

United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

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 Oliver, Owen and Margaret, House
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number	W314 S3986 State Highway 83	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Town of Genesee	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county Waukesha	code 133
			zip code 53189

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer - Wisconsin

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 commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Oliver, Owen and Margaret, House

Waukesha

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:)

Edson H. Beall

1.31.21



Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**
(check as many boxes as
as apply)

x

private

public-local

public-State

public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

x

building(s)

district

structure

site

object

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

contributing

3

1

1

5

noncontributing

1 buildings

sites

structures

objects

1 total

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources
is previously listed in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE: animal facility

AGRICULTURE: agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation fieldstone

walls weatherboard

roof

asphalt shingle

other

wood

Narrative Description

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

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Section 7 Page 1

Oliver, Owen and Margaret, House
Town of Genesee, Waukesha County, WI

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Owen and Margaret Oliver House is located along the east side of State Highway 83, at its corner with John's Way, just north of the unincorporated community of Genesee Depot in Waukesha County. The surrounding area--which was historically farmland--is largely developed, including a modern residential subdivision adjacent to the northeast, as well as across the road to the south. The subject property is heavily wooded and most of the parcel's buildings are not clearly visible from the roadway. Two driveways access the property off of State Highway 83, one leads directly to the house, while the other is located near the outbuildings, near the corner of STH 83 and John's Way. Short sections of modern wooden fencing run between the house and the modern garage, as well as from the rear of the fieldstone shed to the stone silo. Additional fencing runs along the right-of-way of State Highway 83, between the corner and main driveway entrances. The property consists of six elements: a house, frame horse barn, a fieldstone shed, barn foundation remains, fieldstone silo, and a modern garage. All but the modern garage are considered to be contributing elements to the property.

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:

House (Contributing, (Ca. 1858) Ca. 1880¹):

This clapboard-sheathed, Italianate-influenced house consists of a two-story main block, a one-story kitchen wing, as well as a modern, one-story family room/sunroom addition (1991). Both the main and kitchen wings rise from a fieldstone foundation, while the rearmost addition is on poured concrete. The roof of the main block is a low-pitched, hipped example with wide eaves—from which a brick chimney rises. Topping the roof is a raised roof deck with a gable roofed top. The remaining two roofs are gabled, the central block of which carries an additional chimney. Windows throughout the house are largely two-over-two-light, double-hung sashes topped with pedimented, wooden window hoods and flanked by working shutters.

¹ The initial ca. 1858 date coincides with the date that the only notable improvement (according to tax records) was made to the property since 1849. Indeed, a house is also identified as being located on the property by no later than 1859, *H.F. Walling Map of Waukesha County, Wisconsin* (New York: M.H. Tyler, 1859). The circa 1880 date is the probable date of the main part of the house in its current configuration. In 1885, the property's date of sale, the actual cost of the property had risen from \$1,600 to \$2,550, reflecting substantial improvements to the property. Ann T. Jones to Owen & Margaret Oliver, Warranty Deed, 30 September 1885, 65/239. This transaction and all later deed citations from the Abstract of Title for subject property, in possession of current owners, Joseph and Ellen Turzynski, Town of Genesee, Waukesha County, WI. There are no available tax rolls between 1870 and 1880 and the information associated with the 1880 tax roll is also inconclusive, Tax Rolls, Genesee Township, 1849-1930 (not a continuous run), on file at the Area Research Center, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI.

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The primary (west) elevation features a façade-length, hipped-roof porch that consists of sawn brackets and carved, wooden post supports. A simple balustrade outlines the wooden porch deck. A central wooden door is flanked by a single sash window to either side, while the upper level consists of three, symmetrically set sashes.

Moving counter-clockwise and turning to the south elevation, a small, hipped-roof porch, detailed exactly like the front porch, shelters a single door at the east end of the main block. A short staircase with a simple stair rail fronts the porch entry. The remaining first-floor wall space consists of a pair of sash windows; the second floor also carries a pair of sashes directly above the first floor windows. Continuing along the south façade, the south wall of the one-story, side-gabled midsection carries a single door that is flanked by a modern, multiple-light window to the left, as well as a two-over-two-light, double-hung sash to the right of the door. The remainder of the south elevation consists of the modern rear wing which has yet another entrance to the house. A wooden porch deck with a simple wooden balustrade runs the length of the porch and terminates at the east end with a staircase to the backyard.

The gabled endwall of the rear wing consists of a series of three pair of casement windows that are marked to resemble the four-part division of the original windows found on the main block. A single, octagonal window is located within the gabled peak. Like the main block, these windows also feature shutters, as well as pedimented windowhoods.

The east end of the north wall of the rearmost wing carries a single, one-over-one-light sash window. Extending from the rear wing and obscuring the east half of the one-story midsection is a screened-in porch; the supports, balustrade and trim of which replicates that of the previous two porches. A single door provides access to the porch along the west wall. Adjacent to the porch is a single, modern sash window with a single shutter.

Returning to the main block, the first floor features a pair of symmetrically placed two-over-two-light sashes, as well as a small square window, while the upper level carries an identical pair of sash windows.

Known alterations to the exterior of the home are generally limited to the 1991 sunroom addition and the south porch deck, as well as the screened-in porch along the north side, which was constructed by the current owners. Between 1966 and 1976, the porch trim was removed by a previous owner; however, the current owners had new porch work milled to match that shown in historic photographs.

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Oliver, Owen and Margaret, House
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Indeed, two 1894 photographs of the home indicate that little has been done to alter the general appearance of the home.²

The first-floor interior contains a music room to the right of the front entry, a living room to the left. A large dining room is located at the southeast quadrant of the main block, while a small bathroom and utility room occupy the northeast corner. A doorway from the dining room leads into the one-story kitchen and narrow pantry. Finally, the rearmost modern wing of the home includes a family room at the east end, while a small sun porch wraps around the corner to the north. The second level of the main block includes three bedrooms and a bathroom. Original detailing of the interior includes wide maple and pine flooring, wooden wainscoting in the kitchen, crown molding, and door and window trim with a bullet motif.

The first-floor interior of the main block remains largely intact; however, the area that is now the bath and utility room (which are separated by a sliding door) was altered as such in the 1950s. A doorway originally separated the dining room from what is now the utility room (it is now a solid wall). On the second floor, the current owners remodeled the original northeast corner bedroom into a full bathroom.

Silo (Contributing, Ca. 1890³):

This square, stone silo (without a cap or roof) is located adjacent the immediate corner of State Highway 83 and John's Way. The structure is largely constructed of fieldstone; however, attempts at corner quoining were done with square-cut stones. Until the 1970s, the structure was topped with a deteriorating gabled roof covered with wooden shingles.

² It is possible that the kitchen wing may have been a separate summer kitchen or an earlier portion of the original Magee homestead that was later joined to the main block. You can see from current photos, however, that the wing is likely a later addition to the main block for it partially blocks one of the upper-level east-facing windows. The wing was, however, in place by no later than 1894. (Historic photographs of the Oliver family in front of the subject house, ca. 1894, in possession of the Turzynskis.) Note that the fieldstone foundation of the main block is continuous, with no evidence of addition or alteration. The lower level of this main block can be accessed through the house or through a storm door at the juncture of the main block and the mid-section. The foundation of the one-story mid-section is also on fieldstone and can be directly accessed through the storm door. The floor of this mid-section is dirt.

