



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 Frey School
other names/site number Roxbury District School Number Two

2. Location

street & number	8847 County Highway Y	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Town of Roxbury	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county Dane	code 025
			zip code 53583

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer - Wisconsin

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

Frey School | Dane | 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

7.14.11

[Signature]

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as
as apply)

private
X public-local
public-State
public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

X building(s)
district
structure
site
object

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

contributing	noncontributing
1	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
1	0 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
previously listed in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)
EDUCATION/school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)
VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)
MID-19TH CENTURY

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Sandstone
walls Sandstone

roof Shingle
other Wood

Narrative Description

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

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Section 7 Page 1

Frey School
Dane County, Wisconsin

Description:

The Frey School is an exceptionally intact, Gothic Revival style-influenced Front Gable vernacular form building that is rectilinear in plan, measures 36-feet-deep by 24-feet-wide, and is one story tall. The school's golden colored locally quarried sandstone exterior walls are approximately one-foot thick. The walls extend down below ground level and enclose a shallow crawl space that extends beneath the entire building. These walls are sheltered by the slightly overhanging eaves of the school's simple gable roof, the ridgeline of which runs north-south, and the slopes of which have recently been reclad in wood shingles that are identical in appearance to the ones visible in historic photos of the building. The Town of Roxbury built this free-standing one-room school building between 1870 and 1881 as a replacement for an earlier frame construction one-room school that is shown on this same site on a map of Dane County that was published in 1861.¹ The Frey School continued to be used as a school until 1937, after which it was used for many years as the Town of Roxbury's town hall. Currently, the building is vacant, but it is still remarkably intact and unaltered and it is well looked after by members of the Roxbury community, many of whom are members of the Frey family, whose ancestors were the original donors of the land on which the school sits.

The Frey School is situated on a nearly flat, rectangular half-acre parcel of land that is located on the eastern outskirts of the small unincorporated hamlet of Roxbury. Its principal façade faces north onto County Highway Y. This parcel slopes very slightly downhill to the south from County Highway Y (CTH Y) and the school building itself is situated some 30 feet south of the southern edge of this highway and it is surrounded by mown lawn. Roxbury is a crossroads community that developed around the intersection of the east-west-running CTH Y and the north-south running Inama and Kippley roads.² Houses line both sides of these thoroughfares within the hamlet and the Frey School is located about 1400 feet east of this intersection and about 900 feet west of the intersection of CTH Y and CTH PD. For most of its history, the school stood alone and cultivated land belonging to neighboring farms surrounded its parcel. Today, modern ranch houses occupy most of the parcels on both the east and west sides of the school and others are located across the road on the north side of CTH Y. Never-the-less, cultivated farm land still comes up to the rear of the school's parcel and to the rear of the parcels that are associated with most of the other houses that line the main roads in this hamlet.

¹ *Map of Dane County, Wisconsin*. Madison: Ménges & Ligowsky, 1861.

² Inama Road proceeds north from this intersection and Kippley Road, south.

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Frey School
Dane County, Wisconsin

Exterior

The symmetrically designed 24-foot-wide principal façade of the Frey School faces north onto CTH Y and its walls are of roughly coursed sandstone blocks that have a grid of raised mortar joints superimposed over them that was intended to give the façade a more impressive appearance. In addition, larger partially dressed sandstone blocks act as quoins on the corners of the façade.³ The façade's only opening is the pointed arch-shaped entrance door that is centered on it. This opening contains a six-panel wooden door that is crowned by a two-light lancet arch-shaped transom and both the door and its transom are set deep into the opening, the side walls of which are paneled in wood.⁴ In addition, the transom above the door is framed by a thick, simple, dressed ashlar sandstone surround, this being the only element on the façade that is built of professionally dressed stone. The façade is then crowned by its gable end, the wall surface of which is partially sheltered by the overhanging eaves of the building's roof. These eaves are edged by a molded and raked wooden cornice, they have wooden soffits, and they are accented by molded and raked wooden frieze boards.

