

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8/86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format (1331D)
(Approved 3/87)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only archival paper (20 pound, acid free paper with a 2% alkaline reserve).

1. Name of Property

historic name Hyde Chapel

other names/site number Mill Creek Church; Union Congregational Church

2. Location

street & number CTH T approx. 1 mi. south of CTH H

N/A not for publication

city, town Town of Ridgeway

N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin

code WI

County Iowa

code 049

zip code 53503

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	contributing	noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

None

No. of contributing resources
previously listed in the
National Register None

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

[Signature]

July 19, 1988

Signature of certifying official
State Historic Preservation Officer- WI
State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register.
___ See continuation sheet

Entered in the
National Register

[Signature]

10/13/88

___ determined eligible for the National Register. ___ See continuation sheet

___ determined not eligible for the National Register.

___ removed from the National Register.

___ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Structure
Funerary/Cemetery

Religion/Religious Structure
Funerary/Cemetery

NPS Form 10-900a
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Wisconsin Word Processor Format
Approved 2/87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Owner Page 1 Hyde Chapel, Town of Ridgeway
Iowa County, Wisconsin

OWNER OF PROPERTY

Hyde Community Association, Incorporated
Mrs. George Bawden, Secretary
R. R. 1
Arena, Wisconsin 53503

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival	foundation	Limestone
	walls	Weatherboard
	roof	Asphalt
	other	Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Hyde Chapel is located on county trunk highway T one mile south of county trunk highway H and nine miles south of the village of Arena in rural Iowa County. Iowa County lies in the "driftless" or unglaciated region of south western Wisconsin. A stately ridge of hardwoods separates the historic Hyde Chapel from the Hyde mill and stone dam on Mill Creek, just eight-tenths of a mile west of the chapel. The chapel sits on a small knoll of land.

The Hyde Chapel is a modest but well-proportioned example of the Greek Revival style built in 1862. It features the squat, wide proportions generally associated with Greek Revival architecture. The main (west) facade is symmetrically composed and consists of a small (5' x 8'2") enclosed entrance vestibule flanked by 6/6 double-hung windows. The entrance has a medium pitch gable roof and original double doors crowned by a fan shaped transom window. The window radius is 24" and is comprised of four triangular panes. A simple wooden sign reading "Hyde Chapel" hangs above the door. Six steps of recent vintage, the only non-original part of the structure, lead to the tiny vestibule.

The building stands on a limestone rubble foundation 36 feet long and 20 feet wide. White clapboard siding covers the exterior. The five-inch clapboards are nailed to studs placed on 16-inch centers. The building is simply ornamented with typical Greek Revival return eaves, a plain entablature, and slender corner pilasters. Three 6/6 double-hung windows measuring 79" x 44" are located in the north and south walls. The east wall bears no windows. The medium-pitched gable peak of the building rises 21 feet from the base of the foundation.

The interior plan consists of the small vestibule and a simple rectangular chapel. The vestibule (narthex) is paneled with varnished pine boards nailed horizontally which pleasantly give the illusion of a larger space. A door no longer in use is set in the south wall of the vestibule. This door was said to be the "pallbearers' door" used during burials in the cemetery. The door has been covered on the outside with a sheet of plywood for security reasons.

Another set of wooden double doors separates the vestibule from the nave of the church. A small oak cupboard along the southwest wall holds the hymnals and Bibles inscribed with names and dates from the early 20th century. The floor of the nave is five-and-one-half inch tongue-and-groove pine boards. Pine wainscoting reaches to a height of three feet above the floor on all the interior walls and is topped by a one inch molding. This paneling was applied in approximately 12' lengths.

X See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 1 Hyde Chapel, Town of Ridgeway
Iowa County, Wisconsin

Each section of wainscoting contains boards of varying widths nailed horizontally. Within each 12-foot section of paneling are boards varying in width from seven to nine inches for the top row to as much as 15 inches for the bottom row. This system, which no doubt was a means of conserving lumber lends an interesting hominess to the interior. The lathe and plaster walls are covered by wallpaper in extraordinarily good condition. The eleven and a half foot ceiling is also plaster.