³ The 1890 date of construction reflects the approximate earliest date for such square stone silos. See Architecture discussion for more information.

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Barn Foundation Remains (Contributing, Ca. 1885⁴):

Fieldstone foundation remains are located immediately adjacent and east of the silo.

Horse Barn (Contributing, Ca. 1890⁵):

Generally oriented on a north/south axis, this small bank barn rests on a fieldstone foundation, while the upper level is sheathed with board-and-batten siding. Horse stalls are located along the structure's lower level. A human-scale doorway is located at the building's northeast corner, while large, sliding doors are found along the west elevation.

Fieldstone Shed/Garage (Contributing, 1915⁶):

This small shed/garage structure is largely constructed of fieldstone and is topped with a gabled roof covered with wooden shingles. A small square window is located along the building's easterly wall, while a larger opening, fitted with a multiple-light sash opening flanked by shutters, is found along the opposite, west wall. The structure's primary (north) façade, which is sheathed with clapboard, carries a four-panel wooden door, a six-over-six-light sash, as well as a four-light window in its peak. This north wall, which now reflects the character of the house, was originally covered with shiplap siding and included a large, four-section wooden door.

Garage (Non-Contributing, 2000⁷):

This two-story, clapboard-sheathed, side-gabled garage features a gabled wall dormer along its primary (west) façade, within which rests a single, double-hung sash window. A pair of wood-and-glass garage doors is located along the first level. Fenestration throughout the remainder of the structure consists of sash openings.

⁴ Construction date based on observation.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ The date 1915 is etched into the mortar of this structure.

⁷ The subject garage was designed by a class at Kettle Moraine High School and was built in 2000. (Ellen Turzynski, current owner of subject property, conversation with Traci E. Schnell, 10 June 2002. Notes on file at Heritage Research, Ltd., Menomonee Falls, WI.)

Oliver, Owen and Margaret, House
Name of Property

Waukesha
County and State

Wisconsin

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.)

- ☐ 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.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- ☐ 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 or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

Ca. 1880-1915

Significant Dates

Ca. 1885; Ca. 1890; 1915

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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Oliver, Owen and Margaret, House
Town of Genesee, Waukesha County, WI

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Owen and Margaret Oliver House is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for local architectural significance. The farmhouse is an excellent and intact example of the Italianate style as applied to a rural farm residence. This house was among fifty-four buildings that were surveyed along a seventeen-mile corridor of State Highway 83; the survey was conducted as a result of a proposed road reconstruction project. Of the surveyed properties, only three, including the Oliver property, were found to be potentially eligible for the National Register.

Sheathed with clapboard, the structure features the common characteristics of the Italianate style, including a boxy form, a low-pitched hipped roof and wide overhanging eaves. Additionally, the house features two original porches with decorative, sawn bracket trim, as well as raised wooden window hoods. Although not considered a high-style example, the elaborations found on the Oliver home are well beyond those found on what is considered a ubiquitous form found in rural settings. The extant historic outbuildings on the property include a square stone silo, a horse barn, a shed, and barn foundation remains. Although the property is not considered eligible as a farmstead, the outbuildings help us to understand the home's history and evolution in its agricultural setting. The Period of Significance is considered to start with the date at which the home achieved its current exterior appearance (circa 1880) and it continues to encompass the dates of the construction for the contributing outbuildings, the last of which was built in 1915. While the Olivers acquired the property in 1885, probably after the date of construction, the house bears their name because of the family's long association with the property. It is also during their ownership that many of the outbuildings were constructed, resulting in the current setting.

GENERAL HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

The general history of Waukesha County and the Town of Genesee is discussed in *The History of Waukesha County* (1880) and Haight's *Memoirs of Waukesha County* (1907). Briefly summarized, the present-day Town of Genesee was established in 1843, with the first settler being Stillman Smith in the spring of 1837. Also arriving that year was Benjamin A. Jenkins, who was responsible for the erection of the town's first hotel (1838) and the first flouring mill (1840) in the community of Genesee. In 1851, the Milwaukee & Mississippi Road began constructing a rail line from Milwaukee to Janesville and planned to run its right-of-way through the established Village of Genesee. However, Genesee village-area landowners set their land prices too high. In turn, local farmer John Magee sold the railroad three of his acres at a more reasonable price and the rail line was established one mile to

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the north. As a result of the railroad depot construction, the community of Genesee Station (later renamed Genesee Depot) was established in 1851.⁸

HISTORY OF THE SUBJECT PARCEL:

John Magee (also spelled McGee), one of the area's earliest settlers, was largely responsible for the creation of Genesee Depot, then known as Genesee Station. Magee was born in Ireland in 1805 and came to Wisconsin in 1844. On August 1st of that year, he received a land grant of 80 acres from the Milwaukee office. Two years later, he received from the same office an additional land grant of 40 acres. Magee, a farmer, and his wife Catharine (also born in Ireland), eventually acquired 280 acres--much of which is now downtown Genesee Depot. The 1850 census confirms that Magee physically resided in Genesee Station, along with his wife, six children, and a farmhand. Although their exact place of residence is unknown at that time, an 1859 plat map identifies a structure along present-day State Highway 83 (formerly known as Magee Street) on the land owned by John Magee, in the general location of where the subject Oliver house is currently located. While tax records indicate that a structure was built on the property between 1857 and 1858, the current home's appearance (which stands unchanged since at least 1894, as evidenced by two photographs from that year), suggests a possible later construction date.⁹

In 1859, Magee provided the land for the construction of a local school, which was reportedly called "Farmers Magee School." Three years later, the Magees donated "one acre and five rods" to Archbishop Henni for the site of a Catholic church (the original circa-1863 structure remains extant). In 1866, the *Waukesha Plaindealer* reported that "war Democrat" John Magee had been appointed Postmaster at Genesee Depot. The same newspaper (in 1868) identified Magee as one of three Town of Genesee assessors and as a representative in the Waukesha Democratic County Convention in October 1869. One month prior to the convention participation announcement, Magee sold the subject

⁸ *The History of Waukesha County, Wisconsin* (Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1880), 741, 743; Theron W. Haight, ed., *Memoirs of Waukesha County* (Madison: Western Historical Association, 1907), 286.

⁹ Dennis Slater, "Little is Known of Genesee Pioneer," *Lake Country Reporter*, 2 October 1980; United States to John Magee, Warranty Deed, 1 August 1844, Vol. 7/Page 259, Patent Certificate #9692; United States Federal Census, Population, 1850, available online at www.ancestry.com; *H.F. Walling Map of Waukesha County* (New York: M.H. Tyler, 1859); Tax Rolls, Genesee Township, 1849-1930; Photograph of the Oliver family in front of the subject house, dated 1894.