The 36-foot-wide west-facing side elevation of the school is three-bays-wide, it is nearly symmetrical in design, and it is clad in roughly coursed sandstone blocks, each of which is surrounded by thick mortar joints. Each of the three bays contains a single rectangular window opening, all three have dressed ashlar stone sills and all three have massive dressed ashlar sandstone lintels as well. Each of these openings contains a six-over-six-light, double hung, wood sash window, and there are also two small, almost square openings located in the lower, partially visible crawl space portion of the elevation that help to ventilate the crawl space. The entire wall surface of this elevation is partially sheltered by the overhanging eave of the main roof and, here too, the edge of the eave is clad in a molded cornice, the soffit is made of wood, and a molded wooden frieze board is placed below it.

The 24-foot-wide rear elevation of the Frey School faces south onto the adjacent farm land, it is clad in roughly coursed sandstone blocks, and here too there are larger partially dressed sandstone blocks that act as quoins on the corners of the elevation. There are no openings of any kind on this elevation and it is crowned by its gable end, the wall surface of which is partially sheltered by the overhanging eaves of the building's roof, which, like the ones on the main façade, are edged by a molded and raked wooden cornice, have wooden soffits, and are accented by molded and raked wooden frieze boards. In

³ There is a small area of brick work situated in the upper right hand corner of the façade that reflects the location of a second brick chimney that historic photos show was added to the school sometime after 1910. This chimney has now been removed.

⁴ The current door is an exact recent (2009) copy of the school's deteriorated original door. The original door is still extant but it was replaced in order to keep the building secure.

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Frey School
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addition, the elevation is crowned by a small, original cream brick chimney stack that is located on the ridge of the roof at the southern end of the school.

The 36-foot-wide east-facing side elevation is identical to the west-facing elevation described above. It too is three-bays-wide, it is nearly symmetrical in design, and it is clad in roughly coursed sandstone blocks, each of which is surrounded by thick mortar joints. Each of its three bays also contains a single rectangular window opening, all three have dressed ashlar stone sills and all three also have massive dressed ashlar sandstone lintels. Each of these openings contains a six-over-six-light, double hung, wood sash window, and there are also two small, almost square openings located in the lower, partially visible crawl space portion of the elevation that help to ventilate the crawl space. In addition, the entire wall surface of this elevation is partially sheltered by the overhanging eave of the main roof and, here too, the edge of the eave is clad in a molded cornice, the soffit is made of wood, and a molded wooden frieze board is placed below it.

Interior

The interior of the school consists of two rooms: a vestibule and the classroom itself. One enters the 5.5-foot-deep by 20.5-foot-wide vestibule through the 2'10"-wide entrance door that is centered on the main façade. After ascending a single step that consists of a block of sandstone, one passes through the door and finds oneself in the vestibule, which has a wood floor composed of narrow tongue and groove boards. The only natural light that enters this space comes from the transom light over the entrance door and the lower portion of the walls are covered by painted beaded tongue and groove wainscot that is capped with a molded piece of wood trim that resembles a cornice. The upper portions of these walls are plastered and a molded board that once held the children's coat hooks encircles the room and is nailed to this wall surface a foot above the wainscot cap. The plaster walls on the two short east and west sides of the vestibule turn into deep coves as they meet the ceiling, which is plastered, and these coves are continued inside the classroom and run the full depth of the building.

One enters the 30.5-foot-deep by 20.5-foot-wide classroom from the vestibule through two separate, evenly spaced door openings that are located in the south wall of the vestibule and these openings both contain single six-panel wood doors and they are simply framed with board trim sets. The floor of the classroom is also composed of narrow tongue and groove wood boards, the lower portion of all of this room's walls are covered by painted beaded tongue and groove wainscot that is capped with a molded piece of wood trim that resembles a cornice, and this wainscot extends up to the level of the sills of the window openings that line the room's side walls. The portion of the wall surface above the wainscot is

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plastered, as is the room's flat ceiling, and, here too, the walls on the east and west sides of the classroom turn into deep coves as they meet the ceiling. Natural light enters the classroom through the six windows that are located on the east and west side walls of the room and these windows are set deep into six segmental-arched openings that are let into their respective walls. The only openings in the north wall of the classroom are the two door openings described above that open into the vestibule and there are no openings in the south wall of the room. Instead, the south wall is bisected vertically by a plastered chimney stack that serves a wood stove that heats the room. In addition, an 8-inch-tall, four-foot-deep wooden stage stretches across the full-width of the south end of the room.

