churches belonged to these two synods. However, in the 1890s, they split as other synods began to merge. The Missouri Synod refocused its outreach program and by 1894 began an institutional missions program. It extended services to soldiers' homes, asylums, and county poor houses and created hospitals and facilities for the deaf, elderly, and disabled. As part of a conservative liturgical denomination, the synod placed considerable emphasis on parochial education. By the 1970s, the Missouri Synod retained its large membership across the state and included Slovak Lutherans which had merged with the synod (Wyatt 1986 [vol. 3, religion]: 13; Smith 1973: 609-612).

As German immigration to Wisconsin grew in the late 1840s, German Lutheran missionaries sporadically served a broad area around Portage beginning about 1850. In 1854 and 1855, missionary Rev. William Habel established a Lutheran preaching station for the small German Lutheran community who had emigrated primarily from Pomerania to the Portage area. Also an itinerant preacher, Rev. Beckel of the Iowa Synod served the area between 1856 and 1858. The group held its services in the Fourth Ward School which once stood near the corner of Prospect and W. Wisconsin. During the second half of the 1850s, the German Lutheran population in Portage expanded considerably. Under the guidance of missionaries Christian Braetz and George Jeugeon, Rev. A. Rohrlack organized the "Deutsche Evangelisch Lutherische St. Johannes-Gemeinde" or St. John's



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Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1859. The newly organized church included 28 communicants and twelve families. St. John's was originally associated with St. Michaelis of the Town of Lewiston, organized in 1856. The Portage church absorbed many of the members of St. Michaelis when it disbanded in 1928. At the founding of the church, Rev. Rohrlack belonged to the Iowa Synod which served much of southwest Wisconsin. After a brief association with the Wisconsin Synod, the church probably permanently joined the Missouri Synod by 1870. In 1878, St. John's became incorporated.

St. John's constructed its first frame church at the northeast corner of MacFarlane and W. Carroll in 1864 (Wisconsin State Register 1863 [9/12: 3/1]). The Free Methodists purchased this church in 1874 and moved it to the northwest corner of Jefferson and E. Pleasant, 225 E. Pleasant (Foote, C.M. & Co. 1890). This building was dismantled in 1944. In June or July, 1874, the congregation completed the current cream brick, Romanesque Revival church at 701 MacFarlane (39/27). The church was dedicated during a German service in August, 1874. The church vestry voted to convert the basement of the church to a guild hall in February, 1904 and dedicated the hall in June, 1904 (Wisconsin State Register 1904 [2/27: 8/3, 6/4: 8/3]). The congregation completed a new church at 850 Armstrong in 1976. The Grace Bible Church later occupied the building through 1995. In ca. 1884, the congregation also constructed a frame parsonage at 141 W. Franklin. In 1904, it was replaced by the current Queen Anne, frame dwelling (39/31) which faces west toward the church rather than toward the street (Wisconsin State Register 1874 [5/12: 3/2; 5/9: 3/2; 6/25: 3/1; 8/22: 3/1]; 1904 [3/1: 4/2]).

Shortly after its founding, the church weathered considerable controversy, primarily concerning the position of the pastor in relation to his congregation. Theological questions concerning membership in secular voluntary fraternal organizations also emerged. By 1862, the group had declined to seven communicants. Affiliated with the Wisconsin Synod, Rev. R.C. Meyer rebuilt the membership sufficiently to construct the first church building in 1864. Again, between 1866 and intermittently until 1871, the church experienced internal strife prompting the departure of about 25 families. However, the influx of Pomeranians into the area by 1867 replaced these members. By 1870, when the congregation had probably entered the Missouri Synod, it totaled about ninety families. As additional Pomeranians settled in the Portage area, the church served 450 communicants by 1876, 712 communicants by 1914, and reached 1,067 members in 1934. The church did not begin to hold its one English service per month until 1908. Although the use of the German language in the church

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continued through 1944, English gradually replaced German during World War I. By 1923, the congregation adopted English as its official language and drafted its constitution in English (Voshardt 1910: 22; Portage Daily Register 1909 [9/3]; 1944 [10/26: 3/5-6]; 1949 [11/11]; 1952 [7/2]; Jones 1914 [1]: 219; Register-Democrat 1934 [10/5]; 1924 [9/6]; Wisconsin State Register 1908 [9/14]; WPA 1940-42: folder 9; Butterfield 1880: 630; Columbia County Historical Society 1982; St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church ca. 1934; 1944).

Rev. Herman Hoffman established St. John's parochial school in 1865. The German Lutherans supported a well-developed primary school program to preserve the German language and selected cultural traditions in their adopted American community. The school served both the youth of church and non-members. Beginning with 22 students, its number rose to 75 by 1868. Lay teachers offered instruction by about 1868, and Rev. Hoffman taught German in the public high school. Without a pastor and teacher in 1880 and 1881, the congregation requested that the public school system teach German. Obtaining a negative response in this period, the congregation continued its program. After the mid-1880s, St. John's taught a primary school of three divisions. The school buildings erected by the church stand outside the district.

Enrollment in the parochial school peaked in 1897 at 197 students. However, in part because the school staff altered substantially after 1897, the enrollment dropped to 106 by 1906. The decline in enrollment may represent the non-Lutheran students who were withdrawn as voluntary organizations in the Midwest increasingly harassed the German population prior to World War I. It may also reflect an improvement of the educational system at the Portage public schools. Maintaining this trend, the enrollment dropped to 47 by 1918. After World War I, school enrollment increased to 90 by 1927 and 199 by 1949. The parochial school remained in operation in 1995 (WPA 1940-42: box 15; Portage Daily Register 1949 [11/11]; 1950 [3/31]; 1965 [10/8]; Portage Public Library n.d. [ca. 1953]; St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church 1934; 1944).

