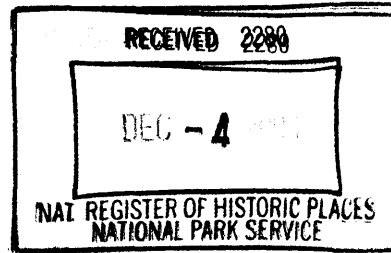


**United States Department of Interior
National Park Service**



**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 Daniels Town Hall
other names/site number Mudhen Lake Lutheran Church

2. Location

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| street & number | 9602 State Highway 70 | N/A | not for publication |
| city or town | Town of Daniels | X | vicinity |
| state Wisconsin | code WI | county Burnett | code 013 |
| | | | zip code 54872 |

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

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer-Wisconsin

11/7/06

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

Daniels Town Hall

Burnett 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:)

Edson H. Beall

12.20.06

[Signature]

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|
| private | X building(s) | contributing | noncontributing |
| X public-local | district | 1 | 1 buildings |
| public-State | structure | | sites |
| public-Federal | site | | structures |
| | object | | objects |
| | | 1 | 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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

GOVERNMENT: city hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: city hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid 19th Century

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Stone

walls Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Wood

Narrative Description

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

See continuation sheet.

Daniels Town Hall
Name of Property

Burnett County
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)

Politics/government

Period of Significance

1892-1956

Significant Dates

1892

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

See continuation sheets.

Daniels Town Hall
Name of Property

Burnett County
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.)

See 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:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acree of Property under one acre

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

1 15 540609 5068291
 Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

See Continuation Sheet

Verbal Boundary Description Commencing at a point that is 115 rods north of the quarter post in the center of section 21, thence running west 4.5 rods, thence south 2.5 rods, thence east 4.5 rods, thence north 4.5 rods to the place of beginning. (Deeds 46, Page 494, Burnett County Register of Deeds.) (Contained within the present day description: Lot 2 of Certified Survey Map Volume 1, Page 164, Document Number 155013 as recorded in the Burnett County Register of Deeds, Located in Government Lot 1, Section 21, Township 38 North, Range 17 West.)

Boundary Justification The boundary includes the entire lot which has been historically associated with the property since the quit claim deed between Eddie Anderson and the Town of Daniels dated May 6, 1922 and described above under "verbal boundary description."

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Vernon Peterson

organization

street & number 23787 Peterson Road

city or town Siren

state WI

date April 2006

telephone (715) 349-2241

zip code 54872

Daniels Town Hall

Burnett County

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 | Town of Daniels | date | April 2006 |
| organization | Town Government | telephone | |
| street&number | 9602 State Highway 70 | zip code | 54872 |
| city or town | Siren | 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 Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Daniels Town Hall
Burnett County, Wisconsin

Continuation of Description of Physical Appearance

The Daniels Towns Hall together with its privy is a two building nomination. The town hall is contributing. The two door privy is non-contributing because it is less than 50 years old. The town hall sits on a grassy treeless lot north of STH 70 and south of the road around Mud Hen Lake. The privy is located southwest of the town hall at the corner of the property. A dirt drive runs north along the east side of the hall.

The building faces north toward the lake. It originally fronted on the road to the north around Mudhen Lake. This road was moved to the south side of the building (STH 70) between 1931-1948 according to available maps.¹ Hence, the town hall faces away from STH 70 today.

The Daniels Town Hall is a one story, rectangular, wood-framed structure measuring 31 x 50 feet with north and south gable ends. The framing type is not visible and could be either heavy timber or balloon frame. The building is sheathed in weatherboard with simple cornerboards, watertable, and frieze at the gable ends. Windows are four-over-four double hung with rounded molded wooden window heads. The gabled north (front) façade is symmetrical with two windows flanking the original double-door entrance. This entrance has a rounded arched lintel and paneled wood transom above four-paneled double doors. The transom area has a wooden sign reading "Town Hall 1898." East and West facades have four windows each. The southernmost window on the east facade has been partially infilled with wood. The south façade has a door and smaller window, both with flat lintels. A wooden sign beneath the south gable reads "Daniels Town Hall."

The hall has a gabled roof covered in asphalt shingles with a brick chimney piercing the ridge pole. The original roof would have been wood shingled. There is no cellar. The foundation is random rubble stone, faced in concrete.

The interior consists of a meeting room which takes up about two-thirds of the building. The south third is divided into two rooms: an office at the southeast and an entry on the southwest accessed from the outside by the door on the south façade. Interior flooring is wide wood boards and the ceiling is paneled in slightly narrower wood boards. Walls have a vertical wainscot up to a chair molding and are laid up in flat horizontal boards to the ceiling. Window and door trim is flat and simple. The wood burning stove is vented through the chimney. The building has been electrified and the ceiling fixtures appear to date from ca. 1920-1940. The meeting room is furnished with benches which are not original to the building. According to one source, some changes were made when the building was converted from a church to a town hall in 1898.² The privy at the southwest corner of the property is

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 2

Daniels Town Hall
Burnett County, Wisconsin

not original. It is wood frame with a gabled roof and exposed rafters. It is rectangular in shape and has two doors. It is sheathed in weatherboard.