Today, the interior of the classroom contains a miscellany of older wooden children's desks and a single blackboard is located on part of the south wall of the room. Otherwise, the room is almost exactly as it would have been when classes were last held here in 1937. Even today, the school is heated with wood and there is no indoor plumbing. The only notable alteration that has affected the interior was the introduction of electricity into the building sometime in the twentieth century, but even this was essentially rudimentary in actual execution and it requires very little effort to imagine what the classroom would have looked like when the school was still new.

Frey School
Name of Property

Dane
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)

Education

Architecture

Period of Significance

Ca.1870-1937

Ca.1870-1881

Significant Dates

N/A

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.)

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Frey School
Dane County, Wisconsin

Significance:

The Frey School was identified by the Unincorporated Hamlets of Dane County Intensive Survey in 2002 as being potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) for its local level of significance under National Register (NR) Criterion C (Architecture), and National Register Criteria A (History).⁵ Research designed to assess the school's potential for eligibility under Criterion C was undertaken using the NR significance area of Architecture, a theme that is also identified in the State of Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP). This research centered on evaluating the school by utilizing the Front Gable vernacular form subsection of the Architectural Styles study unit of the CRMP.⁶ In addition, research designed to assess the school's potential for eligibility under Criterion A was undertaken using the NR significance area of Education, this being a theme that is also identified in the State of Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP). This research centered on evaluating the school by utilizing the Public Primary Education subsection of the Education study unit of the CRMP.⁷ The results of this research are detailed below and demonstrate that the Frey School is locally significant as an excellent, highly intact Front Gable form example of the one-room school resource type that played an important role in the educational history of the community. The period of significance begins in circa 1870, when the school was built, and extends to 1937, when the school closed.

The Frey School is an excellent and largely intact stone example of the simple vernacular form one-story one-room type of building that typifies rural nineteenth century schools in this area. The school was built for the Town of Roxbury school district board sometime between 1870 and 1881 as a replacement for an earlier school building that was located on the same site. The intact survival of this school is in itself a factor that supports the potential listing of the school in the NRHP. In 1911 there were 205 small, rural one-room schools in Dane County. Today, only a handful of these buildings are extant and the Frey School is believed to be of local significance as one of the best Dane County examples of this increasingly rare and highly threatened building type. The building's significance is strengthened by its excellent and highly original exterior and interior.

⁵ Heggland, Timothy F. *Unincorporated Hamlets of Dane County Intensive Survey Report*. Madison: Dane County Department of Planning and Development, 2002, p. 64.

⁶ Wyatt, Barbara (ed.). *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin* (3 vols.). Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Division of Historic Preservation, 1986, Vol. 2, (Architecture) p. 3-2.

⁷ Ibid, Vol. 3, (Education), pp. 2-1 to 2-12.

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Frey School
Dane County, Wisconsin

History

The Frey School is believed to be eligible for listing in the NRHP at the local level of significance under National Register Criterion A in the area of Education because it is the physical embodiment of the continuing efforts that the citizens of the School District No. 2 in the Town of Roxbury made to educate its children during an important early period of growth in the district. An excellent overview of the history of primary school public education in Wisconsin and of the state's one-room rural schoolhouses is contained in the Public Primary Education study unit of the Education theme section of the CRMP. Consequently, the historical background given here will deal only with the history of public primary education in the Town of Roxbury.

The Town of Roxbury comprises the extreme northwest corner of Dane County and its western boundary is the east bank of the Wisconsin River. The Town was created in 1849 and its earliest settlers mostly came from the eastern states and New England in particular. The future history of the Town, however, would be largely determined by another early settler, pioneer Roman Catholic priest Rev. Adelbert Inama, a native of Austria who arrived in the Town in 1845 with the intention of building a church that could serve the small, mostly German, Catholic population in the area. His first church was St. Norbert House, which was located near the present day hamlet of Roxbury on land that had been donated by Count Agoston Haraszthy, a pioneer settler of Sauk County on the west bank of the Wisconsin River and the founder of Sauk City. Inama's first church in the Town of Roxbury was the first Roman Catholic church built in Dane County and St. Norbert parish was the first rural Roman Catholic parish in the county as well. This log building (non-extant) was built in 1846, and it was both Inama's dwelling house and a chapel; it was followed by the construction in 1853 of the first portion of the present St. Norbert Church in what was to become the hamlet of Roxbury. This was a brick church and it was subsequently incorporated into the present stone St. Norbert Church, which was begun in 1860 and completed in 1906 and which is one of Dane County's finest rural churches and one of its very few Romanesque Revival style examples.⁸

