

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received FEB 21 1984
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Mecikalski General Store, Saloon and Boarding House

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 465 Max Road, (one quarter mile south of Lennox) not for publication

city, town Jennings vicinity of (southeast corner of intersection of
County Trunks Z and B)

state Wisconsin code 55 county Oneida code 085

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N.A.	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Glen E. Rutz Russel D. Anderson

street & number 7255 Edgehill Road 7250 Edgehill Road

city, town Greendale vicinity of state Wisconsin 53129

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Oneida County Courthouse

street & number Oneida Avenue

city, town Rhinelander state Wisconsin 54501

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1972 federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town Madison state Wisconsin

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated at the crossroads of County Trunks B and Z in southeast Oneida County, the Mecikalski General Store, Saloon and Boarding House is a twenty-four by thirty-three foot rectangular building of massive stovewood construction. The east and west walls are built of cedar logs (some 16 inches in diameter) cut into eighteen inch lengths and laid up in lime mortar to resemble a wood pile. The north "boom town" facade and south rear wall are of frame construction covered on the exterior with clapboards. Large vertical timbers form the corners. A two story plus attic building, the attic has a natural pine floor, pine ceiling and walls. Originally the building had two frame wings flanking portions of the east and west walls. A one story, frame, and gable roof kitchen (sixteen by thirty feet) plus a small east facing porch were added to the rear of the building. Only the west flanking and rear wings remain but are in a deteriorated condition. The stovewood walls are in fair condition. The double glass and wood paneled front doors are flanked by store front windows, six by five and one-half feet. A large window flanked by smaller stained glass panes is directly above the double doors. Two over two windows are on either side of the large window on the second floor and a single two over two window is the only source of light to the attic.

The first floor of the main structure consists of a large single room plus a small back entry and stairway space. The interior of the east and west stovewood walls are finished with mortar applied directly to the stovewood end sections. The north and south walls and the ceiling are finished with horizontal beaded boards. The floor is built of narrow boards but concrete has been poured over half of it. The interior wood doors are four-paneled with dark rails and stiles with dark blue and green panels. The original color of the walls also seems to have been a dark blue green. The ceiling support beam of this large room has a decorative metal covering. The walls of the back entry and stairway space leading to the second floor are plaster and lathe with a narrow beaded board ceiling. The second floor consists of a central north-south hallway terminating in a large living room adjoining a smaller room at the front of the building. The hall is flanked on each side by two small bedrooms. The front rooms were wallpapered; two layers of paper are evident. The top layer shows a medallion and floral pattern; the medallion contains a landscape scene. The first layer of wallpaper is a simple flower or leaf pattern with orange, yellow and green colors. The woodwork of the second floor and the rear kitchen addition on the first floor appears to have been dark blue green. The rear kitchen addition has wainscoting and plaster walls and a ceiling of narrow beaded boards similar to the large adjoining room.

The building faces North and is situated on a site of approximately one-third acre enclosed on the west by a double row of red pines which partially conceal the building from County Trunk Z. The original wood steps, entrance landing, and walkway have been covered with dirt to allow wagons to approach the building when it was used as a cheese factory.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1899 **Builder/Architect** John Mecikalski

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Mecikalski General Store, Saloon and Boarding House is one of the few remaining original buildings in Jennings. It appears to have been built around 1899 by John Mecikalski, a member of one of the earliest families in the community.¹ The east and west walls of this building are of "massive stovewood",* an unusual method of construction rarely seen except in Wisconsin, Michigan and the St. Lawrence Valley of Canada. Stovewood differs from other forms of log fabrication in that the wall is made from logs cut into short uniform sections and stacked perpendicular to the length of each wall. The Mecikalski building is one of the largest stovewood buildings known to exist and the only known commercial building utilizing the stovewood method of construction. Most stovewood buildings are barns, outbuildings and occasionally dwellings. To date, no other commercial stovewood building has been documented. This structure is significant because it represents an outstanding example of a rare method of construction

Jennings was settled about 1900 by mostly Polish farmers and businessmen. John Mecikalski and his brothers and their families were among the earliest settlers in Jennings. Lawrence Mecikalski built the first hotel and sawmill. John Mecikalski built a store. During their years in Jennings the Mecikalski brothers operated a boarding house, saloon, grocery store, hardware store and feed store.²

John Mecikalski (1867-1927) was born in Prussia and emigrated to the United States first living in Milwaukee; the family then moved to Maple Grove Township in Shawano County. He married Mary Kasza in 1891. While still living in Shawano County, John and Mary Mecikalski purchased one hundred sixty acres of land in Jennings in Schoepke Township of Oneida County from Henry and Fred Miner in 1899.³ They built the stovewood building and sold some of their acreage to his brothers, Lawrence, Henry and Ernest. The stovewood building remained in the family until the early 1940's at which time it was sold.

1. This conclusion is based on Professor William Tishler's research of Courthouse records (deeds, census, marriage, deaths) in Oneida and Shawano counties.
2. Porten, Viola Rice; A History of the Village of Pelican Lake; compiled in 1972.
3. Register of Deeds Office, Oneida County Courthouse.

*Massive stovewood: stovewood wall built without additional structural framing; by virtue of its mass, such a wall is completely self-supporting.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Porten, Viola Rice. A History of the Village of Pelican Lake. Compiled in 1972. Available at State Historical Society Library, Madison.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/3 acre

Quadrangle name Nashville, WIS

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	16	3	3	18	2	10	10	5	10	4	11	2	10
Zone	Easting				Northing								

B

Zone	Easting				Northing								

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

A parcel of land in NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 23, Township 35 North, Range 11 East, Oneida County, Wisconsin, and described as follows: (see Continuation sheet)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Donna M. Gager

organization N/A date June 1983

street & number 14935 Franklin Drive telephone 414-786-2321

city or town Brookfield state Wisconsin 53005

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Director, Historic Preservation Division, SHSW date FEB 19, 1984

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 3/22/84

for 
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Mecikalski General Store, Jennings, Oneida County, Wisc.

Continuation sheet

Item number 10.

Page 1.

Verbal boundary description (cont.)

Commencing at an Iron Pipe marking the Southeast corner of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 23, thence N. $0^{\circ}16'$ E. along the section line common to Section 23 and Section 24, a distance of 883 feet to an iron pipe marking the intersection with the South right-of-way line a distance of 1179 feet to an iron pipe and the point of beginning; thence S. $0^{\circ}32'$ E. a distance of 187.7 feet to an iron pipe marking the Southeast corner of this parcel of land, thence N. $88^{\circ}49'$ W. a distance of 80 feet to an iron pipe; thence North approximately 179 feet to an iron pipe marking the intersection with the South right-of-way line of a Town Road, thence N. $85^{\circ}15'$ E. along said right-of-way line, a distance of 78 feet to the Point of Beginning.