UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Hamilton is an unincorporated community of mostly stone buildings in relatively good, unaltered condition. The hamlet is nestled in the valley of the Cedar Creek at the spot where the Green Bay Road crosses the creek. In 1844, the road to Cedarburg, now known as the Hamilton Road, was built to the northwest forming a "Y"-shaped intersection with the Green Bay Road. The district is a key-hole shaped area around this intersection, comprising approximately sixteen architecturally or historically significant buildings dating from the mid-19th century.

The district follows the Green Bay Road from the south (significant buildings are indicated by number on the appended hand-drawn map). The southernmost building (1) on this shady rural road is a frame and fieldstone farmhouse. The stone section is a small gable-roofed structure built ca. 1859 by the young Eggert Lau, an immigrant from Holstein and a partner in a buggie and wagon maker's business. Next door is the picturesque, roofless ruin (2) of a 1-1/2 story fieldstone general store, which also served as a post office and an apothecary shop. It was built in the early 1860's and was operated by Herman Lindner, a bachelor immigrant from Germany. The ruin has been patched in recent years and most of the wooden window frames remain in place. To the north and set back in the trees is the Bartel farm (current name) (3). The original house on this property was frame. Sometime after the existing fieldstone wing was added, the frame section burned down. In the twentieth century it was replaced by a large building constructed of fieldstone found on the farm. A few feet south of the house are the walls of a ruinous stone outbuilding which served as a smokehouse and a summer kitchen.

As the space opens up to reveal the intersection, the first building on the west is a large stone Italianate house (4). It was built ca. 1869 by Charles Hintze, a blacksmith whose shop is now merely a foundation across the street (5). This two story quarried stone house is the most monumental domestic structure in the district, with a symmetrical, five-bay facade and smooth-faced ashlar quoins and lintels. A key building spatially is a two story frame house with a fieldstone wing behind (6), which is situated close to the road at the intersection. The stone section was built before 1859 by Charles Kauffung, an early immigrant (he arrived in Wisconsin ca. 1840) from Prussia who became a tayern keeper. The frame part of the house probably dates to 1878.

Beyond the narrow bridge crossing Cedar Creek, on the southeast side of the road is a house believed to have been built by a man named John H. C. Ranken in 1847 (7). The eastern section is possibly half-timber or log in construction. Shortly after it was built, the house was sold to the Schleifers, a large Prussian family of shoemakers. The next historic building on the southeast side of the street is the large Concordia Mill (built in 1853) (8), a property previously nominated to the National Register (April 26, 1974). To the south of the mill is a large fieldstone outbuilding of uncertain original use and date. The millrace, built in 1847 by Valentine Hahn, flows next to the mill. Across the millrace bridge is a 2-1/2 story frame building (9), constructed ca. 1859 with an elevated basement. In 1887 the building became the Hamilton Cheese Factory. Across the street is the much-altered John Holstein house (10). This small, stuccoed brick house was built in 1850 in the Greek Revival style by a lumberman from Germany. Four narrow windows originally adorned the front of the house. A later addition was built in 1883 by Herman Gilow; subsequent alterations included a split fieldstone porch and a side bay window. On the next property to the west is the site of the old Hamilton Hotel (11), of which all that remains is a rise in the ground level.

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PERIOD PREHISTORIC 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 X1800-1899	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC XARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC AGRICULTURE XARCHITECTURE ART COMMERCE	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION ECONOMICS EDUCATION ENGINEERING XEXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT XINDUSTRY	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	RELIGION SCIENCE SCULPTURE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER X-TRANSPORTATION OTHER (SPECIFY)

This small picturesque hamlet is significant architecturally, archeologically, and historically. Historic archeological remains include a ruined apothecary shop and general store, the foundations of a wagon maker's shop, the foundations of an old hotel, and a ruinous smokehouse. These sites have the potential to produce important information on commercial activity and everyday life in a small 19th century community. In addition, prehistoric Indian artifacts reportedly have been found along Cedar Creek and on the Bartel farm.