Inama's active and very successful efforts to bring German-speaking immigrants to Roxbury, where they were then settled on portions of the land that he had been given by Haraszthy, soon made St. Norbert a predominately German-speaking parish and the Town of Roxbury continues to be settled largely by persons of German ancestry. Not surprisingly, the place where Inama's church was located

⁸ *St. Norbert Congregation, Roxbury: One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Anniversary, 1846-1971*. Roxbury, WI: n.p., 1971. This excellent publication contains the best and most extensive history of both St. Norbert's church and also of the hamlet of Roxbury.

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Frey School
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became the center of settlement in the Town at an early stage and this is still true today. As the parish's population grew, so too did the need for a parish school and the result was that the first school building built specifically to serve the St. Norbert congregation was constructed in 1864 on the church grounds. This was not the first school built in the Township, nor was it the first to be built in the hamlet of Roxbury. As the population of the Town of Roxbury grew, so too did the need for schools to house its ever increasing numbers of school age children and it fell to the Town's local school districts within the township to build them.

Administratively, there have been five different levels of government involved in the administration of the state's elementary education: state, town, district, county, and city. Both the 1848 constitution and the first education bill passed by the state legislature in 1848 were concerned with three of these levels: state, district, and town. ... Towns were usually divided into a number of local districts, which were the most numerous and powerful administrative units until the 1960s. The three member elected district boards were empowered to hire teachers and establish policies for individual schools. These two duties gave them firm control over educational policy in most of the state's elementary schools.

It is important to remember that there was usually a significant difference between city and village schools and the one room schools of the countryside. Generally, the former were larger, more substantial buildings that tended to be better equipped than the rural schools, largely because of the broader tax base that supported city schools. For most of Wisconsin's history, the smaller rural schools far outnumbered the richer village and city schools. In 1923, for example, there were 6475 one room schools in the state compared to only 555 schools that employed two or more teachers. There were, of course, some one room schools in villages, just as there were a few rural schools that employed more than one teacher. But in general, the one room schools were rural, and the larger schools were in the villages and cities.⁹

The very first classes taught in Dane County's hamlets were sometimes conducted in barns or in whatever other buildings might be available. The first buildings built specifically for school purposes were often very small one room log structures, none of which are now believed to be extant. These first schools, however, soon were replaced by frame, brick, or more rarely, stone examples, and all the earliest extant rural schools in Dane County, including the Frey School, belong to this second generation of buildings.

⁹ Wyatt, Barbara (ed.). Op. Cit., Vol. 3, (Education), pp. 2-5 to 2-7.

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Frey School
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The first school built in the immediate vicinity of the hamlet of Roxbury was built on land donated to the Town for that purpose by Agidius and Anna M. Frey in 1855. This half-acre parcel was carved out of their farm, which occupied the southwest corner of the parcel that was bounded on the north by what is today's CTH Y and on the east by what is today's CTH PD, the result being that the schools that were subsequently built on this parcel have always been known locally as "the Frey School."¹⁰ Unfortunately, no documentary evidence has been found that pinpoints the date when the Town's first schools were built. The first known documentation was produced in 1861 when the Madison firm of Ménges and Ligowsky published a map of Dane County. This map shows that by that date there was a school house located where the Frey School (District School No. 2) is now located (Section 21) and two others are shown on the sites where the present District School No. 3 (Section 19) and District School No. 5 (Section 27) are now located. By inference, then, it can be assumed that the first Frey School was built between 1855 and 1861 and that the other two must have also been built within this rough timeframe as well.¹¹

No pictures of Roxbury's first public schools have been found, but it is known that they were all of either log or frame construction because the first surviving annual report on the county school districts compiled by the Dane County Superintendent of Schools in 1870 states that there were then six schools located in the Town and none of these were of brick or stone construction.¹² The next surviving report is dated 1874, and by this time one of the six original non-masonry schools has been replaced by a stone or brick school and this trend continues until 1881, by which time three more of the original non-masonry schools have been replaced by ones of stone or brick. That the Frey School was one of these four masonry buildings is confirmed by an atlas of Dane County published in 1911. Besides the usual maps this atlas contains individual pictures of every district school in Dane County as of that date and the photos for the Town of Roxbury show two clapboard-clad schools and four stone schools, the Frey School being one of the latter.¹³ Consequently, the Frey School was constructed between 1870 and 1881, as were the Town's other three stone schools.