A platform seven inches high and six feet deep spans the entire east end of the room to comprise the "sanctuary." A low oak pulpit bearing a brass plate stands in the center of the platform. The plate is inscribed: "In memoriam Deacon George and Nancy Breakenridge." An organ, and upright piano and 10 odd lot chairs are located on the sanctuary platform. A victorian cast iron wall bracket in the northeast corner of the sanctuary hold a kerosene lamp for use by the organist. A 48-star U.S. flag and a church flag showing a red cross on a blue field stand near the east wall.

A U.S. Army Cannon Heater #20 sits 10 feet inside the door of the nave. The original stove was stolen. An exposed stove pipe connects the stove with a brick chimney built into the west wall of the nave. A central aisle 74" wide runs between 10 simple softwood pews on the south side and nine on the north. One pew, displaced by the stove, sits with its back to the north wall near the stove, all other pews face to the east. This arrangement near the stove must have provided a cozy spot for those worshippers who felt the chill of winter. Each of the homemade pews bears a simply framed wood panel on the aisle end. The benches are 12 inches deep with 16 inch backboards set at the slightest of angles to assure maximum attention. A narrow board is attached to the back of each pew as a bookrest. Seven of the pews also have book racks attached to their backs. Most of the pews are nailed to the floor, and to the wood paneling of the walls.

Most interesting are the two-inch by two-inch uprights built into 12 of the pews. These uprights are attached to the backs of the pews at the aisle, and a one-inch hole is drilled in the top of each to serve as candle holders for illumination at night, or, one supposes, the uprights served as coatracks during the daylight services.

NPS Form 10-900a
(Rev. 8-86)
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 2 Hyde Chapel, Town of Ridgeway
Iowa County, Wisconsin

A small cemetery is located on the gentle slope north and east of the chapel. The grounds are historically associated with the Hyde Chapel and contain burials dating from before the church was built. Due to this strong historical and physical connection between the church and cemetery, the cemetery is considered to be a contributing element in the overall site.

Three of the older grave makers bear these inscriptions:

"Cora, dau. of J. & M. Duesler, died July 18, 1859, age 1 yr."

" Andrew Hamilton, d. Apr. 6, 1863, aged 11 mo 19 days."

John Dodge died Oct. 6, 1864 83 yrs."

In 1957, the members of the congregation voted to close the church doors except for funerals. A local organization called the Hyde Community Association, Incorporated was formed in 1966 to protect and enhance the Hyde, Wisconsin community and are now the caretakers of the Hyde Chapel.

The chapel with its cemetery remains remarkably unaltered since its construction in 1862. Two Scotch pines dating from about the turn of the century have grown tall, and the grave markers have eroded with age. But the sturdy Greek Revival style building stands as steady proof of the church's historical importance in the life of mid-19th century Mill Creek Valley and is a testimony to the resourceful English and Welsh settlers of the area who were its founders.

NPS Form 10-900a
(Rev. 8-86)
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 1 Hyde Chapel, Town of Ridgeway
Iowa County, Wisconsin

the area in 1850. Hyde built a grist mill near the present location of the Hyde Chapel in 1856. With the impetus of a small sawmill and the Hyde Chapel, a small community grew. The area was settled by a mix of Irish, Welsh, English, American, Scottish and later Norwegian settlers.⁵

The Hyde Chapel was once called the Mill Creek Church after the Mill Creek Valley in which it is located. The area is most often referred to as "Hyde's Mills" after William Hyde. The valley was described in the 1861 church record as a "moral waste." William Webb, a Calvinist and resident of the valley, felt an obligation to bring a moral influence to the valley and organized the first church services in the home of a resident on September 29, 1861. The first services were conducted by Rev. David Jones from nearby Arena. Jones was a Welsh Methodist and a zealous leader of temperance forces in the area.⁶ In December the residents resolved to build a church to be jointly used by the English and Welsh and called "Union Congregational Church." Delegates present at the church's dedication in 1862 declared that "no place needed a church and preaching more than did Mill Creek Valley."⁷ Rev. Jones served as minister to the new church from 1861-1863 and ministered to a small congregation of approximately 14 members.