Church became an important part of the St. John's organizational structure, knitting the congregation together and maintaining the functions of the church through voluntary labor. But, perhaps reflecting its liturgical orientation, many of the groups were founded after 1900. As a growing number of youth associated with the church began to attend the public schools, St. John's established a Sunday school for religious instruction in 1909. The Ladies' Aid was founded in 1900 to provide support to the activities of the church and perform charitable work. Organized in 1929, the Women's Lutheran Guild formed

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primarily to assist the pastor in local missionary work. The Luther Circle, a service organization, formed in 1917 and associated with the Junior Walther League in 1923. These groups replaced an earlier Young People's Society established in 1904. The church maintained numerous choirs first established about 1864. Additional organizations associated with the church included a chapter of the Lutheran Layman's League, Lutheran Women's Missionary League, Lutheran Fellowship League, Altar Guild, and the Junior League founded in 1929 (Portage Daily Register 1950 [3/31]; 1952 [7/2]; Register-Democrat 1934 [10/5]; 1940 [1/31]; Wisconsin State Register 1908 [9/14]; Columbia County Historical Society 1982).

**The German Evangelical or Zion Evangelical United Brethren Church: 235 W. Howard, 231 W. Howard, and 609 Lock**

About 1803, Jacob Albright, a former Methodist, gathered a loosely organized group of German Methodists into a single body at Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Refused participation in the predominately English-speaking, American Methodist Episcopal Church, this group formed a separate religious body known as the Evangelical Association or Albrights. Elected bishop of the group, Albright wrote the organization's Book of Discipline which essentially confirmed the German Methodist theology in 1807.

John Lutz of the Evangelical Association in Illinois first preached the German Methodist Gospel in Wisconsin among the Milwaukee German in 1840. In that year, a class meeting was established in Greenfield, Milwaukee County. By 1848, association churches became established at Milwaukee, Jefferson, and Racine. The church's circuit riding ministry traveled across southeast Wisconsin conducting services in homes, halls, schools, and outdoors. This effort increased the number of preaching places. After the association formed the Milwaukee District of the Evangelical Association in 1848, it expanded comparatively rapidly, especially between 1855 and 1857. A sufficient number of adherents warranted the creation of the Wisconsin Conference in 1858. By 1880, the association had established congregations in most major cities and 49 counties and had attained a membership of 11,588. The heaviest concentrations occurred in Green, Dodge, Washington, Sauk, Outagamie, Milwaukee, Marquette, and Buffalo counties. The association split in 1894 creating the United Evangelical Church which rejoined the German Evangelical Church in 1922. Similar to the United Brethren in Christ Church - Revised Constitution in theology, German heritage, and language, the two churches finally merged in 1946 to create the Evangelical United Brethren Church.

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Together they joined with the Methodists to form the United Methodist Church in 1968 (Wyatt 1986 [vol 3., religion]: 10; Butterfield 1880: 629).

The Evangelical Association or Albrights came to Columbia County by 1848. Emigrating from Philadelphia, Samuel Slifer, who settled in 1848 near Silver Lake, invited two Evangelical Missionaries, Natzberger and Meyer, to preach at Portage. In 1852, the Illinois Conference of the association sent Rev. Eslinger to serve the Fox River Circuit. He established a preaching appointment at Portage and ministered to the remainder of the thirty preaching appointments in the far-flung circuit. Additional stations included Westfield, Brandon, Winnebago, Berlin, Marquette, and Oshkosh. Detached from the Fox River Circuit in 1856, the Portage mission included Portage and Lewiston. Wisconsin Dells and Caledonia were added to the mission in 1862. The organization of the church with its 25 members, then known as Zions Kirche de Ev. Gemeinschaft or as the German Methodist Church, and the creation of the Board of Trustees probably dates to 1866. Although the mission purchased two lots at the corner of MacFarlane Road and W. Franklin in 1866, the association in Portage conducted its services in members' homes and halls. The church incorporated as the Zion Church of the Evangelical Association in 1881.

In 1871 when membership totalled 34, the group acquired additional property at the northeast corner of Lock and W. Howard. They completed a cream brick church at 235 W. Howard (38/14) and a front gabled, frame parsonage at 231 W. Howard (38/13) in June, 1871. The congregation dedicated the church on July 8, 1871 while under the leadership of T. Umbrect, pastor. Between 1901 and 1910, the congregation removed the central wooden steeple and added the brick front which included the west steeple. Between 1910 and 1918, it added the east steeple to attain its current Romanesque Revival style (Portage Public Library n.d. [photograph]; Sanborn-Perris Map Co. 1901; 1910; 1918). The congregation added a basement under the church to accommodate its activities in 1905. The Evangelical Church erected a second American Foursquare, tile veneer parsonage at 609 Lock (38/16) in 1924. Although the congregation appears to have conducted its services in German, it is not known when the group underwent a period of transition to English services. Identified associated organizations are few and included the Ladies' Aid, choirs, and Sunday School. Established prior to 1871, the Sunday School was reorganized in 1905. In 1925, the church membership peaked at 144. By 1952, it had declined to 91. Having joined the Evangelical United Brethren Church in ca. 1946, the church then merged with the First Methodist Church to become the United Methodist Church in ca. 1968. The membership then attended Portage's Methodist Church. The German Evangelical church building was

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then sold. Although retaining most of its exterior features, the church was adapted to a private dwelling about 1973 (Wisconsin State Register 1871 [4/15: 3/1; 6/24: 3/1; 7/8: 3/1]; Butterfield 1880: 629; Columbia County Historical Society 1982; Portage Daily Register 1952 [7/2]; 1974 [4/27]; Democrat 1946 [10/18]; WPA 1940-42: folder 8; church corner stone).