Once finished, the Frey School remained in service for many decades. However, by the beginning of the Great Depression, students in the Town of Roxbury who were not attending the school associated

¹⁰ The nominated property has been given this name as that is how the school is known locally.

¹¹ The date 1859 is usually assigned to the first Frey School by local historians but the documentation supporting this choice has not been found. The site of the Frey School was probably chosen because of its proximity to the hamlet of Roxbury, which was then the Town's only settlement, while the other two sites were located on the main road from Madison to Sauk City, which is today's USH 12.

¹² Dane County (Wis.). Superintendent of Schools: Annual Reports of School Districts. Madison: Atwood & Culver: 1870.

¹³ *Standard Historical Atlas of Dane County, Wisconsin*. Madison: Cantwell Printing Co., 1911, p. 102.

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Frey School
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with St. Norbert church were mostly attending a consolidated school in Sauk Prairie on the Sauk County side of the Wisconsin River and the Frey School was no longer in use. This gave rise to an interesting situation that illustrates the way people during the Depression sometimes managed to think outside the box, so to speak, to find solutions to problems that arose during this period.

St. Norbert School had a unique arrangement with the town of Roxbury and the Roxbury School District #2 regarding the use of the Frey School. Enrollment in St. Norbert School increased from 35 pupils when it opened in 1865 to 155 pupils in 1920. In 1934 a fourth classroom became very necessary. An extra room was present in the school building but it being on the second floor, was not considered safe for school purposes.

So, with the consent of the school authorities, the Frey School in District # 2 of Roxbury, which had not been used for a long time and now closed indefinitely, was opened for grades 5 and 6. The building is now [1971] used as the Roxbury Town Hall.

The archives of the Dominican Sisters gives us this account of the school arrangement: "The teacher there works under the supervision of the County Superintendent and is paid by the Public School Board. Miss Losinski a good Norwegian Catholic is sub-supervisor. Mr. Thompson, a broadminded County Superintendent has granted the Reverend Pastor and teacher permission to give religious instruction in the Public School." These instructions were given before or after school hours and during recess periods.

The Frey School building was used until 1937. Then in 1938 when the St. Norbert School was enlarged to four classrooms on the first floor, the arrangement with the Frey School Board was continued using the north room in St. Norbert School as the Frey School for the 5th and 6th grades. This room was a public school in nature, the District continuing to pay the teacher of this one room school, and remained under the supervision of the County Superintendent of Schools.

This continued until the 1952-53 term when on orders of the State Superintendent of Schools this arrangement was discontinued at St. Norbert School, along with 14 other schools in the State that had a similar arrangement.¹⁴

¹⁴ *St. Norbert Congregation, Roxbury: One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Anniversary, 1846-1971.* Roxbury, WI: n.p., 1971, pp. 49-50.

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An account of life in the Frey School during this period was written by Sister M. Michaelinda, who was the teacher of the 5th and 6th grades in the Frey School, and hers is probably an accurate account of the experiences of all the other teachers who had taught there before her as well.

In 1930 I taught fourth, fifth, and sixth grades in one classroom [in St. Norbert School] totaling fifty-four students. The enrollment kept increasing and the classrooms became more and more drafty. A wood-filled furnace kept those nearest the vents warm while the rest of the students were snugly warm in their sheepskins and their warm boots.