During the period of 1863-74, there are no church records and the little is known of the church until 1874 when the church was revitalized and joined the Mineral Point Convention of Congregational Churches. The church was rededicated on January 1, 1878 and renamed "Mill Creek Congregational Church." The church enjoyed a modest success and total membership grew to 53 people by 1884.⁸

The church later became known as the "Hyde Congregational Church" when another church took the name "Mill Creek Congregational Church." The church continued to operate as a modest rural church well into the mid twentieth century. In 1945 membership was 37 people. By 1957 church membership had dwindled and interest in sustaining a rural church also wained as the automobile made it increasingly easy to worship in the churches of the surrounding communities. In that year the members voted to close the Hyde church except to occasional funerals.⁹ In the summer of 1966 the Hyde Community Association was formed to preserve and maintain the Hyde Church.¹⁰

NPS Form 10-900a
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 2 Hyde Chapel, Town of Ridgeway
Iowa County, Wisconsin

Architecture

Wisconsin and Minnesota were at the extreme northwest corner of mid-19th century America's Greek Revival boom. The Greek Revival period in Wisconsin stretched from 1830-1870. This style was the first national style to have a widespread impact on Wisconsin buildings. This interesting building style cropped up whimsically in rural and small-town Wisconsin's utilitarian buildings. The inspiration for many Greek Revival style buildings was carried west by Wisconsin immigrants and disseminated through builders' handbooks circulated from the population centers of the East.¹¹

The inspiration for building this Greek Revival country church is lost, but the Greek Revival appears to have been favored for early Yankee religious structures in Wisconsin. Examples of pure Greek Revival buildings are rare in the state. Vernacular structures that are basically astylistic but display limited Greek Revival details are more common. Typically, these buildings display rectangular massing, regular fenestration, and return eaves. Some examples such as the Hyde Chapel will also exhibit corner pilasters or an semicircular fanlight transom.¹²

The basic ingredients of the Greek Revival style as applied to vernacular buildings are admirably displayed in the Hyde Chapel. The church has rectangular massing and regular fenestration. The distinctive return eaves and entablature at both gable ends, and the corner pilasters combine to transform this otherwise plain frame building into a modest suggestion of "high style" architecture. The return eaves visually imply the triangular pediments of classical Greek temple architecture. The simple pilasters, created by combinations of moldings and boards serve as "pillars" supporting the return eaves.

Due to its early settlement, Iowa County contains a number of fine examples of Greek Revival buildings. The Hyde Chapel was built just three years after the noteworthy Iowa County Courthouse in Dodgeville which is generally acknowledged to be the epitomy of the Greek Revival in the county. Closer to the chapel, in the Village of Arena, stands the Arena Congregational Church, also built in the Greek Revival style at approximately the same time. The church in Arena, however, has been extensively remodeled while the Hyde Chapel remains in its original state.

NPS Form 10-900a
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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 3 Hyde Chapel, Town of Ridgeway
Iowa County, Wisconsin

Other fine examples of Greek Revival religious structures include the Rock Lutheran Church which is similar in size and scale, but is executed in rubble sandstone. The Wyoming Valley Methodist Meeting Hall, which has been officially determined eligible for listing on the National Register, has similar massing and materials, but is quite vernacular and has no stylistic detailing. The St. Malachy's Catholic Church is also frame and exhibits a Greek Revival temple front, but displays a mixture of Greek Revival and Gothic Revival influences. Perhaps the closest example in the county is Simpson Chapel, built in 1861. This tiny (20' x 18') chapel, built in 1861, has a similarity of massing and fenestration but is of a smaller scale and is not as ornamented as the Hyde Chapel.

The Hyde Chapel is architecturally significant as a representative example of modest rural church architecture utilizing a vernacular interpretation of the Greek Revival style. The church exhibits a remarkable degree of historical integrity. Unlike many other examples of settlement era churches which were later demolished, expanded or altered, the Hyde Chapel is a pristine example of mid-nineteenth century church architecture.

Criteria Consideration A

The Hyde Chapel derives its primary significance from its architectural distinction and therefore is an exception to Criteria Consideration A.

Criteria Consideration D

The Hyde Chapel cemetery is an integral component of the overall setting of the Hyde Chapel. The cemetery is an integral design element of the site with a preponderance of historic markers recording the names and dates of the members of the congregation and is therefore considered to be a contributing element and is included in this nomination. It is therefore considered an exception to Criteria Consideration D.

NPS Form 10-900a
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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 4 Hyde Chapel, Town of Ridgeway
Iowa County, Wisconsin

FOOTNOTES

1 Since the Hyde Chapel is being nominated for its architectural significance, the period of significance is the date of construction alone.