**The First Presbyterian Church of Portage: 120 W. Pleasant**

American Presbyterianism ultimately derives from Scottish, Scotch-Irish, and English Presbyterianism, one of many products of the Protestant Reformation. Rev. Francis Makemie, the primary advocate of the Presbyterian faith in America, established the first general presbyter in 1706. This body became active in Presbyterian missionary work west of the Allegheny Mountains. However, the theology of the denomination tended to inhibit its rapid spread into the frontier. It advocated that congregations be served by stationary or resident ministry rather than the itinerant minister common to the Methodists or Baptists. Maintaining a rather rigid doctrine with less emphasis on social life and requiring an educated ministry, the Presbyterian denomination usually entered into those communities which included a substantial number of Presbyterian settlers.

The Presbyterians were also beset by divisions, principally concerning questions of discipline and mission support. One among several in the 1830s and 1840s, an 1837 split occurred between Old School Presbyterians who advocated a strict interpretation of the Calvinist theology and the New School Presbyterians who united in their mission work with the Congregationalists in 1840. When Thomas Fraser of the Old School Presbyterian Church to which the Portage congregation eventually belonged began his missionary work in southeast Wisconsin in 1845, he noted that most of the established settlements were affiliated with the New School. Therefore, he worked in newly established communities as far west as Portage and as far north as Green Bay, forming four scattered Old School congregations. In 1846, the church created the Old School Presbyter of Wisconsin in association with the Synod of Illinois. By 1851, the number of churches in the Old School grew from four to thirty churches and 807 members, and the New Synod of Wisconsin contained three presbyters. Columbia County was located in the Presbyter of Dane. In Wisconsin, missionary work focused on the creation of educational institutions. It assisted the founding of a number of colleges and several academies including the Classical Institute of Portage.

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The northern Old and New Schools united again in 1870, eventually becoming the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. in 1920. At the time of the merger, the Old School claimed 55 churches and 3,321 members while the New School possessed 36 churches with 1,982 members. The number peaked in 1926 with 225 congregations. In that year, Columbia County contained the second highest membership, 11.2% of the total number of members in Wisconsin. In 1958, the merged church joined with the United Presbyterian Church of North America to form the United Presbyterian Church of the U.S.A. The Southern Presbyterians and the United Presbyterian Church of the U.S.A. did not resolve the differences splitting the north and south churches prior to the Civil War until 1983 when they united as the Presbyterian Church (Wyatt 1986 [vol. 3, religion]: 16; Portage Daily Register 1952 [2/7]; Smith 1973: 600; Bradfield et al. 1951: 21, 27, 30, 42-44, 61, 68).

The Presbyterian Church held its first services at Fort Winnebago in 1833. Rev. Aratus Kent responded to a request from Mrs. John Kinzie for religious services. In 1834, Presbyterian missionary Rev. Cutting Marsh at Green Bay visited the fort. A noted representative of the New School missionary program supported by the American Home Missionary Society, Rev. Stephen Peet included Fort Winnebago in his missionary work of 1839. The Old School began its sustained missionary work at Portage in 1849. Sponsored by the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions, Rev. William W. McNair of the Princeton Theological Seminary led congregations at Portage, Wyocena, and Dekorra by 1849. In 1850, a Presbyterian Church organized with fourteen charter members. McNair remained as minister of the church between 1850 and 1856 when the Presbyterian Church of Fort Winnebago incorporated. The church reincorporated in 1892 as the First Presbyterian Church of Portage. In addition to the minister, highly organized groups of lay persons led the Old School Presbyterian Church. A society of church elders, an elected group of laymen, and the minister provided guidance for the spiritual welfare of the church while the church trustees oversaw the business affairs of the congregation. The deacons guided the mission program and church.

The Presbyterian congregation held its services at Fort Winnebago until December, 1850. It then moved to its new frame, vernacular Greek Revival church on E. Cook, and in 1855, the congregation completed a new church at 301 E. Cook (28/1) (Independent 1855 [6/28: 2/2]). After fire destroyed the interior of this church in May, 1892, the congregation sold the damaged church to the Baptists. The Presbyterians completed the construction of the current, cream brick, Queen Anne church at 120 W. Pleasant (35/13) in the summer of 1893 (Ogle, Geo. A. & Co. 1901: 271; Democrat 1900 [7/16]). The church built a rectory in 1884 just outside the district at 128 E. Pleasant and purchased a second rectory at 112 W.

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Pleasant from the Darius Goodyear estate in 1908. The County Welfare Department purchased this dwelling in 1940, and the current courthouse replaced it (Portage Daily Register 1904 [8/8]; 1950 [7/19: 3/1-2]; Wisconsin State Register 1900 [7/20: 1-4]; Portage Public Library n.d. [photograph 1880]; Jones 1914 [1]: 163, 214-15; First Presbyterian Church 1950; Columbia County Historical Society 1982; Bradfield et al. 1951: 21, 30, 47, 73; Register-Democrat 1955 [6/13]; WPA 1940-42: folder 11; Curtis 1994; Curtis, Anacker, and Curry 1993).