In 1934 the Rev. John J. Stehling had reasoned adequately well with both the parish board and the public school board (inactive members for the reason that the Frey school had been closed indefinitely) for the re-opening of the Frey School. I had the grand opportunity to take the fifth and sixth grades to this sanctum of learning. A pot-belly stove with shaky pipes which led across the room often induced us to vacate the classroom until they could again be replaced. However, the wood shed near the school which was also the only place for dry hunks of wood, always served for our place of refuge (our smoke shelter) until the smoke resided. ... These were days of great happiness and togetherness...students and I...at the bat...catching gophers during the noon hours...carrying water for cleaning purposes... we enjoyed it all. ... Who paid for the facilities? The Public School Board took care of all those finances...wood was cheap...the janitor was the Sister-Teacher. The fire was built daily or kept alive??? by Mr. William Frey, next door neighbor, whose services were for the most part gratis. Good and kind Mr. Frey also brought us drinking water, which we kept cool in a large earthenware tank called "water cooler." The insipid water never seemed undrinkable...we used up every spare drop for drinking and sanitary uses. And the wood box...when it was empty, it was used as a radio station through which the students gave their history or literature skits. When filled, it was the handiest thing for fueling the pot-belly stove. Oh yes, the floor was cold...always...but then there were boots to wear and exercise drills to keep warm.¹⁵

By 1937, the educational part of the Frey School's history was over and the building served for many decades thereafter as the Town of Roxbury's town hall and it is now the only surviving historic building in the township that has been associated with town government. Today, the School is no longer in use but it is well maintained and is awaiting the next stage of its history. Therefore, it is believed that the Frey School is locally significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of Education as an excellent, largely intact example of the kind of one-room school building that typified

¹⁵ Ibid, pp. 51-52.

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Frey School
Dane County, Wisconsin

primary school education in rural Dane County in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Built between 1870 and 1881, the Frey School building represented a substantial investment in the future on the part of the district's citizens, but it is safe to say that even they would be surprised by the fact that the school is still extant and valued today. Over the course of its long lifetime the school building has been a public school and was used by a private school, and it is still in an exceptionally intact state today. Consequently, it is believed that the school is eligible for listing in the NRHP because it represents the interest of rural communities, such as the Town of Roxbury, in the education of their children and the schools they built to serve that purpose.

Architecture

The Frey School is also believed to be eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C (Architecture) at the local level of significance because it is an excellent, highly intact and representative example of the one-story-tall, one-room, Front Gable form vernacular design school that typified nineteenth century buildings of this type in rural Dane County. Buildings that fit this general description were once ubiquitous in Wisconsin and in the rural portions of other Midwestern states, but changes in the ways of educating primary school age children in rural Wisconsin has rendered these older buildings functionally obsolete as schools. Many of the more substantial brick construction one and two room rural schools that were built in the twentieth century have now been recycled as single family housing, but the small size and minimal features of the smaller nineteenth century examples such as the Frey School, which was built between 1870 and 1881, have rendered most of these buildings unfit for other uses, and many that have survived have now been added onto and otherwise altered. Thus, the once common nineteenth century one-room school type is now a highly threatened resource type and really intact examples such as the Frey School are likely to be of local significance when they are found.

The fate of the one-room school resource type in Dane County is an excellent example of the trend described above. In 1911, a new atlas of Dane County was published and in addition to the usual maps this atlas also included photos of every district school in the county that was then in use as such.¹⁶ These 264 schools included several early high school buildings and other multi-classroom schools, but the vast majority of them, 205 in all, were one-room schools. These 205 one-story-tall one-room schools were mostly clapboard-clad frame buildings, with brick being the next most common siding material. Only seventeen of these one-room schools were built out of stone and most of these were located in the northwest part of the county, which probably reflects both the prevalence of suitable

¹⁶ *Standard Historical Atlas of Dane County, Wisconsin*. Op. Cit.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 8

Frey School
Dane County, Wisconsin

building stone in this area and the presence of local men who could work the stone. Of these seventeen stone-clad schools, four, including the Frey School, were located in the Town of Roxbury, which is twice as many as were found in any other Dane County township.¹⁷