Architecturally, Hamilton provides several fine examples of buildings constructed of stone masonry. Turn Halle and several houses and outbuildings are of fieldstone, a material perhaps more commonly used in Ozaukee County than in any other county in Wisconsin. Most of the fieldstone buildings in Hamilton are Greek Revival with returned eaves, courses marked in the heavy mortar, and smooth-faced ashlar quoins. A more advanced building material is represented by the quarried stone buildings in Hamilton. Perrin states:

A distinctly local variety of limestone building developed in Cedarburg during the middle 19th century. Again without too much reference to identifiable architectural period or style, the type and quality of limestone masonry places this work in a class by itself. The stone was taken from nearby quarries and was generally of a bluish-gray color without pronounced laminations. Laid in rather large and fairly regular blocks, the accompanying mortar was invariably of a warm buff color which harmonized very beautifully with the stone. Wherever dressed or cut stone was used, the same native formations were utilized. Numerous houses as well as . . . the Concordia Mill at . . . Hamilton were built in this fashion.<sup>1</sup>

Some of these houses include the Hintze house of 1869, the Janssen house of 1854, and the front facade of Leo's Tavern.

The economic history of Hamilton represents a common pattern in the development of small towns in Wisconsin. Once a thriving hamlet based on its mill and its prominence as the first stagecoach stop from Milwaukee to Green Bay, Hamilton's livelihood was suddenly cut off when the railroads supplanted travel by stage.

The area was first settled by Joseph Gardinier, a New Yorker who was employed in the mid-1830's to cut the Green Bay Road, one of the first roads carved through the eastern Wisconsin wilderness. He bought land at the present site of the mill and erected a log dwelling and a tavern. This tavern became the meeting place of Iratsh farmers who began

<sup>1</sup>Richard W. E. Perrin, <u>Historic Wisconsin Buildings</u>: A Survey of Pioneer Architecture 1835-1870, Milwaukee Public Museum Publications in History, No. 4, 1962, p. 80. 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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#### CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

Mr. Arthur M. Bartel c/o Mrs. D. Jacob P.O. Box 146 Stoney Creek, CT 06405

Mr. Clyde J. Beverung et. al. 198 Green Bay Road Cedarburg, WI 53012

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Mr. Edwin W. Dietrich 243 Hamilton Road Cedarburg, WI 53012

Ms. Felicite Doll et. al. c/o Mrs. David Jacob P.O. Box 146 Stoney Creek, CT 06405

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Ms. Lillie Gollnick 179 Green Bay Road Cedarburg, WI 53012

Mr. Glenn E. Hoffmann 233 Green Bay Road Cedarburg, WI 53012

Ms. Mildred Hoffmann 170 Green Bay Road Cedarburg, WI 53012

L. C. Hookanson 232 Green Bay Road Cedarburg, WI 53012 Mr. Eugene Keehn 280 Green Bay Road Cedarburg, WI 53012

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Mr. Louis Koehn 238 Green Bay Road Cedarburg, WI 53012

Mr. Robert Kronschnabel 271 Green Bay Road Cedarburg, WI 53012

Mr. Elmer Ladwig 222 Green Bay Road Cedarburg, WI 53012

Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Miller & Family 264 Hamilton Road Cedarburg, WI 53012

Oswald Farms, Inc. 228 Hamilton Road Cedarburg, WI 53012

Mr. Santo P. Sandona 155 Green Bay Road Cedarburg, WI 53012

Mr. Melvin Schultz 114 Green Bay Road Cedarburg, WI 53012

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Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places 1976 State State Historical Society of Wisconsin Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Concordia Mill:

Historic American Buildings Survey 1934 Federal Library of Congress Washington, D.C.

National Register of Historic Places 1974 Federal National Park Service Washington, D.C.