... have ... any basic degree of architectural integrity for both the interior and the exterior ... the exception of the addition of a handicap access ramp on the north elevation, the building remains the same as it did when it became a town hall in the 1890s.

... End of Description of Physical Appearance

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 1

Daniels Town Hall
Burnett County, Wisconsin

The Daniels Town Hall is eligible under Criterion A in the area of Politics/Government as an unusually fine and intact example of a small rural town hall. The period of significance begins in 1892, the year the deed indicates that the property was given to the town. The end of the period of significance coincides with the 50 year mark, 1956.

Among the surrounding town halls which were located during this assessment, the Daniels Town Hall appears to be the most intact and one of the early examples of this property type in excellent condition. The building appears to have been built between 1888-1898 depending on the sources. There are two town halls in Grantsburg Township west of Mudhen Lake: an old post – 1890 one in deteriorated condition and its 1936 replacement in excellent condition. The old one (moved) is in Branstad and was attached to the Branstad Mercantile Store, after 1936 becoming the blacksmith's shop.³ It was replaced by the 1936 town hall (BT3/4) on Skog Road and STH 48-87 designed as a cube with a hipped roof and recently resided. This later Grantsburg town hall is not comparable to the Daniels Town Hall in period or architecture.

Two other town halls in the area are relatively intact: the Trade Lake Town Hall erected in 1890 after the first one burned⁴ and the Anderson Town Hall whose date of construction is unknown. The Trade Lake Town Hall appears to be intact on the exterior and is architecturally a good representative example of the late 19th century town hall. It is weatherboard with two-over-two corniced windows and a diamond window in the front gable. It was remodeled, but this is not readily apparent on the exterior.⁵ The Anderson Town Hall may have been constructed between 1900-1910 based on architectural appearance. It appears to have been built somewhat later than the Daniels Town Hall and has a gabled entrance which may or may not be original, but is otherwise largely intact.

The Daniels Town Hall was built originally as a church, but was used as such only briefly. It was recycled into use as a town hall in ca. 1892-1898. Nonetheless, its original use as a church and its reuse as a town hall are emblematic of the reuse of buildings which has received virtually no systematic study although a fairly common occurrence in the last century. Examples of town halls and one room schools moved and put to new uses on farms is far better documented.

Having been constructed and served originally, if briefly, as a church, the Daniels Town Hall is also associated with the early Swedish settlement of Burnett County. It has functioned continuously as the town hall since the 1890s and is a surviving intact structure associated with the early Swedish

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Section 8 Page 2

Daniels Town Hall
Burnett County, Wisconsin

settlement around Mudhen Lake as well as with local government in the Daniels and Mudhen Lake area.

The Daniels Town Hall began as the church building for the North Sweden Lutheran Religious Society. Homesteaders Peter E. and Caroline Anderson sold two parcels, one of which was lot 1 where the building stands today, to the Society on February 21, 1891. The following year on October 21, 1892, three of the Society's trustees, Andrew Olson, Lewis Oman, and Charly Blomgren, sold lot 1 to the Town of Wood Lake.⁶ These deeds suggest that the building stood in 1892 when the North Sweden Lutheran Religious Society transferred the land to the Towns for use as a town hall since it is generally agreed that the building became a town hall after first being built as a church.

The North Sweden Lutheran Religious Society was organized at Gustav Anderson's house at Dunham Creek on June 28, 1882. In 1885, they agreed to meet with the Ansgarius congregation near Wood River four miles east of Grantsburg which had organized in 1875. Upon merger, the congregation planned to erect a church on the land of Pehr Erick Anderson at Mudhen Lake. Apparently, the merger either did not materialize or failed to last: The Swedish Lutheran group built their own church, also known as the Mudhen Lake Lutheran Church, at Mudhen Lake around 1888. The date is uncertain. Around 1892 the congregation did join the Ansgarius congregation and Grantsburg Lutheran church and eventually erected a church at Falun in 1899. The Falun congregation belonged to the Augustana Synod. In 1931, this congregation became the Nebo Lutheran Church and in 1939 the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church which still stands much modified in Falun.⁷ This same account sheds light on the fate of the church building after the merger. On January 12, 1892, it was decided to tear down the Mudhen Lake church building and re-erect it on a John Warner's land in Falun. Instead, it was sold somewhat later for \$300 and became the Daniels Town Hall.