2 "Record of the Mill Creek Valley Union Congregational Church, Town of Ridgeway, Iowa County, Wisconsin," September 29, 1861 to February 28, 1878. Unpublished manuscript, p.1.

3 Pearl McCutchin Hughes, "The History of the Hyde Congregational Church," unpublished manuscript, dated November 27, 1968, on file at the Division of Historic Preservation, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, p. 1

4 Mary E. Taylor, An Intensive Architectural and Historical Survey of Lancaster, Potosi/Tennyson, Dodgeville, Belmont and Gratiot, Madison, WI: State Historical Society, 1985, p. 6-8.

5 History of Iowa County, Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1881, p. 833, 836, 962.

6 History of Iowa County, p. 837.

7 Hughes, p. 1.

8 Ibid., p. 2.

9 Ibid., p. 3.

10 Ibid., p. 4.

11 Barbara Wyatt, ed., Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin vol.2, Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, Architecture p. 2-3.

12 Ibid.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Previous documentation on file (NPS): X See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property 4 acres

UTM References

A	<u> 1/6 </u>	<u> 2/5/8/5/5/0 </u>	<u> 4/7/7/2/7/8/5 </u>	B	<u> / </u>	<u> / / / / / </u>	<u> / / / / / / </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u> / </u>	<u> / / / / / </u>	<u> / / / / / / </u>	D	<u> / </u>	<u> / / / / / </u>	<u> / / / / / / </u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

X See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This nomination includes the entire property historically associated with the Hyde Chapel and Cemetery. The legal descriptions are derived from the original 1862 property deed (parcel one) and a later quitclaim deed (parcel two).

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mr David Giffey

organization for Hyde Community Assoc., Inc. date April, 1988

street & number Amacher Hollow Road telephone

city or town Arena state Wisconsin zip code 53503

NPS Form 10-900a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format
Approved 2/87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 1 Hyde Chapel, Town of Ridgeway
Iowa County, Wisconsin

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Crawford, George and Robert M. Memoirs of Iowa County, vol. 1. Northwestern Historical Association, 1913.

Hughes, Pearl McCutchin. "The History of the Hyde Congregational Church." unpublished manuscript, dated November 27, 1968, on file at the Division of Historic Preservation, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Iowa County Heritage, vol. 1. Dodgeville, WI.: Fieldhouse Foundation, 1967.

"Record of the Mill Creek Valley Union Congregational Church, Town of Ridgeway, Iowa County, Wisconsin," September 29, 1861 to February 28, 1878. Unpublished manuscript on file at the Division of Historic Preservation, State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

Taylor, Mary E. An Intensive Architectural and Historical Survey of Lancaster, Potosi/Tennyson, Dodgeville, Belmont and Gratiot, Madison, WI: State Historical Society, 1985

Wyatt, Barbara, ed. Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, vol. 2. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986.

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page 1 Hyde Chapel, Town of Ridgeway
Iowa County, Wisconsin

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The legal description of the Hyde Chapel is as follows:

Part of the Northwest 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 24, Town 7 North, Range 4 East, Town of Ridgeway, Iowa County.

Parcel One: Commencing 33' from the Southwest corner of said quarter and running North 132 feet, thence east 363 feet, thence south 132 feet thence West 330 feet to the place of beginning. Said parcel contains one acres.

Parcel Two: Beginning at a point in the West line of said forty acres which point is also in the center line of County "T" and is located 56.76 feet North of the Southwest corner of said forty acres, running thence East 409.86 feet, thence North 277.20 feet, thence West 409.86 feet to the west line of said forty acres, and the center line of County Trunk "T" thence south on the forty line 277.20 feet to the place of beginning. Said parcel contains approximately 3 acres.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Photos Page 1 Hyde Chapel, Town of Ridgeway
Iowa County, Wisconsin

PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

The following information applies to all photographs:

HYDE CHAPEL
Town of Ridgeway, Iowa County, WI.
Photos by John Demby, July 1987.
Neg. at John Demby residence.

Photo 1 of 5, Exterior, view from west.

Photo 2 of 5, Exterior, view from east.

Photo 3 of 5, Interior, view from east.

Photo 4 of 5, Interior, view from west.

Photo 5 of 5, Cemetery, view from west.