A number of affiliated organizations supported the work of the congregation. The Sunday school was founded in 1851, and its Junior Department was created in 1893. Given the emphasis which the Presbyterians placed on proper education, both secular and religious, the Sunday school composed an essential organization within the church. Rev. McNair founded the church's Portage City Classical Institute in 1851. The institute occupied a building erected for the purpose adjacent to the 1850 church. McNair hired a separate instructor for the academy, Rev. John Britain. After the founding of the public high school in 1859, the Church closed the institute. The first choir was established in 1851. The Mite Society was established by 1869 and the Ladies' Aid was formed in 1856 to provide financial support to the church and later oversaw many of its social events. They raised these monies through socials and suppers and somewhat later through musicals. Such fund raisers became one of the many forms of informal social gatherings which knit the city together. A women's group first organized the Missionary Society in ca. 1873 and became formally established in 1887. In cooperation with the Women's Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions and its successors, this group primarily supported domestic and foreign missions. The Ladies' Aid and Missionary Society joined in 1940 to form the Women's Association. The Sunlight Circle, established in 1896, and the Friendly Club, formed in 1920, organized the hospitality efforts of the church. By 1886, the church sponsored its youth activities through the Young Peoples' Society of Christian Endeavor Society which was affiliated with a nationally organized religious group. It became the Westminster Fellowship in 1943 (Portage Daily Register 1950 [7/19: 3/1-2]; 1952 [7/2]; Democrat 1900 [7/16]; 1900 [7/20: 1-4]; First Presbyterian Church 1950).

**St. John's Episcopal Church: 211 W. Pleasant and 203-207 W. Pleasant**

The American Episcopal Church derived from the English Anglican Church first established in Virginia in 1607. About 300 Anglican Churches existed in America

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by the Revolution. Because of their obvious ties to England, church members experienced considerable distrust and persecution. Those who did not emigrate to Canada and England separated from the Anglican Church of England to form the Protestant Episcopal Church at a convention in Annapolis in 1783. At the First General Convention in Philadelphia in 1789, the independent church accepted a revised liturgy of the Anglican Church. Thus, much of its doctrine and ceremony paralleled the Anglican Church which in turn derived them from the Catholic Church from which it separated in the sixteenth century. For example, the Episcopal Church retained the parish and diocese organization headed by a bishop and deacon. The three groups of Episcopal Churches, the low church or Evangelical Protestant group, the high church or Anglo-Catholic, and the liberal, broad church, reflected the considerable doctrinal variation within the church. However, unlike other denominations, all three groups associated with the same units of organization. Unlike the Catholic Church, the Episcopal Church involved its lay members in the formation of policy at the annual conventions. Although a generally liturgical church, it heavily emphasized its missionary and social service role. The church sponsored educational organizations, hospitals, homes for the elderly, and youth care facilities.

The tight structure of the church slowed the rapid expansion of its western missionary program into early settlement situations. Disagreement about the organization of the missions program checked the process until the creation of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society in 1820. In 1835, Jackson Kemper became the church's first missionary bishop, a position which he retained until 1854. He oversaw the founding of churches across a broad area, first in the Missouri and Indiana territories and also in Wisconsin, Iowa, and Kansas beginning in 1838.

The Episcopal Church presented its first formal service at Fort Howard in 1826. Missionary activity began at the Oneida mission near Green Bay in 1825. Father Richard Cadle opened a mission boarding school near Green Bay in 1829. Episcopal mission activities then also entered the southwest mining district where it established its headquarters at Prairie du Chien. After Kemper created a missionary settlement near the site of Waukesha in 1841, Rev. Messrs. William Adams, John Hobart, Jr., and James Lloyd Beck engaged in missionary work across the state from this base. In 1842, Kemper also organized Nashotah House and the community of Nashotah, Waukesha County, now near Delafield, which became a training facility for priests and a center for missionary activity in Wisconsin. At the creation of the Diocese of Wisconsin with its center at Milwaukee in 1847, 25 congregations totalling 969 members existed in the territory. Rev. Kemper



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became the bishop of the new Wisconsin Diocese in 1848. Although Milwaukee remained the center of religious authority for Wisconsin, it did not become a See with an Episcopal Cathedral until 1866. Kemper divided the state into four Convocations led by rural Deans. The church separated the Diocese of Fond du Lac, earlier the Fond du Lac Convocation, in 1875 and the Diocese of Milwaukee, earlier the Convocation of Milwaukee, in 1886. The Diocese of Wisconsin was then discontinued (Wyatt 1986 [vol. 3, religion]: 9; Smith 1973: 605-606).

An early missionary to the Oneida, Rev. Richard Cadle held Episcopal services at Fort Winnebago in 1836. The same year in which Bishop Kemper added the Territory of Wisconsin to his missionary field in 1838, he offered services with Rev. Cadle at Fort Winnebago. He visited Portage about seventeen times at irregular intervals into the early 1850s. In 1853, Kemper organized St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church of Portage at Veranda Hall which stood at the site of Graham's Drugstore (301 DeWitt). In 1855, the church became known simply as St. John's Episcopal Church. The church belonged to the Milwaukee Convocation and, when formed in 1886, the Milwaukee Diocese. At the 1853 meeting, the church adopted the constitution established by the Wisconsin Diocese and elected its officers. St. John's incorporated in 1864. The missionary Rev. E.A. Goodenough led the church during its first several months of organization in 1853. It received the Rev. Dr. Hugh Thompson as a permanent rector who served between 1853 and 1858. Ordained while at Portage, he later became Bishop of a Mississippi Diocese. St. John's services continued in Veranda Hall until the congregation erected its first church at 211 W. Pleasant in 1855 (Independent 1855 [6/28: 2/2]). In the fall of 1871, the congregation completed its two story, Italianate brick rectory (203 W. Pleasant, 35/10) which stands to the east of the present church (Wisconsin State Register 1871 [4/15: 3/1; 4/29: 3/2; 6/24: 3/1]).