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ITEM NUMBER map PAGE

#### Key to Numbered Structures on

#### Hamilton Historic District Structures Map

- P 1. Eggert Lau House (114 Green Bay Road): ca. 1859, 2 stories, frame with fieldstone wing.
- U 2. Herman Lindner Store (Green Bay Road): 1860-1864, 1-1/2 stories, fieldstone ruin with no roof.
- 6 3. Bartel Farm (current name) (Green Bay Road): 2 stories, split fieldstone with older fieldstone wing; a ruined smokehouse-summer kitchen sits to the south of the house.
- 4 Charles Hintze House (189 Green Bay Road): 1869, 2 stories, Italinate, quarried stone house; stone barn to west.
- 5. Foundations of Charles Hintze Blacksmith Shop (Green Bay Road): frame structure torn down in 1950's.
- 4 6. Charles Kauffung House (198 Green Bay Road): before 1859 and 1878, 2 stories, frame with fieldstone wing.
- 7. Ranken-Schleifer House (222 Green Bay Road): 1847, 1-1/2 stories, Greek Revival, frame, stone smokehouse to northeast of house.
  - 8. Concordia Mill (252 Green Bay Road): 1853, 4 stories, Greek Revival, quarried stone, NRHP; to the south is a stone barn.
- 9. Hamilton Cheese Factory (280 Green Bay Road): ca. 1859, 2-1/2 story frame building used as a cheese factory after 1887.
- 10. John Holstein House (271 Green Bay Road): 1850; addition in 1883, Greek Revival, stuccoed brick, much altered.
- 5 11. Hamilton Hotel (Green Bay Road): foundations appear as rise in ground level.
  - 12. Andrew Bodendorfer House (Green Bay Road): 2-1/2 story frame house burned down in 1924 and demolished.

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Another vanished structure is the frame 22-room "Big House" (12), a stick style house built by one of the owners of the mill, Andrew Bodendorfer, for his millworkers and his family of 21. The house burned to the ground in 1924. Mr. Bodendorfer's stone barn (built in 1861) (13) remains, however, set back on the property next to the creek. It was built to house wild ponies.

As recently as twenty years ago the Bodendorfer property was used as a private picnic grounds, no doubt because of the picturesque beauty of the millrace, creek and dam and the old stone buildings. Some of the old linden trees planted by the first German immigrants still shade the grounds.

On the west side of the street at the corner of Hamilton and Green Bay Roads is an open space which has been dedicated as a small park for tourists visiting Hamilton. Across the street is a row of three stone buildings. A frame inn and dance hall at the north o corner of the intersection (14) was demolished several years ago, but the other buildings in the cluster remain. Leo's Tavern (current) (15) is a two story, gable-roofed structure built before 1861. Its side walls are fieldstone but its front facade is of carefully laid-up quarried limestone. Brackets decorate its returned eaves and shaped lintels embellish the windows. The 1-1/2 story house next door (16) is similar in style but is constructed completely of fieldstone with courses tooled in the mortar. Very close-by is Turn Halle (17), one of the most important buildings in Hamilton, architecturally and historically. Edward Janssen funded the construction of this large building in 1867. The scene of lively social and cultural events, including square dances, taffy pulls and house parties, this massive gable-roofed building is also built of fieldstone with the courses tooled into the heavy mortar. The front gable-end facade has two windows on each side of a central door with a semicircular window above. Architectural trim consists of stilted round arches, keystones, and quoins, all of smooth-faced ashlar. A dilapidated cupola crowns the structure. Another cupola once decorated the roof over the entrance. The interior at one time contained a bar along the length of one wall, a balcony, and a plastered-vault ceiling. The interior now is in ruinous condition. Through the years, the hall has served as a cider mill, a warehouse, and the home of the "Excelsior Shoe and Slipper Company."

Overlooking the hamlet from the north is the Edward Janssen house (18). Built in 1854 for the most prominent Hamilton resident, this two-story house has a heavy, but beautiful Greek Revival doorway. The roofline of the house flows into the roofline of the front veranda in the manner of a Dutch colonial house. Square piers support the veranda. Behind the house is a large stone barn and a small stone smokehouse. Fruit trees and a variety of plants are remnants of Janssen's original formal gardens. Across the street is a long, low gable-roofed farmhouse (19). Concealed under clapboard siding, the north end of the house is constructed of half-timber with rubble fill. Another section is reportedly a small way station building which was moved from the present site of the park (20).

Modern structures within the district include three ranch houses (21, 22, 23), all of which are set back from the road and do not seriously harm the character of the district.