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property to his son David Magee and his wife Mary, presumably with a house on it. Although tax records reflect a rise in valuation between 1867 and 1868, a review of other area parcels suggests that this was an across-the-board increase.¹⁰

Ownership of the subject property transferred hands a few times between 1869 and September 1877, when it was purchased by William T. and Ann Jones. The actual purchase price of the property, which presumably included a house, was consistent during that period. Unfortunately, little is known about the Joneses, aside from the fact that they were among the large contingent of Welsh immigrants that moved to the vicinity between the 1840s and 1860s. The 1880 census enumerated William T. and his wife Ann (both age 60), along with a twelve-year-old daughter Jane as residing in the Town of Genesee (and presumably in the subject house). Both William and Jane passed away prior to 1884, William's Last Will and Testament identifies only his widow Ann as his heir. At that time (1884), Ann had already relocated to the Town of Ixonia, Jefferson County. In 1885, Ann sold the property and presumably the subject house to Welsh immigrant Owen Oliver for a cost of \$2,550, approximately \$1,000 more than its previous sale price in 1877 of \$1,600. It is this rise that strongly suggests a date of construction between 1877 and 1885 or, perhaps, reflects alterations to an earlier house that resulted in the home as it stands today. Indeed, the kitchen wing may have been part of the original Magee homestead and joined to the main block by, or at, this time. Indeed, two circa-1894 photographs, with the Oliver family gathered out front, indicate that the house has changed very little since that time.¹¹ This photograph also argues for the later construction date. The condition of the house, as it appears in the photograph, indicates a building that is closer to 15 years in age than one that was approaching 40 years.

Owen Oliver Sr. was born in Dimbyshire, North Wales, in 1835, and immigrated to the United States with his family in 1838. After living in Ohio for three years, the Olivers moved to Genesee and are considered one of the early Welsh pioneers in the area. On 7 March 1860, Owen married Margaret

¹⁰ Slater, "Little is Known of Genesee Pioneer"; "New Postmasters," *Waukesha Plaindealer*, 14 August 1866; Newsbrief (re: Town of Genesee assessors), *Waukesha Plaindealer*, 28 April 1868; John Magee to David Magee, Warranty Deed, dated 18 September 1869, 40/557, Cost: \$2,500; "Sales of Real Estate," *Waukesha Plaindealer*, 12 October 1869; Newsbrief (re: Waukesha County Democratic convention), *Waukesha Plaindealer*, 19 October 1869; Tax Rolls, Genesee Township, 1849-1930; "St. Paul Catholic Church, 120th Anniversary Directory," Information compiled by members of St. Paul's congregation, Genesee Depot, WI, Directory in possession of the church. Slater, in his 1980 article, indicates that there are no references to John Magee in Genesee Depot after 1876. That is incorrect, for Magee is enumerated in the 1880 census as living with his son James, the latter of whom died at the age of fifty in 1889, United States Federal Census, Population, 1880; James Magee, Obituary, *Waukesha Freeman*, 9 May 1889. However, no death date could be found for John Magee himself.

¹¹ Abstract of Title for subject property; Williams to Jones, Warranty Deed, 27 September 1877; Estate of William T. Jones, Final Order, 14 October 1884; Jones to Oliver, Warranty Deed, 30 September 1885; United States Federal Census, Population, 1880.

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Rees, the daughter of Thomas and Mary Rees, who emigrated from South Wales. The Rees family came in 1841 and, like the Olivers, they resided first in Ohio before settling in the Town of Genesee in 1846. At the age of sixteen, Margaret Rees was teaching at the local Magee School.¹²

The 1860 census finds Owen and his new wife Margaret living with his father Robert and brother John. Ten years later, Owen and Margaret were living on their own, along with their one-year-old daughter Mary. The Olivers would go on to have nine children, six of whom survived to adulthood. Prior to Owen's death in 1900, it is believed that the main barn (no longer extant), horse barn, and likely the silo were constructed. The fieldstone shed, however, is believed to date to 1915 (the date is etched into the mortar), two years after Margaret's passing.¹³

The house remained in the Oliver family and passed to their eldest daughter Mary and her husband David Jones. Also in residence were the younger Oliver daughters, Margaret, Ruth and Elizabeth. Elizabeth eventually married (to Evan Thomas), and David and Mary Jones both passed away in the 1940s. However, Margaret and Ruth remained in the house into the 1960s. The Oliver sisters were reportedly active members of the Jerusalem Presbyterian Church and sang in its choir, as well as with the Jerusalem Ladies Quartet. The sisters, who were both cooks of some note, were featured in a fictional 1953 account of life "in the Welsh Hills." Margaret passed away in 1967 (in nearby Wales), while her sister Ruth died two years later.¹⁴

¹² "Owen Oliver Sr.," Obituary, *Waukesha Freeman*, 6 June 1900; "In Memoriam," obituary of Margaret Oliver, *Waukesha Freeman*, 4 December 1913.

¹³ United States Federal Census, Population, 1860, 1870; "Owen Oliver, Sr.," Obituary; "In Memoriam," Obituary of Margaret Oliver. A biographical sketch of Owen Oliver, Jr. (b. 1864) indicates that his father purchased in 1866 "a farm in Waukesha County from Frank Duffy, and this farm is still owned and conducted by the family," George O. Jones and Norman S. McVean, *History of Wood County, Wisconsin* (Minneapolis, MN: H.C. Cooper Jr. & Co., 1923), 687-88. That sketch also erroneously cites Owen Oliver, Sr.'s date of death as 4 June 1899 (the correct year was 1900). Based on the abstract of title for the subject property, as well as information from the 1859 and 1873 plat maps, this references land located just east of the subject parcel. Indeed, the 1873 county plat map identifies that the subject parcel was owned by David Magee and Owen Oliver owned property southeast of the subject parcel, *Atlas of Waukesha County, Wisconsin* (Madison, WI: Harrison & Warner, 1873).

¹⁴ United States Federal Census, Population, 1910-1930; "Miss Margaret Oliver," Obituary, *Waukesha Freeman*, 2 May 1967; Patrick Byrne, *The Welsh Hills of Waukesha County* (Wales, WI: Celtic Ink, 1997), 66-67; Edward Harris Heth, *My Life on Earth* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1953). The subject house is identified in the Byrne book, along with a photograph. Text associated with the photo indicates that the sisters were born in the house in the 1870s, but considering that their father had not purchased the parcel until 1885, that is unlikely. The Oliver sisters—Margaret and Ruth—were fictionalized as Millie and Carrie in the fictional account by Heth. Although the sisters are identified as good cooks (which they were in real life), no definitive history of their house or their family in general is included in any of the stories.