Fire destroyed the original church in October, 1897. Under the direction of Rev. Frederick Jewell, the congregation completed its Neo-Gothic cream brick church at the site of the first building (211 W. Pleasant, 35/7) by September, 1898, and the church was dedicated in March, 1899. During a period of rapid growth led by Rev. H.F. Rockstroh, the congregation first constructed Rockstroh Parish Hall (209 W. Pleasant, 35/9) as a frame, 24 by 40 foot building in 1906. In 1907, the congregation added a brick veneer to the building, and in 1913 it was enlarged to the rear. By 1914, the church served 265 communicants. It offered its facilities to other church groups and frequently rented its hall for secular activities (Portage Public Library n.d. [photograph]; Portage Centennial Committee 1952; Turner, A.J. 1903: 32; St. John's Episcopal Church 1953; Butterfield 1880: 628; Portage Daily Register 1953 [11/11: 3/1]; Register-

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Democrat 1938 [4/9]; 1943 [6/11: 3/2-5]; 1952 [12/22]; Jones 1914 [1]: 216-17;  
WPA 1940-42 [folder 12, box 15]; Sanborn-Perris Map Co. 1901; 1910; 1918).

St. John's Church supported a comparatively small number of societies. It established its vested male choir in 1894. A church-wide organization, the Women's Auxiliary was established in 1871. St. John's Women's Auxiliary formed shortly afterward to provide financial support to the church and its missions. A common organization in most Episcopal Churches, the Brotherhood of St. Andrew formed in Chicago in 1833. St. John's chapter organized in 1948 to support the evangelical work of the church. A group composed of young, married couples, the Society of St. Francis, was primarily a social and study group. The Altar Guild and Church school existed as part of the church from the nineteenth century (St. John's Episcopal Church 1953; Portage Daily Register 1952 [7/30]).

**First Church of Christ Scientist, Portage: 417 W. Wisconsin**

The Church of Christ Scientist was established by Mary Baker Eddy. After experiencing a period of healing or spiritual discovery following an accident in 1866, Eddy underwent an intense period of study to achieve an understanding of the healing ministry of Christ. She articulated her first communication of this science of divine healing in her work Science and Health with Key to the Scripture in 1875. Although the Christian Scientists like other Christians came to affirm the divinity of Jesus Christ, the facts which surrounded his life, and the spiritual nature of humanity which was central to their teachings, they did not believe in the deity of Christ. Eddy formally established the first church in Boston in 1879. The Massachusetts Metaphysical College was founded in 1881 to teach the theology of the new religion. In 1892, she created a manual and initiated the founding of branch churches or societies in the United States and other countries. Each society was governed independently through the bylaws provided by the manual. Following the controversies which commonly emerge with the founding of a new belief system, Eddy reorganized the church just in ca. 1892.

After the ca. 1892 reorganization, services were led by readers who offered readings from the Bible and the denominational text. The church lacked an ordained ministry. Each church offered an essentially similar presentation from readings designated by the Mother Church in Boston at the Sunday service. Mid-week meetings included healing testimonies and readings chosen by the leader. The church presented its teachings to youths in Sunday Schools and held classes

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for adult members. After the death of Mary Baker Eddy in 1910, church unity continued to grow. The church did not engage in evangelism but provided information through written literature available at public reading rooms and the Christian Science Monitor founded in 1908. It also introduced its philosophy through lectures and other media. The church supported nursing homes and sanitariums which healed through Christian Science rather than medical treatment. Because the church focused on the spiritual rather than the social nature of man, it never became affiliated with men's and women's societies.

By 1890, Wisconsin included sixteen Christian Science organizations. The Oconto group became the first Christian Science society to erect a church which they completed in 1887. More commonly, groups held their services in halls and auditoriums prior to the turn of the century. The church more than doubled its membership between 1906 and 1926, increasing from 29 groups with 1704 members to 70 groups with 4,035 members. In the 1930s, it gained one society but its membership rose to 5,094 in 1936 (Wyatt 1986 [vol. 3, religion]: 4).

The Christian Science Church first formed at Portage in 1899 with six members under the leadership of Anna B. Foogman and Teckla Troost. Because of their study and recent affiliation with the Mother Church in Boston, these founders also served as readers. Others were soon trained and also became eligible as readers. The group founded a Sunday school at the turn of the century, and also sponsored lectures, the first occurring at the Portage Opera House in 1899 (115-117 E. Cook, 56/5). In 1909, church membership reached about twenty. It had then grown sufficiently to formally organize as the Christian Science Society of Portage and established by-laws. In 1927, the Portage society reorganized and incorporated as the First Church of Christ Scientist, Portage. The church now regularly presented the Christian Science lecture. Prior to 1909, meetings occurred in private homes. After that date, the society rented quarters at the first Odd Fellows Hall (site of 124 E. Cook, 57/26), later at the Home Theater (site of J.C. Penney, 112 E. Cook, 57/31), and then the current Odd Fellows Hall (124 E. Cook, 57/26) erected between 1916 and 1918. The church members held services at the Odd Fellows Hall until the construction of their church for which they began a building fund in 1916.

The Christian Science Society of Portage purchased a lot east of the intersection of W. Wisconsin and W. Pleasant on which to place their church in 1922. In 1926, the society received permission from the Mother Church to establish a reading room at the rear of the Stotzer Building which once stood at the site of 212 W. Conant. Although architect Newman of Milwaukee designed plans for the church in

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1927 and its foundation was laid in 1929, the onset of the Depression suspended further construction until 1933. In that year, architect Charles William Valentine of Milwaukee created a second set of plans for a Neo-Georgian limestone building (417 W. Wisconsin, 35/24). The building was completed in 1933 and dedicated in January, 1934. The society has now disbanded, and the building has become the office of Vitas Salna, attorney (Portage Public Library n.d. [undated history]; Milwaukee Journal 1934 [1/7]; Portage Daily Register 1952 [7/2]; Register-Democrat 1934 [1/25]; WPA 1940-42: folder 7; Voshardt 1910: 22; Farrell 1917: 16; Smith-Baumann 1929: 27).

