

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 5 1976

DATE ENTERED AUG 13 1976

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC Shopiere Congregational Church

AND/OR COMMON

### LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Buss Road near Shopiere Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Shopiere

VICINITY OF ← Beloit

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Wisconsin

CODE 55

COUNTY Rock

CODE 105

### CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

### OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Congregation of Shopiere Congregational Church, c/o James Potts, Moderator

STREET & NUMBER 203 Maple Street

Wisconsin 53545

CITY, TOWN

Clinton

VICINITY OF

STATE

### LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Rock County

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Janesville

STATE Wisconsin 53545

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Wisconsin's Historic Preservation Plan, Volume II: The Inventory

DATE 1973

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE Wisconsin 53706

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Congregational Church at Shopiere, a gabled rectangular building three bays long with a frame chapel and kitchen in the rear, is constructed of locally quarried buff limestone. The coursed limestone blocks are rough-cut and rock-faced. Built between 1850 and 1853 at a cost of \$2000, the church is basically Greek Revival in style, with a wood entablature including a plain wide frieze board and a front pediment. The stone front, without fenestration, is treated in blind recessed panels to suggest perfectly plain engaged pilasters. This front is broken by a rectangular frame tower with side entrance doors, possibly added between 1853 and 1871. (The church records from this period no longer exist.) Above it is an octagonal frame belfry, surmounted by a tall steeple, probably finished after the body of the church. The first bell and belfry of the church were provided by Jacob Dockstader, mill owner, and Caleb Culver before 1867. The first bell, which was later cracked and repaired, is now in the neighboring Shopiere Methodist Church.

The New England backgrounds of the settlers are reflected in Colonial influences in the flush wood bell tower and octagonal belfry. 19th century Gothic and Italianate adaptations include the round headed windows with labeled lintels on the first and second story windows of the octagonal drum. In 1871 Gothic pointed windows were added to the east and west sides of the sanctuary and a new chapel was dedicated, taking the place of the chapel which served as a church while the stone building grew.

The Congregational Church, in use to date, has had minor repair and renovation in the interior, and the addition of a basement under the 1871 chapel and a kitchen wing in the back, all of which do not detract from the excellent condition of the structure built from 1850-1871.

# 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 checked="" 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 1850-1853; 1871

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Shopiere Congregational Church of 1850-1853 is a fine example of Greek Revival stone architecture. It was built by Yankee settlers in a material indigenous to Wisconsin. Cited by Richard Perrin in Historic Wisconsin Buildings as an outstanding example of the use of locally quarried limestone in constructing some of Wisconsin's finest churches, it also displays, according to Perrin, New England influence in the flush wood board tower and octagonal belfry reminiscent of 18th century Colonial architecture.

With its additions completed before 1871, the structure blends stylistic adaptations of the mid-nineteenth century, such as the tower with round headed windows with Gothic labels and drum with Italianate lintels with pendants, and the 1871 pointed Gothic windows in the sanctuary, all in a manner that reflects Victorian eclecticism but does not detract from the stone simplicity of the main block.

The Shopiere Congregational Church is probably the second oldest in continuous use in Rock County, and is older than the present Italianate edifice of its mother church, the First Congregational Church of Beloit. The Reverend Stephen Peet, father of Beloit College and planner of the Chicago Theological Seminary, rode from the then stone Congregational Church in Beloit to Shopiere to begin services and was influential in establishing a charter for the Shopiere Church in 1844. Members met in a log schoolhouse, then in the chapel which was built first at the south (back) end of the present church, until the present church block was completed in 1853. Louis P. Harvey, the second of Wisconsin's Civil War Governors, was the most famous member of the congregation.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1.0  
 UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	6
ZONE	EASTING

3	4	0	9	4	0
EASTING		NORTHING			

4	7	1	4	7	3	0
EASTING		NORTHING				

B 

ZONE	EASTING

EASTING		NORTHING			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Patricia Warwick, Preservation Planning Assistant

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

3/7/75

STREET & NUMBER

816 State Street

TELEPHONE

608/262-9504

CITY OR TOWN

Madison,

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

## 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

*James Norton Smith*

TITLE

Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

1-29-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Wm J. Hunter*

DATE

8/13/76

Acting DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*Charles [Signature]*

DATE

8.13.75

Acting KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER See  
below PAGE 1

Shopiere Congregational Church

9. Guernsey and Willard, History of Rock County: Transactions of the Rock County Agricultural Society, Janesville, 1856, 128.

History of Rock County, Chicago, 1879, 435.

McCleary, Judy, "The Shopiere Story," The Congregationalist, 135(8):4-7, cover, October, 1975.

McLenegan, Annie, Centennial of the Town of Turtle, Rock County, (Beloit?), 1936, 65.

Perrin, Richard W. E., Historic Wisconsin Architecture, Milwaukee, 1960, 13.

Perrin, Richard W. E., Historic Wisconsin Buildings, Milwaukee, 1962, 83.

Rock County Historical Society files, Janesville.

10. Nancy Douglas, Preservation Coordinator  
Rock County Historical Society  
P. O. Box 896  
Janesville

12/5/75  
608/756-4509  
Wisconsin 53545