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The house then sold to the Steinhorts and, later, the Sundstroms. Current owners Joseph and Ellen Turzynski purchased the property in 1976. Prior to their purchase, the house was painted a beige-pink color and the previous owners had removed the porch brackets. The Turzynskis had new ones crafted to exactly match the originals where the originals were in too poor of condition. Based on work that they have since done to the home for its general upkeep, they estimate that electricity was added to the home in the 1920s and that the first-floor bathroom was added in the 1950s. In 1991, the Turzynskis added the rear family room, the north sun porch and the south porch deck. In 2000, the garage—in the style of a turn-of-the-century carriage barn—was added to the property. It was designed by a class at the Kettle Moraine High School. Within the last two years, they renovated the 1915 shed with new windows and a door, for use as a painting studio for Ellen.¹⁵

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: ARCHITECTURE

The Owen and Margaret Oliver home is a fine, rural example of the Italianate style of architecture, which was popular in Wisconsin between 1850 and 1880. The style is generally characterized by wide eaves, a square or boxy form, a low-pitched hipped roof, and decorative eave brackets. Windows themselves are often round-arched and can often feature elaborate hoodmolds. A cupola may also be seen on top of the roof and, a porch or verandah is frequently seen. This description, however, is more common to high-style, urban examples, whereas the rural Oliver example reflects a more abbreviated version of the styling.¹⁶

Simply described, the Oliver house is a boxy, frame-constructed form topped with a low-pitched hipped roof and wide, overhanging eaves. Unlike high-style examples, the eaves are not enclosed and lined with bracket trim but are, instead, open. Although no decorative brackets are present along the eave, the house does offer a nearly facade-length porch with carved supports that feature intricately sawn bracket trim. Also unlike more high-end examples, the house does not have a decorative cupola. In the place of a cupola is a low, slightly pedimented, box-like construction. Windows are original, rectangular, two-over-two-light examples, most of which are topped with raised, wooden window hoods. The house is largely sheathed with original clapboard siding. The rear kitchen wing is clearly a later addition to the home, as evidenced by the fact that it partially obscures an upper-level, east-facing window. However, it is possible that it could have been a free-standing summer kitchen or another component of the original Magee homestead before having been joined to the home's main block.

¹⁵ Turzynski, Conversation with Schnell.

¹⁶ Barbara Wyatt, ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, 3 vols. (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Historic Preservation Division, 1986), Vol. 2, Architecture, 2-6.

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Oliver, Owen and Margaret, House
Town of Genesee, Waukesha County, WI

While Italianate houses are considered relatively ubiquitous throughout the countryside of southern Wisconsin, the Town of Genesee is with very few such examples. The township has seen significant growth in the last two decades, resulting in a preponderance of modern subdivision development. Indeed, modern subdivisions are located adjacent to the Oliver house to both the northeast and the south. As far as the town's historic housing stock, it is comprised largely of Greek Revival and gabled ell forms—most of which have been significantly remodeled. While the sawn bracket trim can be seen on a number of gabled ell and other house forms—specifically in the Village of Genesee Depot—no other examples display the overall integrity seen on the Oliver residence. Only one truly comparable house could be found in the vicinity and it is located approximately one-half mile to the north at W317 S3273 State Highway 83.¹⁷ Although that home's three bay, square main block is comparable in form and it features a bracketed porch, it has been resided with aluminum, a one-story wing extends from its side (rather than the rear) and the windows—which are one-over-one-light replacements—are without any decorative hoods. While it may once have resembled the look of the Oliver home, the remodeling has stripped it of its integrity. Indeed, two 1894 photographs of the Oliver home indicate that the only apparent alterations (aside from the 1991 sunroom/family room addition and a handful of modern windows) include the removal of the original wooden shingle-covered roof (which has since been replaced with asphalt) and the early addition of a railing around the front porch.

In addition to the Oliver residence, also of note is a square fieldstone silo. Although no date of construction can be verified, it is likely no earlier than 1890. Indeed, the "Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station bulletins... published in 1897, 1900 and 1905 contained instructions for building both round and square stone silos." Hence, the date of construction could be as late as 1905. However, by 1910, silo construction had largely turned to concrete. While the subject fieldstone silo is certainly of **interest**, it is not considered individually eligible for the National Register under Criterion C; however, it is a contributing element to the significance of the property as a whole.¹⁸ The other agricultural outbuildings contribute to our understanding of the historic setting of the Oliver House.

CONCLUSION:

The Owen and Margaret Oliver House is significant at the local level as a very good and highly intact, rural example of the Italianate style of architecture and is eligible for the National Register of Historic

¹⁷ It should also be of note that the comparable house at W317 S3273 State Highway 83 does not appear on the 1859 or 1873 plat map of Waukesha County, thereby supporting the post-1873 date of construction for the Oliver House, *H.F. Walling Map of Waukesha County*, 1859; *Atlas of Waukesha County*, 1873.

¹⁸ Beedle, Peggy Ann. *Silos: An Agricultural Success Story*. (Madison, Wis.: Cooperative Extension, University of Wisconsin--Extension, 2001).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 7

Oliver, Owen and Margaret, House
Town of Genesee, Waukesha County, WI

Places under Criterion C. In comparison to other properties in the area, it stands out as the best example of the Italianate style.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL:

An archaeological survey was done in conjunction with the State Highway 83 road reconstruction project in 2002, the limits of which were restricted to the parameters defined by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. Although no archaeological deposits have been reported, the archaeological potential for the property itself remains unassessed at this time. Tax rolls indicate that a structure was built on this property by 1858 and the 1859 plat map confirms that information. It is possible that an earlier house, or a component thereof, was incorporated into the subject Oliver home or the remains of an 1858 residence could exist at an unknown location on the property. Furthermore, barn foundations are found at the south end of the subject parcel and they could also offer some archaeological potential in the future.

PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES:

In 2001, a National Register questionnaire was completed by the home's current owners, Joseph and Ellen Turzynski. The impetus for the completion of the questionnaire was a road project proposed for State Highway 83. Indeed, the following year, a survey of historic resources was performed along State Highway 83, from Mukwonago's north boundary on the south to approximately STH 16 in Hartland on the north, as the result of a proposed road reconstruction project. Shortly thereafter, Determinations of Eligibility were completed, one of which was for the subject property and which was recommended as potentially eligible. Following review by both the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the Wisconsin Historical Society, the property was officially determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The actual nomination of this property was thereafter pursued by the home's current owners who have no other reason to list the home than their passionate interest in its preservation. Also of note, and located just south of the Turzynski property in the village of Genesee Depot, is the National Historic Landmark property of Ten Chimneys. Restoration work on the former Lunt & Fontanne property certainly provided the impetus for the area's interest in preservation.

Oliver, Owen and Margaret House
Name of Property

Waukesha
County and State

Wisconsin

9. Major Bibliographic References

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

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

- 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:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.4 acres

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

1 16 387958 4758404
 Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
 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 Traci E. Schnell/Architectural Historian
organization Heritage Research, Ltd.
street & number N89 W16785 Appleton Avenue
city or town Menomonee Falls

state WI

date January 2010
telephone 262.251.7792
zip code 53051

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 1

Oliver, Owen and Margaret, House
Town of Genesee, Waukesha County, WI

REFERENCES

*An asterisk identifies sources consulted by not cited.

Abstract of Title for subject property. In possession of current owners Joseph and Ellen Turzynski, Town of Genesee, Waukesha County, WI. See individual footnotes for specific deed transfers.

Atlas of Waukesha County, Wisconsin. Madison, WI: Harrison & Warner, 1873.