#### **Conclusion**

The five churches and their associated parsonages and hall thus visually dominate the district and gain historical significance under criterion A for the role they played in uniting Portage's diverse community. They not only functioned to bring social order during the development of the young city but also formed numerous groups through which joint action occurred for the benefit of the individual churches as well as the community as a whole.

#### **Conclusion**

The Church Hill District gains significance under criterion C in the area of architecture. The district preserves sixty-one contributing buildings including Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, American Foursquare, and revival style examples of residential architecture dating between the 1850s and the 1920s and Romanesque Revival, Richardsonian Romanesque Revival, Neo-Gothic Revival, and Georgian Revival style ecclesiastical architecture dating between the early 1870s and 1930s. The twenty noncontributing buildings are primarily seven recent buildings which are with one exception (see 115 W. Pleasant) of modest scale and thirteen vernacular style buildings which have undergone modification by siding replacement, the addition of wings, the addition or enclosure of porches, and/or the modification of windows so that their original form is no longer identifiable. It also acquires significance under criterion A in the area of social history because of the concentration of buildings along two of the district's boundaries which relate to the theme. Its five churches, four parsonages, and single hall are all contributing properties in the district.

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They represent the social contributions of the religious organizations which occupied them to community life at Portage. Because these buildings are important in the social history of the community, they gain significance under criterion consideration A. And, since the district represents Portage's architecture and its religious organizations, it acquires significance at the local level. The period of significance spans the beginning and end building dates of the buildings in the district: the 1855, former Methodist Church at 214-218 W. Howard and the 1933 Church of Christ Scientist at 417 W. Wisconsin (Columbia County Treasurer 1863- [1863]; Rugen 1868; Independent 1855 [6/28: 2/2]; date stone; Milwaukee Journal 1934 [1/17]; Register Democrat 1934 [1/25]; WPA 1940-42).

8. Statement of Significance: architects and builders continued

1. Haynes, builder (no first name given): 214-218 W. Howard (38/28) or the Methodist Episcopal Church (Independent 1855 [6/28: 2/2]).
2. Mattke, Gustav; Schultz, Ferdinand; and M. Brand, builders and masons: 701 MacFarlane (39/27) or St. John Lutheran Church (St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church 1934; 1944; Wisconsin State Register 1874 [5/12: 3/2; 5/9: 3/2]).
3. Lindsay, Frank L., architect: 101 E. Pleasant (36/3) (Meyer 1995 [plans]).
4. Prehn, William, builder and Valk & Sons of Brooklyn, architect: 120 W. Pleasant (35/13) or the Portage Presbyterian Church (Democrat 1900 [7/16: 1/4]; Ogle, George A. & Co. 1901: 271).
5. Knapp, I. Jay, architect: 211 W. Pleasant (35/7) or St. John's Episcopal Church (St. John's Episcopal Church 1953; Register Democrat 1943 [6/1: 3/2-5]; 1938 [4/9]).
6. Valentine, Charles William, architect and Lloyd Stensrud, general contractor: 417 W. Wisconsin (35/24) or Church of Christ Scientist (Milwaukee Journal 1934 [1/7]; Register Democrat 1934 [1/25]; and WPA 1940-42).
7. Brodi, Henry C. contractor: 224 W. Pleasant (38/22) (Portage Daily Register 1904 [3/25: 4/2]; Wisconsin State Register 1904 [4/2: 8/4]).

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8. Law, Law, and Potter: 212 W. Howard (38/27) (Taylor 1995).
9. Hurst, George and Robert C. Alexander, carpenters: 203 W. Pleasant (35/10) (Wisconsin State Register 1871 [4/29: 3/2]).
10. Carnegie, Alexander, building contractor: 111 E. Pleasant (36/6) (Wisconsin State Register 1879 [4/19: 3/1]).
11. Sanborn Brothers and P. Mills, masons and carpenter: 208 W. Howard (38/26) (Wisconsin State Journal 1884 [8/29: 3/2]).
12. Williams, Charles H., architect: 105 E. Pleasant (36/5) and 117 E. Pleasant (36/7) (Wisconsin State Register 1900 [2/10: 1/2, 4/21: 1/2]).
13. Rueckert, William, carpenter: 141 W. Carroll (39/31) or the St. John's Lutheran Church parsonage (Wisconsin State Register 1904 [3/5: 8/3]).

#### **Archaeological Statement**

No specifically identified prehistoric or historical archaeological sites are located within the district (Wisconsin Historic Preservation Division n.d.a). However, the surrounding area includes a high density of prehistoric and especially Native American sites (McKay 1993: 15-21). Most districts are likely to contain historical archaeological sites associated with extant as well as demolished buildings ranging from trash pits, former gardens, and outbuildings to open activity areas.

Church Hill Historic District  
Name of Property

Columbia County, Wisconsin  
County and State

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

### 9. Major Bibliographic References

#### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:  
 State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State Agency  
 Federal Agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Name of repository:  
Portage Public Library

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 23.9 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1                                     3                                  
Zone Easting Northing                 Zone Easting Northing

2                                     4                                  
Zone Easting Northing                 Zone Easting Northing

see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joyce McKay, Cultural Resources Consultant  
organization private consultant date 4/17/95  
street & number P.O. Box 258, 21 Fourth St. telephone 608-424-6315  
city or town Belleville state WI zip code 53508

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#### 10. Geographical Data: UTM References

A. 16 300840 4823850  
B. 16 300910 4823860  
C. 16 300900 4823730  
D. 16 301300 4823890  
E. 16 301360 4823760  
F. 16 300960 4823540

#### Boundary Description

The district map locates the boundaries of the district. The boundary generally occurs along the curbs of the following streets: west side of Adams, north side of east and west Pleasant, east side of Lock and MacFarlane, south side of W. Franklin, and the north side of W. Carroll. At other locations, the boundary follows the center of the alley or the lot lines.