It is not known how many of the 264 schools photographed in 1911 are still extant today. Since only 33 one-to-six-room schools were identified in Dane County by reconnaissance surveyors working for the State of Wisconsin's Division of Historic Preservation between 1976 and 2010, and since only 14 of these are rural one-room examples, it is reasonable to suppose that the great majority of them have either now been demolished or are so altered as to be unrecognizable as school buildings. A recent resurvey (2010) of the six former district school buildings in the Town of Roxbury that were photographed in 1911 found that two of them, the clapboard-clad District School No. 1 (Section 13) and the stone-clad District School No. 6 (Section 5), are now no longer extant. It also found that the building associated with District School No. 4 (Section 31) shown in the 1911 Atlas was later replaced with the somewhat larger two-room frame school building that is still extant today.¹⁸ Fortunately, the Town's other three stone-clad schools, including the Frey School (District School No. 2), are still extant. Both District School No. 3 and District School No. 5, however, have now been converted into single family houses and District School No. 5 in particular has been added onto over the years and no longer retains integrity.¹⁹

Nothing is known of the names of the original builders of the Frey School or of the other schools in the Town of Roxbury, but buildings of a similar general design could once be found throughout southwestern Wisconsin and the simplicity of the basic design would have made it possible for craftsmen in just about community of that day to build them. The design of the Frey School exhibits most of the typical characteristics of Front Gable form school buildings that are mentioned in the Front Gable form subsection of the CRMP. Typical features that it shares include its "rectangular plan," "gabled roof," "major facade on the gabled end of the building," and its "symmetrical front entrance."²⁰ In addition, the Frey school also displays features such as its pointed arch entrance opening and the cove ceilings in the interior that are unique within its local context.

¹⁷ It is likely that more early stone school buildings once existed in Dane County, but some of these had probably been demolished by 1911, while others that were still extant in 1911 were no longer in use as schools.

¹⁸ The District No. 4 school has been enlarged and it is now a single family residence that is located at 9418 Dunlap Hollow Rd. District No. 3 School is located at 9261 County Trunk Highway Y at the intersection with US Highway 12.

¹⁹ Although District School No. 3 has recently been converted into a single family dwelling, its exterior was restored in the process, and while it lacks the integrity of the Frey School it is still a handsome example of the one-room school resource type.

²⁰ Wyatt, Barbara (ed.). *Op. Cit.*, Vol. 2, (Architecture), p. 3-2.

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 9

Frey School
Dane County, Wisconsin

Most one-room rural schools were constructed with a rectangular plan, although they also appeared in a square plan. A series of three or four windows was found on the long sides of the building for light and ventilation. A central front door was most common on one-room schools and often faced south or east. The entry was located on the short side of the building. Simple gable roofs and later hipped roofs were often recommended in plan books for rural schools.²¹ Late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century rural school design reflected the ideas advocated by school reformers. Early improvements in school design often included the addition of a porch and extra utility rooms. Utility rooms, or cloakrooms, protected the classroom from winter wind and provided a place for children to remove their outerwear. Most commonly, two cloakrooms were found upon entering a one-room school, one for girls and one for boys. Improvements also included the incorporation of a bell or belfry. Although not necessarily a practical addition, the bell or belfry came to symbolize the one-room school.²² The Frey School displays many of these common features: the rectangular plan, the ample light provided by the three windows on each side, and the single cloakroom. There is no indication that the school ever had an entry porch or a belfry.

Comparison with an historic photo of the Frey School published in 1911 shows that it the school is still remarkably intact.²³ The only known modifications that have affected it occurred at some point in the twentieth century when the building was electrified and a second chimney (since removed) was added to the front of the building. The school now sports a new entrance door that is an exact replica of the extant original one, and a new wood shingle roof that is an exact replica of the original roof was put on in it the last few years. Otherwise, the building is unaltered and the things listed above are illustrative of the kinds of changes that are typically performed on buildings of this type to keep them functional and intact. It seems clear that modifications are not in themselves a barrier to NRHP listing. As the Context Considerations section of the Public Primary Education study unit of the CRMP states:

Over the years, many schools have been added to, including several of those already listed on the National Register. Additions should not infringe on the main facade and should not dominate or engulf the historic building. Ideally, additions will be low (one-story) and will be attached to the backs of the school or recessed on one side. One room schoolhouses in

²¹ Gulliford, Andrew, America's Country Schools (Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1984), p. 172.

²² Fuller, Wayne E., One-Room Schools of the Middle West (Lawrence, Kansas: The University Press of Kansas, 1994), pp. 19, 21, 40.

²³ *Standard Historical Atlas of Dane County, Wisconsin*. Op. Cit., p. 102.