Beedle, Peggy Lee. *Silos: An Agricultural Success Story.* Madison, Wis.: Cooperative Extension, University of Wisconsin--Extension, 2001.

Byrne, Patrick. *The Welsh Hills of Waukesha County.* Wales, WI: Celtic Ink, 1997.

H.F. Walling Map of Waukesha County. New York: M.H. Tyler, 1859.

Haight, Theron W., ed. *Memoirs of Waukesha County.* Madison: Western Historical Association, 1907.

Heth, Edward Harris. *My Life on Earth.* New York: Simon and Schuster, 1953.

Historic photographs of the Oliver family in front of the subject house, ca. 1894. In possession of the Turzynskis, Town of Genesee, Waukesha County, WI.

The History of Waukesha County, Wisconsin. Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1880.

"In Memoriam." Obituary of Margaret Oliver. *Waukesha Freeman*, 4 December 1913.

Jones, George O. and Norman S. McVean. *History of Wood County, Wisconsin.* Minneapolis: H.C. Cooper Jr. & Co., 1923.

Magee, James, Obituary. *Waukesha Freeman*, 9 May 1889.

"Magee-Oliver Farmstead." Determination of Eligibility prepared by Traci E. Schnell, Heritage Research, Ltd., 2002. Copy on file at HRL and at the Historic Preservation Division, Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 2

Oliver, Owen and Margaret, House
Town of Genesee, Waukesha County, WI

*National Register Nomination Questionnaire for W314 S3986 State Highway 83. Prepared by Joseph & Ellen Turzynski, 2001. On file at the Wisconsin Historical Society, Division of Historic Preservation, Madison, WI.

Oliver, Miss Margaret, Obituary. *Waukesha Freeman*, 2 May 1967.

Oliver, Owen, Sr., Obituary. *Waukesha Freeman*, 6 June 1900.

Plat Book of Waukesha County, Wisconsin. Minneapolis: C.M. Foote & Co., 1891.

**Portrait and Biographical Record of Waukesha County, Wisconsin*. Chicago: Excelsior Publishing Co., 1894.

"St. Paul Catholic Church, 120th Anniversary Directory." Information compiled by members of St. Paul's congregation, Genesee Depot, WI.

Slater, Dennis. "Little is Known of Genesee Pioneer." *Lake Country Reporter*, 2 October 1980.

Standard Atlas of Waukesha County, Wisconsin. Chicago: Geo. A. Ogle & Co., 1914.

Tax Rolls, Genesee Township, 1849-1930. Not a continuous run. On file at the Area Research Center, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI.

Turzynski, Ellen. Current owner of subject property. Conversation with Traci E. Schnell, 10 June 2002. Notes on file at Heritage Research, Ltd., Menomonee Falls, WI.

United States Federal Census, Population, 1850-1900. Available online at www.Ancestry.com.

The Waukesha (WI) Plaindealer. Various dates cited between 1866 and 1869. See individual footnotes for specific citations.

Wyatt, Barbara, ed. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*. 3 vols. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Historic Preservation Division, 1986.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 1

Oliver, Owen and Margaret, House
Town of Genesee, Waukesha County, WI

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Verbal Boundary Description:

The general area is a rectangle which measures 175 feet x 350 feet, the long center axis of which is parallel to State Highway 83.

Boundary Justification:

The historic boundary is justified as follows: the west boundary line follows the existing edge of pavement of State Highway 83; the south line coincides with a fence line that runs immediately south of the collection of outbuildings and parallel to John's Way; both the north and east boundaries are drawn to include all of the property's elements, but to exclude the areas that are without any resources.

Oliver, Owen & Margaret House

Waukesha

Wisconsin

Name of Property

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/title	Joseph and Ellen Turzynski	date	January 2010
organization		telephone	262.968.2487
street & number	W314 S3986 State Highway 83, P.O. Box 188	zip code	53127
city or town	Genesee Depot	state	WI

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 Reduction Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section photo Page 1

Oliver, Owen and Margaret, House
Town of Genesee, Waukesha County, WI

OLIVER, OWEN AND MARGARET, HOUSE
Town of Genesee, Waukesha County, Wisconsin.
All photos by Traci E. Schnell, June 2009.

OLIVER, OWEN AND MARGARET, HOUSE (west and south elevations)
View to Northeast
Photo #1 of 9

OLIVER, OWEN AND MARGARET, HOUSE (north and west elevations)
View to South southeast
Photo #2 of 9

OLIVER, OWEN AND MARGARET, HOUSE (east and south elevations)
View to North northwest
Photo #3 of 9

OLIVER, OWEN AND MARGARET, HOUSE (south elevation)
View to Northeast
Photo #4 of 9

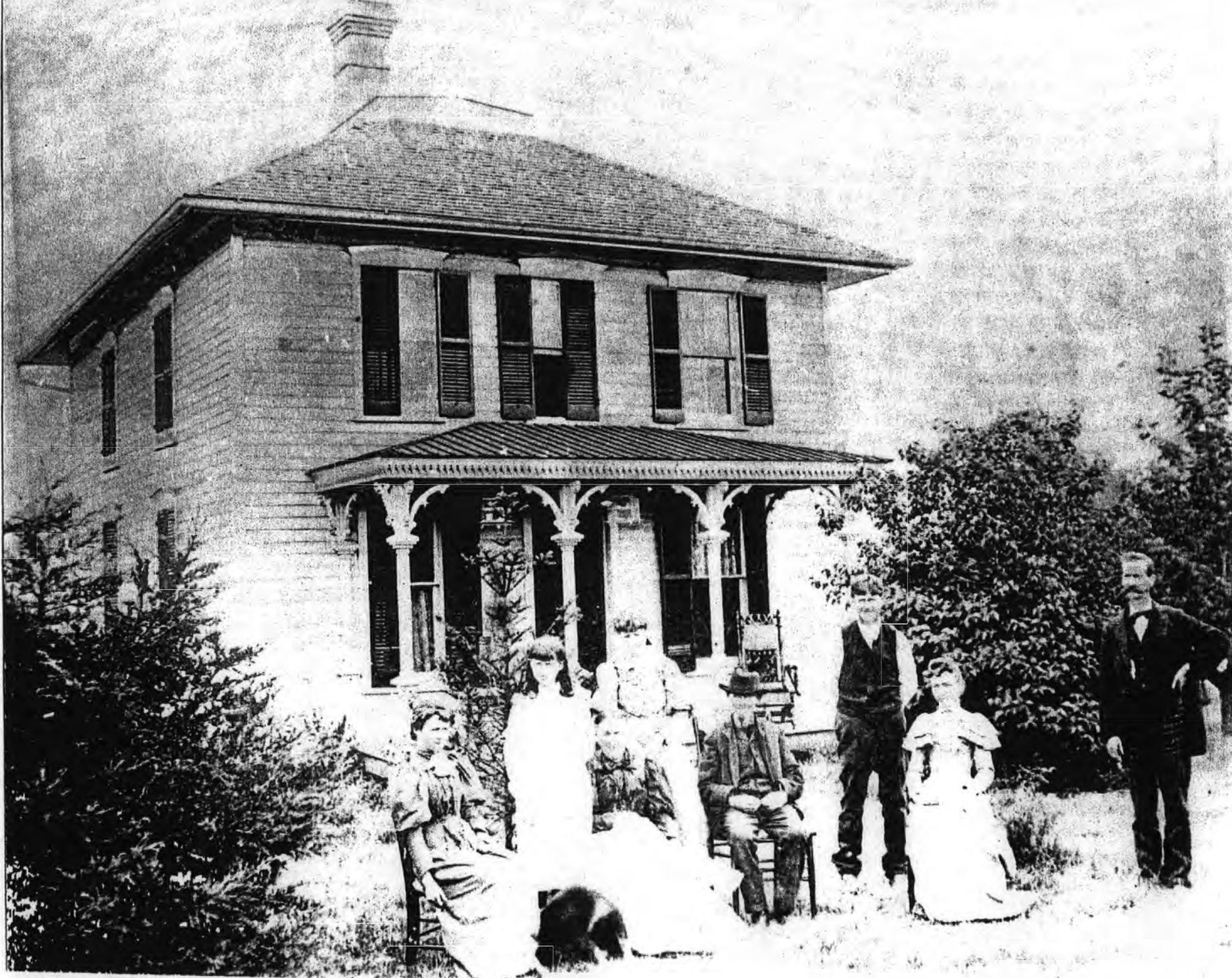
OLIVER, OWEN AND MARGARET, HOUSE (Interior: Living Room & Music Room)
View to South
Photo #5 of 9