#### Boundary Justification

The district boundaries incorporate lands traditionally associated with each listed property. The boundaries include a concentration of late nineteenth and early twentieth century dwellings and churches built adjacent to the business district as the city began to expand beginning in the 1850s and 1860s. To the west and south, the Church Hill District abuts the Society Hill Historic District nominated in 1992 (Cartwright 1992) and the Portage Retail District nominated in 1994 (McKay 1994) respectively. The concentration of intact and pre-1944 dwellings diminishes significantly beyond the district boundaries to the north and east (McKay 1993: 327-28).

Church Hill Historic District  
Name of Property

Columbia County, Wisconsin  
County and State

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name see continuation sheets  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

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**Continuation Sheet**                              Portage, Columbia County, WI

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Photographic Documentation

Name: Church Hill Historic District  
Location: Portage, Columbia County, Wisconsin  
Photographer's Name: Joyce McKay  
Date: 1992-1993  
Location of Negatives: State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Black and White Photographic Identification and Camera Direction:

1. Duplex dwelling, the former Methodist Episcopal Church, detailed with Greek Revival and Eastlake elements at 214-218 W. Howard facing southeast (38/28).
2. Side gabled dwelling with Gothic Revival detailing at 134 W. Franklin facing southeast (42/24).
3. Neo-Gothic Revival, St. John Episcopal Church at 211 W. Pleasant facing northwest (35/7).
4. Italianate dwelling at 131 E. Howard facing northwest (37/10).
5. Italianate dwelling at 208 W. Howard facing southeast (38/26).
6. Italianate dwelling at 220 W. Pleasant facing southeast (35/21).
7. Second Empire dwelling at 603 DeWitt facing southeast (37/17).
8. Former Romanesque Revival, German Evangelical Church, now rehabilitated to a dwelling, at 235 W. Howard facing northeast (38/15).
9. Former Romanesque Revival, St. John Lutheran Church, now the Grace Bible Church, at 701 MacFarlane, facing northeast (39/28).
10. Queen Anne dwelling at 513 DeWitt facing southeast (37/19).
11. Queen Anne dwelling at 235 W. Pleasant facing northeast (35/3).
12. Queen Anne dwelling at 114 E. Howard facing southeast (37/22).
13. Queen Anne dwelling at 110 W. Howard facing southeast (37/21).
14. Queen Anne Presbyterian Church at 120 E. Pleasant facing southeast (35/13).
15. American Foursquare dwelling at 116 W. Howard facing southeast (38/24).
16. American Foursquare dwelling at 202 W. Howard facing southeast (38/25).
17. Colonial Revival Style dwelling at 207-209 W. Howard facing northeast (38/8).
18. Georgian Revival Style dwelling at 212 W. Howard facing southwest (41/3).
19. Colonial Revival Style, former Church of Christ Scientist, rehabilitated to an attorney's office, at 417 W. Wisconsin facing east (35/24).
20. Bungalow Style dwelling at 123 E. Howard facing northeast (37/12).
21. Side gabled type dwelling at 135 W. Carroll facing northwest (39/32).
22. Front gabled type dwelling at 108 W. Howard facing southeast (38/22).
23. Gabled ell type dwelling at 220 W. Howard facing southwest (38/29).



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Photographic Documentation

Name: Church Hill Historic District  
Location: Portage, Columbia County, Wisconsin  
Photographer's Name: Joyce McKay  
Date: 1992-1993  
Location of slides: State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Color Slide Photographic Identification:

1. Duplex dwelling, the former Methodist Episcopal Church, detailed with Greek Revival and Eastlake elements at 214-218 W. Howard, north and west elevations (1855).
2. Side gabled dwelling with Gothic Revival detailing at 134 W. Franklin, north and west elevations (1876-78).
3. Neo-Gothic Revival St. John Episcopal Church at 211 W. Pleasant, south facade (1898).
4. St. John Episcopal Church Hall at 207 W. Pleasant, south facade (1906, 1913).
5. St. John Episcopal Church, Italianate Style parsonage at 203 W. Pleasant, south facade (1871).
6. Italianate dwelling at 208 W. Howard, north and east elevations (1884-85).
7. Italianate dwelling at 223 E. Pleasant, south and east elevations (1876).
8. Stable behind 223 E. Pleasant, south elevation.
9. Italianate dwelling at 131 E. Howard, south and west elevations (1883-84).
10. Italianate dwelling at 220 W. Pleasant, north and west elevations (1881).
11. Second Empire Style dwelling at 603 DeWitt, south and west elevations (1873-74).
12. Former Romanesque Revival, German Evangelical Church, now rehabilitated to a dwelling, at 235 W. Howard, south and west elevations (1871).
13. Former Romanesque Revival, St. John Lutheran Church, now the Grace Bible Church, at 701 MacFarlane, south and west elevations (1874).
14. Queen Anne dwelling at 110 E. Howard, north and west elevations (1907).
15. Queen Anne dwelling at 516 DeWitt, north and east elevations (1892-93).
16. Queen Anne dwelling at 513 DeWitt, south and west elevations (1892-93).
17. Queen Anne dwelling at 101 E. Pleasant, south facade (1904).
18. Queen Anne dwelling at 105 E. Pleasant, south facade (1900-01).
19. Queen Anne dwelling at 235 W. Pleasant, south facade (1897).
20. Queen Anne Presbyterian Church at 120 W. Pleasant, north and west elevations (1893).