According to the above historical account and an examination of the deeds on the property, the building now housing Daniels Towns Hall may have been erected as early as 1888, but certainly by 1892 when the North Sweden Lutheran Religious Society merged with the Ansgarius congregation and deeded their church lot to the Town of Wood Lake. Yet the 1898 date for the building persists. The granddaughter of Erick Anderson, Marlette Anderson, recalls that her grandfather sold the land to build the church and that the Society erected the building beginning in 1897 with donated lumber and volunteers from among the Society members. She claims it opened in 1898 on the lands donated by her grandfather, but was only used for a short time.⁸ This account, of course, varies from the story on the deeds to the property and the bit of written history there is about the merger and the original North Sweden Lutheran Religious Society.

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Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 3

Daniels Town Hall
Burnett County, Wisconsin

Whatever the precise date of construction sometime between the late 1880s and 1898 (but possibly ca. 1888-1892), the Daniels Town Hall had its roots in the Swedish settlement in this part of Burnett County. A mile and a half to the west, Falun had its beginnings as an established post office in 1870. It emerged as a Swedish community with the Swedish Lutheran, Swedish Baptist, and Free Mission churches in the 1880s. It remained a small cluster of businesses until the establishment of its creamery. Just a mile and a half to the east, the Mudhen Lake area and the Town of Daniels began with the establishment of a school in 1884. The North Swenden Lutheran Religious Society and Baptist churches were established in the 1880s. The Daniels area had little more than a store, a post office and the churches.⁹ Today the Daniels Town Hall is the visible reminder of the Mudhen Lake and Daniels Swedish settlement.

Aside from the 1892 deed transferring the building to the Town of Wood Lake, there is little documentation of the building in its long history as a town hall. Tax records do not record the presence of the town hall until 1940 when it lay on 2.90 acres of land. The Daniels Town Hall first appears as such on a 1901 map¹⁰ and has been used as such to this day.

Politics/Government

The town of Daniels is one of 21 townships located in Burnett County, Wisconsin. Burnett County was created in 1856 with land from Polk and Douglas counties. The new county was named after Wisconsin state legislator Thomas Pendleton Burnett.

The part of Wisconsin Burnett County is in was once covered with magnificent tall trees, many of them white pines. With the strong need for lumber to build cities and villages, logging companies came to cut down the trees. The timber from Burnett County forests was then floated down the St. Croix River. Hundreds of settlers from the Scandinavian countries came to Burnett County to work in the woods, as they had done in their native lands. Churches and schools were established. The first county courthouse was built in Grantsburg in 1876. The courthouse was moved in the early 1980s to the town of Meenon north of the village of Siren. At one time in its history, Burnett County had 68 post offices, some of them only a few miles from each other.

The population in Burnett County, according to the county's Web site home page, was 10,233 in 1930. The 2000 census showed the county with 15,674 people. There are 509 lakes in the county, along with seven rivers – St. Croix, Clam, Namekagon, Trade, Upper Tamarack, Wood, and Yellow.

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Section 8 Page 4

Daniels Town Hall
Burnett County, Wisconsin

In 1875, Burnett County consisted of three townships, the original township of Grantsburg (1865-1875), Wood Lake and Trade Lake, added in 1875. By 1901, there were seven townships in the county. The town of Wood Lake was divided into the town of Wood River in 1906, and the town of Daniels in 1907.

During an afternoon session Nov. 13, 1906, the Burnett County Board of Supervisors adopted a county ordinance that changed the name of the town of Wood Lake from that point on to the town of Daniels. By 1918, Burnett County was divided into 21 townships, a division that is still in existence in 2006. According to information provided by the Burnett County Historical Society, the first record of a judicial election and annual town meeting for the town of Daniels was April 2, 1907. Daniel Johnson was elected as the town chairman to work with two elected supervisors. Each supervisor received \$1.50 per day for their service for the coming year.

The nearby town of Falun was quite a community during the early to mid 20th century. There were three one-room schools in the area, each two miles apart – Mud Hen Lake, Wood Creek and Dahlberg, and the two-room graded Falun School

During the 1940s, Falun had two churches (Baptist and Lutheran), three grocery stores, one hardware store, a lumberyard and mill, an implement company, North States Wood Products Company, a watch-repair shop, a cheese factory, a Texaco gas station, an oil company, a café, a barbershop, a bait shop, the county's civil defense headquarters located in the Falun school, a telephone exchange and a music store. By the 1990s, most of these businesses had been torn down or closed.

There are three systems of local government in Wisconsin: cities, villages and towns. Town governments were set up for many reasons, but the most important one was to allow local people to have a say in ruling themselves. The people in the town of Daniels gather once a year at the town hall for their annual meeting and to make decisions that can only be made by the residents of the township. That meeting is set by Wisconsin State Statute for the second Tuesday of April.

During the months between annual meetings, the township is governed by a board of supervisors consisting of a town chairman, two township supervisors, a clerk and treasurer. That form of government has existed for the past nearly 100 years, using the Daniels Town Hall as its center of operation.