OLIVER, OWEN AND MARGARET, HOUSE (House and modern garage)
View to East
Photo #6 of 9

OLIVER, OWEN AND MARGARET, HOUSE (Silo)
View to South
Photo #7 of 9

OLIVER, OWEN AND MARGARET, HOUSE (Horse barn)
View to Northeast
Photo #8 of 9

OLIVER, OWEN AND MARGARET, HOUSE (Shed/workshop)
View to Northeast
Photo #9 of 9



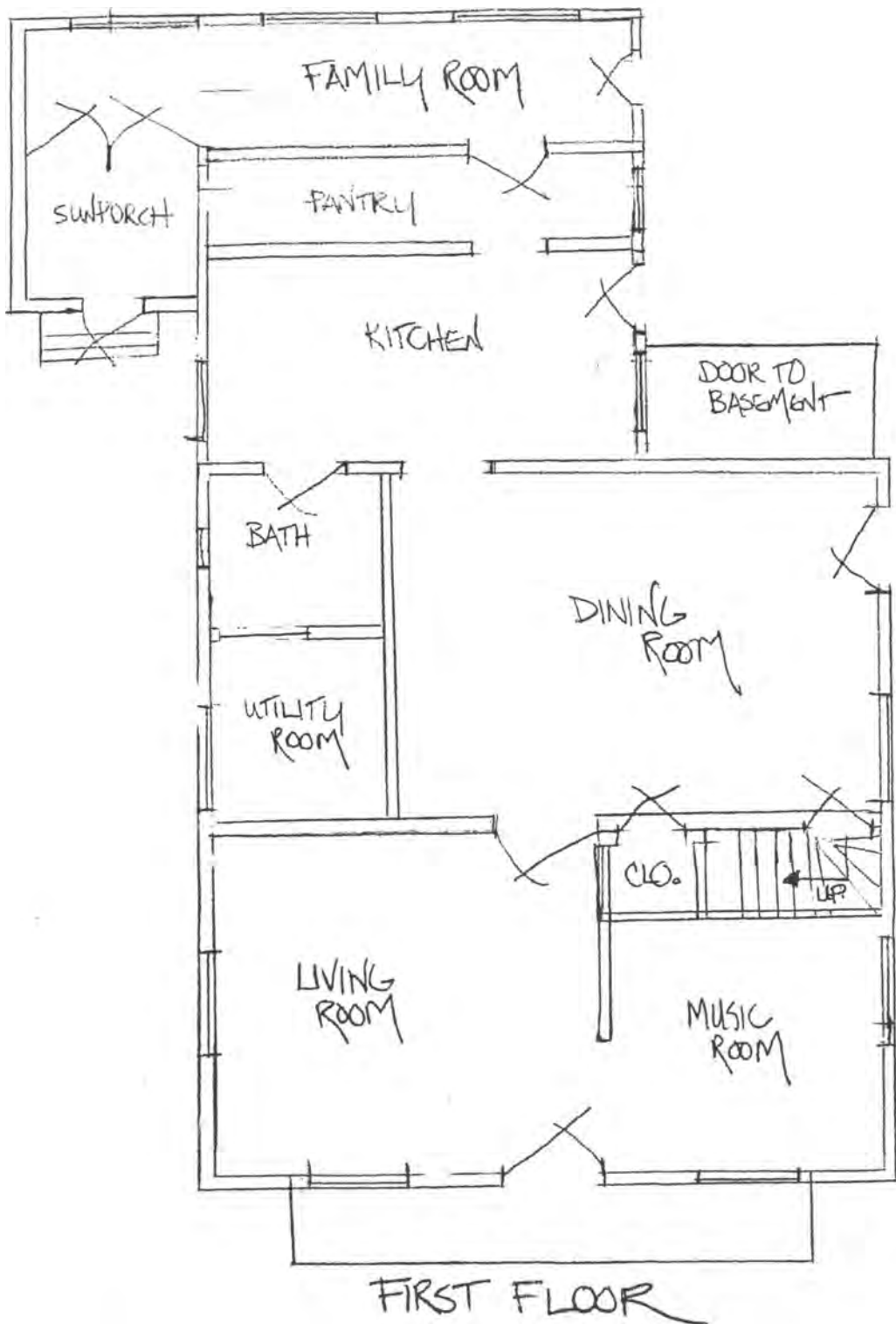
ATTACHMENT A: Historic Photograph of Owen Oliver Family
in front of their home, Ca. 1894.