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET 8 ITEM NUMBER map PAGE 2

- t 13. Bodendorfer Barn (Green Bay Road): 1861, 2 stories, stone.
- 5 14. Site of demolished frame inn.
- § 15. Leo's Tavern (current name) (228 Hamilton Road): before 1861, 2 stories, Greek Revival, quarried stone facade, fieldstone sides and back.
- & 16. Fieldstone house (232 Hamilton Road): 1-1/2 stories, similar in style to #15.
- & 17. Turn Halle (Hamilton Road): 1867, 2 stories, Italianate, fieldstone.
- 5 18. Edward Janssen House (264 Hamilton Road): 1854, 2 stories, Greek Revival, quarried stone with veranda across front; stone smokehouse and stone barn; the original orchard remains to the northwest of the house.
- 19. Half-Timber House (243 Hamilton Road): 1-1/2 stories, Greek Revival, north end of house is half-timber with rubble fill, another section is an old way station moved from southeast of the house; a stone smokehouse and butchering house sits to the west; a stone milk house is attached to the later frame barn.

5 20. Site of way station.

21, 22, 23. Modern ranch houses.

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to settle the surrounding countryside in the early 1840's. They nicknamed Gardinier's settlement "New Dublin."

In 1845 Valentine and Harriet Hahn bought up much of the land in the community from Ann Guernsey Noyes, a New York speculator. In 1847 Hahn dammed Cedar Creek to provide power for a saw mill, and subsequently sold plots of land to non-farming Irish immigrants. Soon "New Dublin" was a prosperous little community, with a store, a blacksmith shop, a monument carving studio, a shoemaker's shop, and a post office, in addition to its hostelries and mill. Because some mail was mistakenly sent to Dublin, Wisconsin and even to Dublin, Ireland, and because many of the new German residents objected to the Irish name, the townspeople met in 1847 at Valentine Hahn's inn to rename their community. They decided to call it "Hamilton" in honor of the son of Alexander Hamilton, William S. Hamilton, who had become friends with the residents while passing through.

A few years later, Edward H. Janssen moved to Hamilton. Janssen came to Ozaukee County from Oldenburg in May of 1840 with his wife, Frederika, and worked as a surveyor and schoolteacher. In 1851 he was elected the State Treasurer, and became the first Germanborn holder of a major elective office in the state of Wisconsin. While serving as the State Treasurer Janssen moved to Hamilton and, in partnership with William Gaitzsch and his brother Theodore, built the Concordia Grist Mill at the site of Valentine Hahn's sawmill. Theodore and William died, leaving the mill in the ownership of Edward. In 1861 Janssen sold the mill for \$10,000 to Andrew Bodendorfer, a farmer from Bavaria. Janssen was a leading force in the cultural development of Hamilton, serving for several years as a schoolteacher and superintendent of schools, organizing singing clubs, and building the Turn Halle in 1867.

The prosperity of Hamilton was short-lived. In 1870 when the railroad bypassed this stagecoach stop in favor of Cedarburg, Hamilton became nearly deserted. The few residents who remained found work at a quarry and at fox farms in the vicinity. Development after 1870 has not yet encroached upon the picturesque rural character of this tiny community. Many of its old stone buildings remain in relatively unaltered condition. However several buildings have been demolished and suburban development poses a real threat to the integrity of Hamilton.

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CONTINUATION SHEET 6 ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 4

Uihlein and Keehn properties. Crossing Green Bay Road it continues along the northeast property line of the Kronschnabels until it reaches Cedar Creek. From that point the boundary is projected straight west until it meets the western line of the Miller property. It follows this line southwesterly to the Hamilton Road and proceeds southeasterly along this road until it intersects and joins up with the northwest Diedrich property line. It curves around the westernmost point of the Diedrich property and follows the property line in a southeasterly direction. This line is extrapolated southeast, straight to the northwest corner of the Schwalbe property. It then follows the rear lines of the Schwalbe and Gollnick properties continuing straight south across the Diedrich, Sandona and Gilow lands until it joins up with the rear and south lines of the Carr property. From the intersection of the south boundary line of the Carr property with the Green Bay Road, it follows the road until it reaches its starting point at the Schultz property.