“Town government is the best and most representative government,” commented Vernon Peterson, town chairman for 28 years, until 2004. “It is the most honest form of government and, generally

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Section 8 Page 5

Daniels Town Hall
Burnett County, Wisconsin

speaking, the most economical.”

Peterson added that the wood in the town hall building is of old virgin pine, and that the windows are the original windows that have not rotted over the years. One pane did have to be replaced, but only because a stone went through it. The rafters are made from 3 x 10 lumber. The building has only required routine maintenance over the years because of its high quality of construction materials and the federal requirement for handicap accessibility, which necessitated the building of a ramp leading into the building, and designation of a handicap parking area.

The Daniels Town Hall is visible to anyone driving along Hwy. 70, a main highway that connects Minnesota with Northwestern Wisconsin. It stands, as it has for well over 100 years as a beacon of government, proclaiming that grassroots government is still alive and well in Wisconsin.

Criteria Consideration A

Records indicate that the current Daniels Town Hall was constructed as the church for the North Sweden Lutheran Religious Society. As such, it falls under the requirements of criteria consideration A. Because the building served for a very short time in this function, and has been the center of town government for over 100 years, the building's chief significance is in the area of politics/government.

Endnotes:

- ¹ W.W. Hixon & Co., Plat Book of Burnett County. (Rockford, Illinois, 1931; Marathon Map Service, Ownership Plat of Burnett County. (Milwaukee, 1948).
- ² Burnett County Homemakers Club, "Pioneer Tales of Burnett County." (Siren: Burnett County Leader, 1948), n.p.
- ³ Burnett County Sentinel, September 3, 1890, p. 4.
- ⁴ Burnett County Sentinel, April 26, 1889, p. 4; Sept. 13, p. 4.
- ⁵ Maurice Crownhart and the Grantsburg Centennial Committee, Strolling Through a Century, Grantsburg, Burnett County: 1865-4965. (Grantsburg: Crownhart Printing Company, 1965), p. 31; Burnett County Historical Society, Burnett County, Wisconsin: A Guide to its History. (Siren: Burnett County Historical Society, 1975) n.p.
- ⁶ Deed 9-185, Deed 13-149, Deed 46-494, Burnett County Land deeds for Wood River and Daniels accessed by the Burnett County tract index. MMS. On file, Burnett County Courthouse, Siren.

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Section 8 Page 6

Daniels Town Hall
Burnett County, Wisconsin

-
- 7 Edward Peet, Burnett County, Wisconsin: A Pamphlet Descriptive of Northern Wisconsin in General and of Burnett County in Detail. (Grantsburg: Burnett County Board of Immigration, 1902), p. 50; Crownhart (1965), pp.36, 39-40.
- 8 Marlette Anderson, Telephone interview with Joyce McKay, 2 February 1990, on Daniels Town Hall.
- 9 Burnett County Historical Society, Burnett County, Wisconsin: A Guide to Its History. (Siren: Burnett County Historical Society, 1975), n.p.
- 10 J. H. Jensen, Map of Burnett County. (St. Croix: Baker Land and Title Company, 1901).

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Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 1

Daniels Town Hall
Burnett County, Wisconsin

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Section 9 Page 2

Daniels Town Hall
Burnett County, Wisconsin

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Kanne, Eunice. Pieces of the Past: Pioneer Life in Burnett County. Grantsburg Area Historical Society, Grantsburg, 1986.

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End of References

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Section 10 Page 1

Daniels Town Hall
Burnett County, Wisconsin

Verbal Boundary Description

Verbal Boundary Description:

Commencing at a point that is 115 rods north of the quarter post in the center of section 21, thence running west 4.5 rods, thence south 2.5 rods, thence east 4.5 rods, thence north 4.5 rods to the place of beginning. (Deeds 46, Page 494, Burnett County Register of Deeds.) (Contained within the present day description: Lot 2 of Certified Survey Map Volume 1, Page 164, Document Number 155013 as recorded in the Burnett County Register of Deeds, Located in Government Lot 1, Section 21, Township 38 North, Range 17 West.)

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes the entire lot which has been historically associated with the property since the quit claim deed between Eddie Anderson and the Town of Daniels dated May 6, 1922 and described above under "verbal boundary description."

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Daniels Town Hall
Burnett County, Wisconsin

... End of Photo Descriptions

Daniels Town Hall
Burnett County, Wisconsin
Photos by Nancy Jappe
April 2006
Negatives at the Wisconsin Historical Society

Photo 1 of 4: The south façade (originally the back) ; the two-door privy is shown on the west side. Mud Hen Lake is on the north side of the building.

Photo 2: The gabled north (originally the front) façade.

Photo 3: The interior of the building, looking north.

Photo 4: The interior of the building, looking south

... End of Photo Descriptions