OLIVER, OWEN AND MARGARET, HOUSE
Town of Genesee, Waukesha County, WI



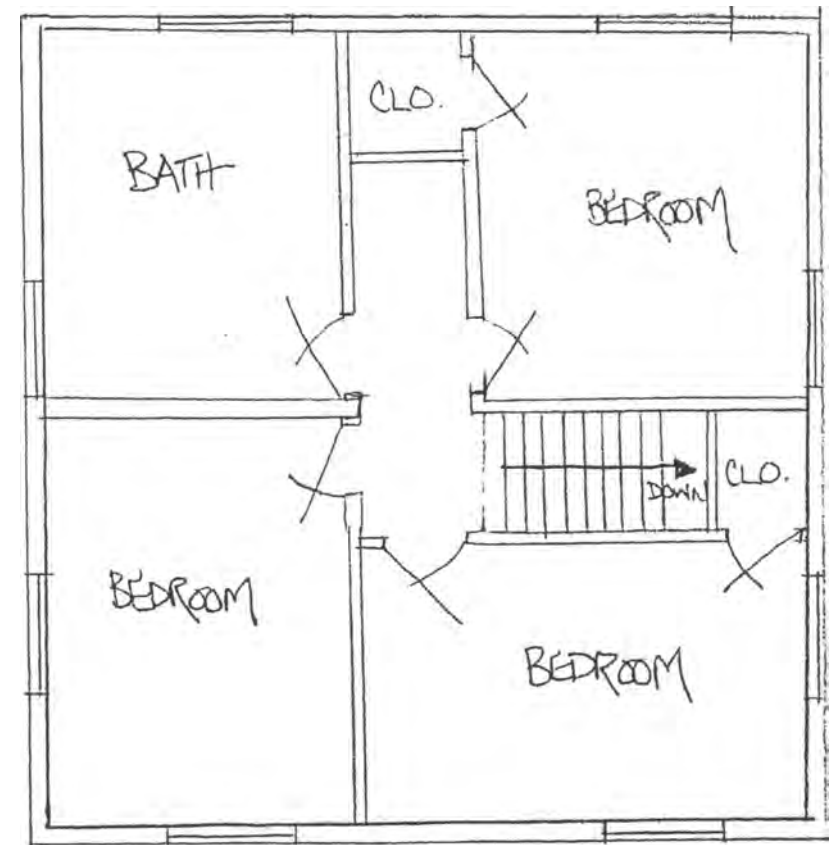
ATTACHMENT B: Historic Photograph of Owen Oliver Family
in front of their home, Ca. 1894.

OLIVER, OWEN AND MARGARET, HOUSE
Town of Genesee, Waukesha County, WI



OLIVER, OWEN AND MARGARET, HOUSE
Town of Genesee, Waukesha County, WI

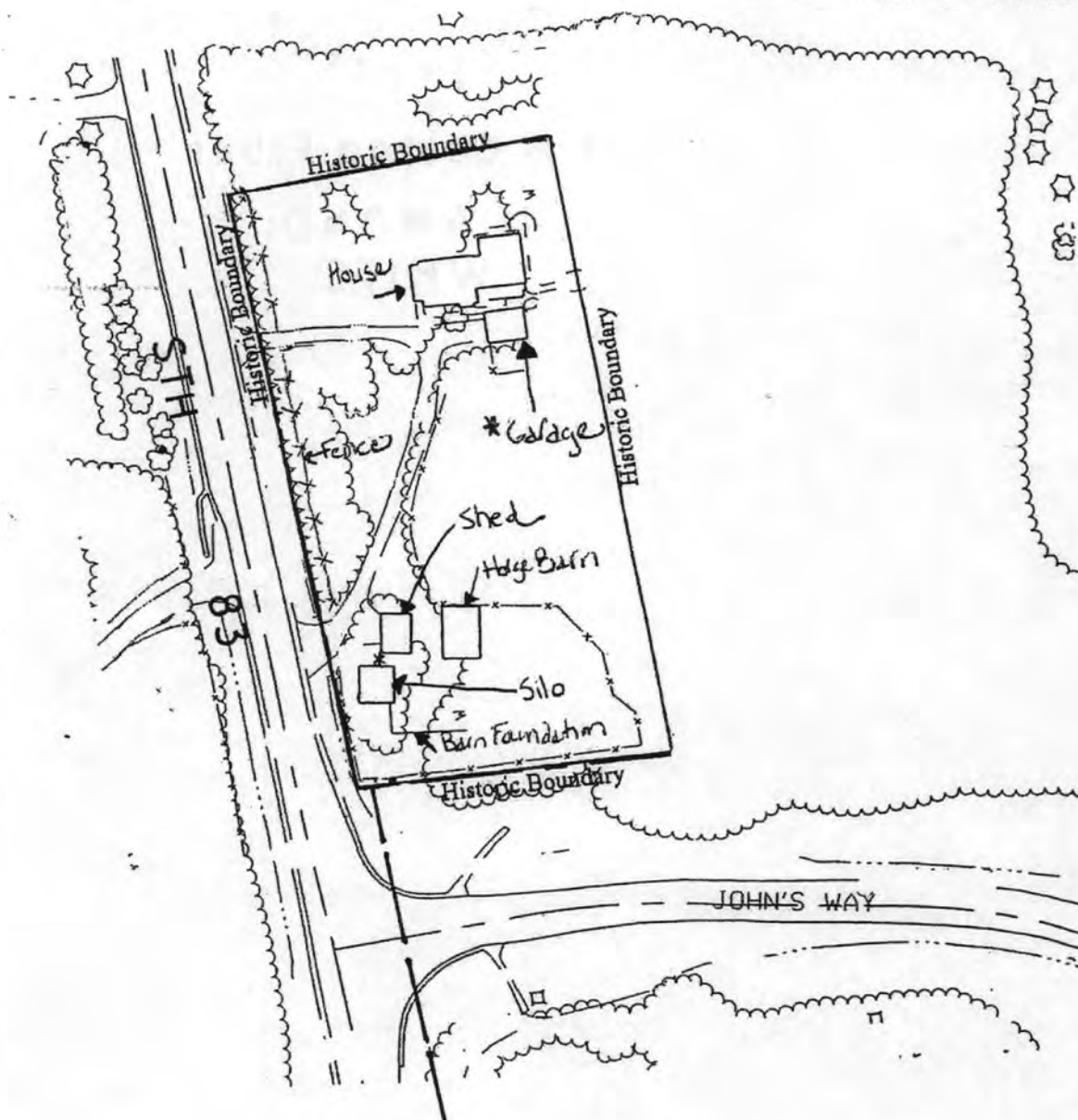
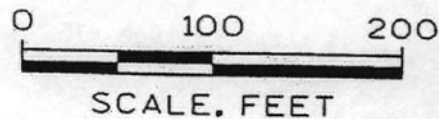
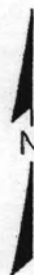
ATTACHMENT C: General Floor Plan
Not to scale



OLIVER, OWEN AND MARGARET, HOUSE
Town of Genesee, Waukesha County, WI

ATTACHMENT D: SKETCH MAP OF PROPERTY

*Garage is non-contributing



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION *ev DB corrected*

PROPERTY Oliver, Own and Margaret, House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Waukesha

DATE RECEIVED: 12/15/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/07/11
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/24/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/30/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10001182

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 1.31.11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



OLIVER, OWEN and MARGARET, HOUSE
Town of Genesee, Waukesha Co., WI
Photo #1 of 9

990107101 IMG_31442.jpg 18/18



OLIVER, OWEN and MARGARET, HOUSE
Town of Genesee, Waukesha Co., WI
Photo # 2 of 9

990107101 IMG_31462.jpg 15/18



OLIVER, OWEN and MARGARET, House
Town of Genesee, Waukesha Co., WI
Photo # 3 of 9

990107101 IMG_31512.jpg 8/18



OLIVER, OWEN and MARGARET, HOUSE
Town of Genesee, Waukesha Co., WI
Photo # 4 of 9