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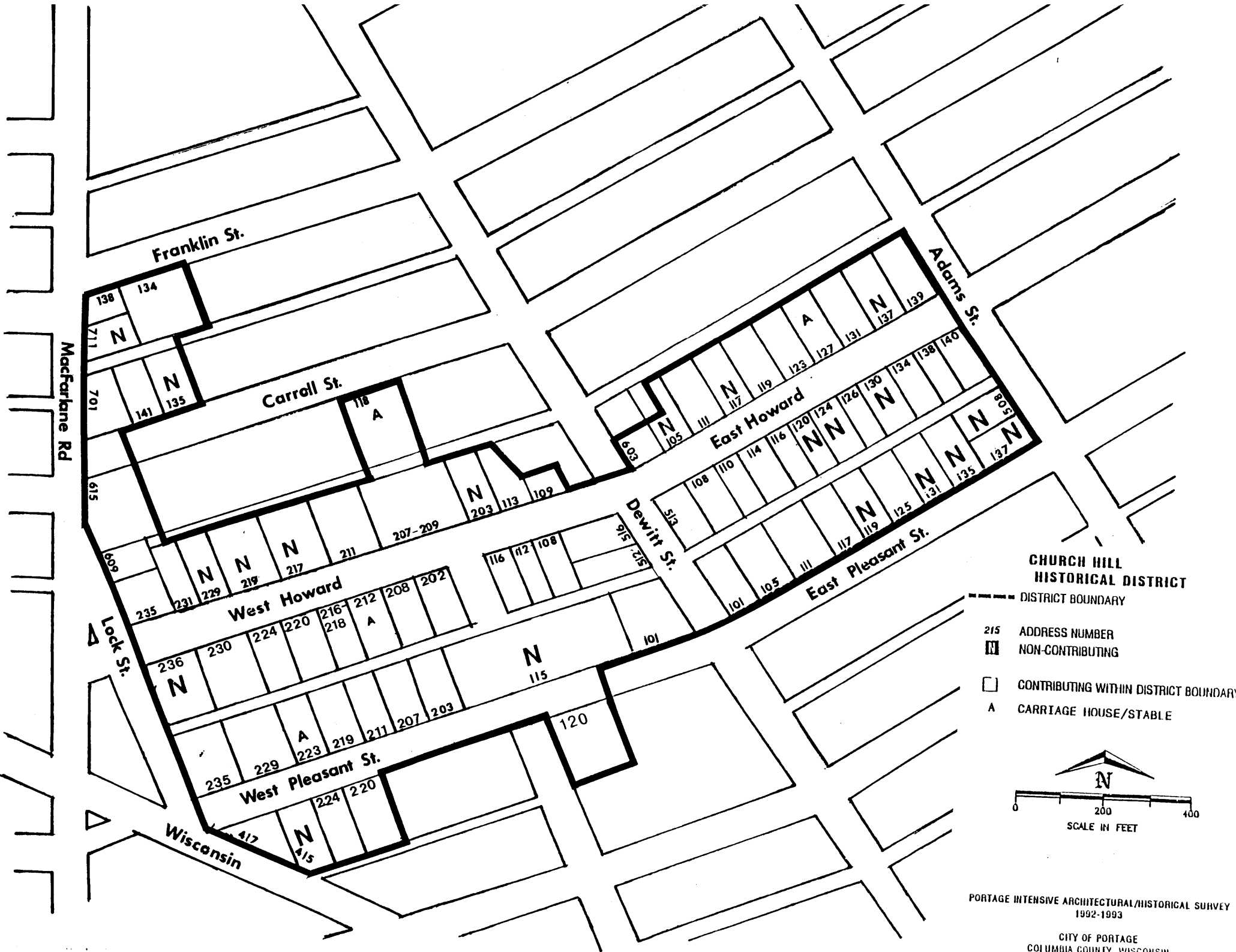
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**Continuation Sheet**                              Portage, Columbia County, WI

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Color Slide Photographic Identification (continued):

21. Colonial Revival dwelling at 207-209 W. Howard, south and west elevations (1895).
22. Georgian Revival dwelling at 212 W. Howard, north facade (1876-81, 1926).
23. Colonial Revival Style, former Church of Christ Scientist, rehabilitated to an attorney's office at 417 W. Wisconsin (1933).
24. American Foursquare style dwelling at 116 W. Howard, north and east elevations (1917-18).
25. American Foursquare dwelling at 202 W. Howard, north and west elevations (1913-14).
26. Bungalow Style dwelling at 123 E. Howard, south and west elevations (1925-26).
27. Front gabled, vernacular dwelling at 126 E. Howard, north facade (1910).
28. Gabled ell, vernacular dwelling at 135 E. Pleasant, south facade (ca. 1867).
29. Streetscape including noncontributing ranch style dwellings along W. Howard, facing east.
30. Streetscape including the 1974 city hall to the right and the Presbyterian church to the left along W. Pleasant, facing west.
31. Typical streetscape, facing west along W. Pleasant west of the city hall. The St. John's Episcopal church complex is to the right.
32. Typical streetscape, facing north along DeWitt at the corner of Pleasant.



**CHURCH HILL  
HISTORICAL DISTRICT**

- - - - - DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- 215 ADDRESS NUMBER
- N NON-CONTRIBUTING
- CONTRIBUTING WITHIN DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- A CARRIAGE HOUSE/STABLE