990107101 IMG_31502.jpg 6/18



OLIVER, OWEN and MARGARET, HAUSE
Town of Genesee, Waukesha Co., WI
Photo #5 of 9

290107101 IMG-57962.jpg 1/18



OLIVER, OWEN and MARGARET, HOUSE
Town of Genesee, Waukesha Co., WI
Photo# 6 of 9

990107101 photo.jpg 4/18



OLIVER, OWEN and MARGARET, Hulse
Town of Genesee, Waukesha Co., WI
Photo #7 of 9

990107101 IMG_31392.jpg 13/18



OLIVER, OWEN and MARGARET, HOUSE
Town of Genesee, Waukesha Co., WI
Photo #8 of 9

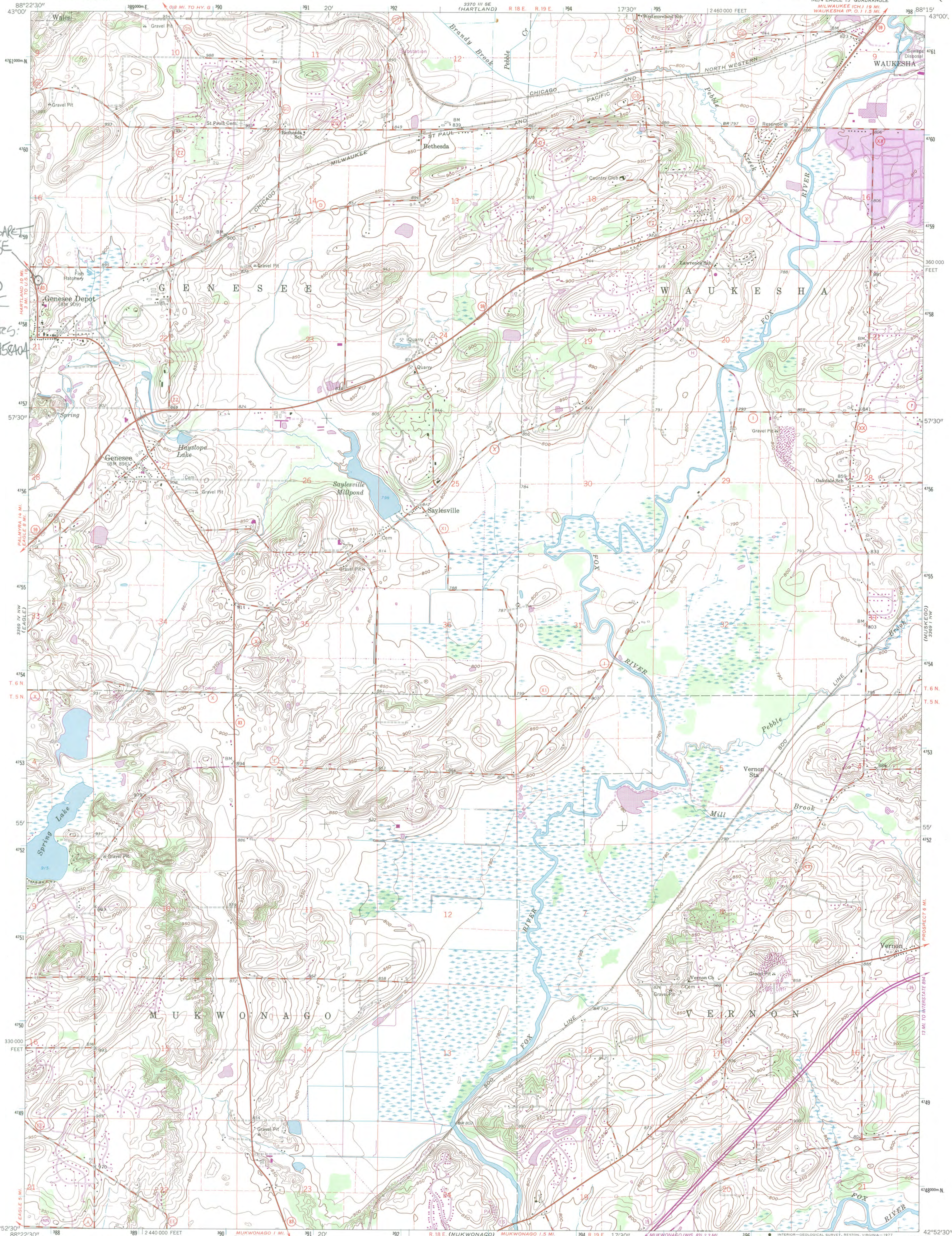
990107101 IMG_31352.jpg 11/18



OLIVER, OWEN and MARGARET, HAISE
Town of Genesee, Waukesha Co., WI
Photo # 9 of 9

990107101 IMG_31332.jpg 10/18

OWEN + MARGARET
OLIVER HOUSE
Town of
Genesee,
Waukesha
County, WI
UTM Coordinates:
16387958/475804



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS

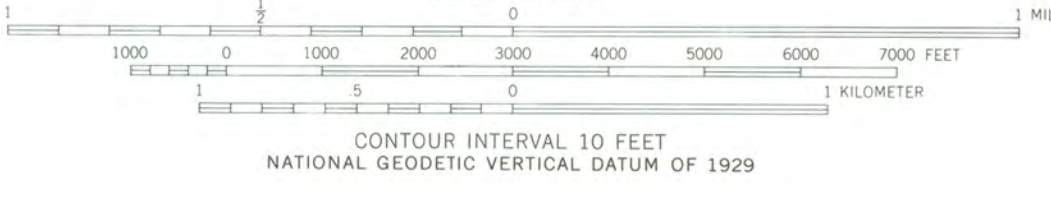
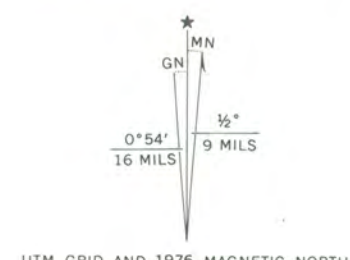
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1955. Field checked 1960

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Wisconsin coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 16, shown in blue

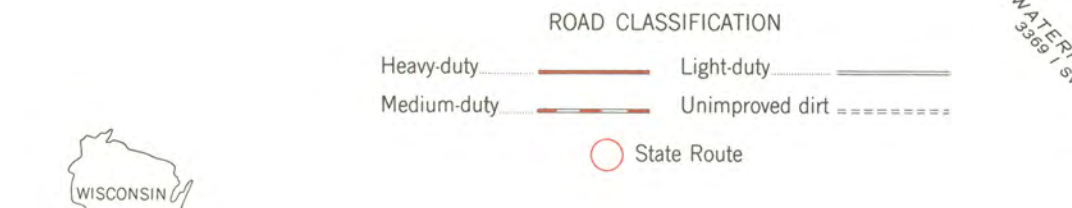
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1971 and 1976. This information not field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND WISCONSIN GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY, MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



GENESEE, WIS.
NE 1/4 EAGLE 15' QUADRANGLE
N4252.5—W8815.7/5

1960
PHOTOREVISED 1971 AND 1976
AMS 3369 IV NE—SERIES V861



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