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Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 10

Frey School
Dane County, Wisconsin

particular should retain a high degree of integrity both inside and outside to be eligible for the National Register.²⁴

It is therefore believed that the Frey School is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under NR Criterion C at the local level of significance. The school building is an excellent, representative, highly intact example of the one-room school building resource type and it also is now the finest of the Town of Roxbury's historic public schools and is one of Dane County's best and most intact surviving examples of this resource type and is one of the very few that still retains the historic appearance it had when used as a school.

²⁴ Wyatt, Barbara (ed.). Op. Cit., Vol. 3 (Education), p. 2-12.

Frey School
Name of Property

Dane
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.)

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:

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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less Than One Acre

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

1 16 283270 4791750
 Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

☐ See Continuation Sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Timothy F. Heggland
organization
street & number 6391 Hillsandwood Rd.
city or town Mazomanie

state WI

date June 15, 2010
telephone 608-795-2650
zip code 53560

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 1

Frey School
Dane County, Wisconsin

Major Bibliographical References:

Dane County (Wis.). Superintendent of Schools: Annual Reports of School Districts. Madison: Atwood & Culver: 1870, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881. Wisconsin Historical Society Archives: Dane Series 140, Box 1.

Fuller, Wayne E. One-Room Schools of the Middle West. Lawrence, Kansas: The University Press of Kansas, 1994.

Gulliford, Andrew. America's Country Schools. Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1984.

Heggland, Timothy F. *Unincorporated Hamlets of Dane County Intensive Survey Report*. Madison: Dane County Department of Planning and Development, 2002.

Map of Dane County, Wisconsin. Madison: Ménges & Ligowsky, 1861.

Plat Book of Dane County, Wisconsin. Minneapolis: C. M. Foote & J. W. Henion, 1890.

St. Norbert Congregation, Roxbury: One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Anniversary, 1846-1971. Roxbury, WI: n.p., 1971.

Standard Historical Atlas of Dane County, Wisconsin. Madison: Cantwell Printing Co., 1911.

Wyatt, Barbara (ed.). *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin* (3 vols.). Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Division of Historic Preservation, 1986.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 1

Frey School
Dane County, Wisconsin

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundaries of the Frey School enclose a rectangle whose shortest dimension runs east-west parallel to CTH Y. This parcel is described as: the North 148 feet of the West 148 feet of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 21, Town 9N, Range 7E, in the Town of Roxbury, Dane County, Wisconsin.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries described above enclose all the land that has historically been associated with the property.

Frey School
Name of Property

Dane
County and State

Wisconsin

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					date
organization					telephone
Street & number					zip code
city or town	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 Reduction Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section photos Page 1

Frey School
Dane County, Wisconsin

Items a-d are the same for photos 1 - 8.

Photo 1

- a) Frey School
- b) Town of Roxbury, Dane County, WI
- c) Timothy F. Heggland, November, 2009
- d) Wisconsin Historical Society
- e) General View of School, View looking ESE
- f) Photo 1 of 8

Photo 2

- e) South-Facing Side Elevation of School, View looking N
- f) Photo 2 of 8

Photo 3

- e) General View of School, View looking NW
- f) Photo 3 of 8

Photo 4

- e) General View of School, View looking WSW
- f) Photo 4 of 8

Photo 5

- e) Main Facade of School, View looking E
- f) Photo 5 of 8

Photo 6

- e) Entrance to School, View looking E
- f) Photo 6 of 8

Photo 7

- e) Entrance Vestibule Interior, View looking N
- f) Photo 7 of 8

Photo 8

- e) Classroom Interior, View looking E
- f) Photo 8 of 8

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Frey School
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Dane

DATE RECEIVED: 6/03/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/24/11
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/11/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/19/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000461

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 7.14.11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Frey School

Town of Roxbury, Dane Co., WI

1 c58



Frey School

Town of Roxbury, Dane Co., WI

2 of 8



~~Frederick~~
Frey School

Town of Roxbury, Dane Co., WI

3 of 8



Frey School

Town of Rexbury, Dane Co., WI

4 of 8



Frey School

Town of Roxbury, Dane Co., WI

5 c58



Frey School

Town of Exbury, Dane Co., WI

6 of 8



Frey School

Town of Roxbury, Dane Co., WI

7 of 8



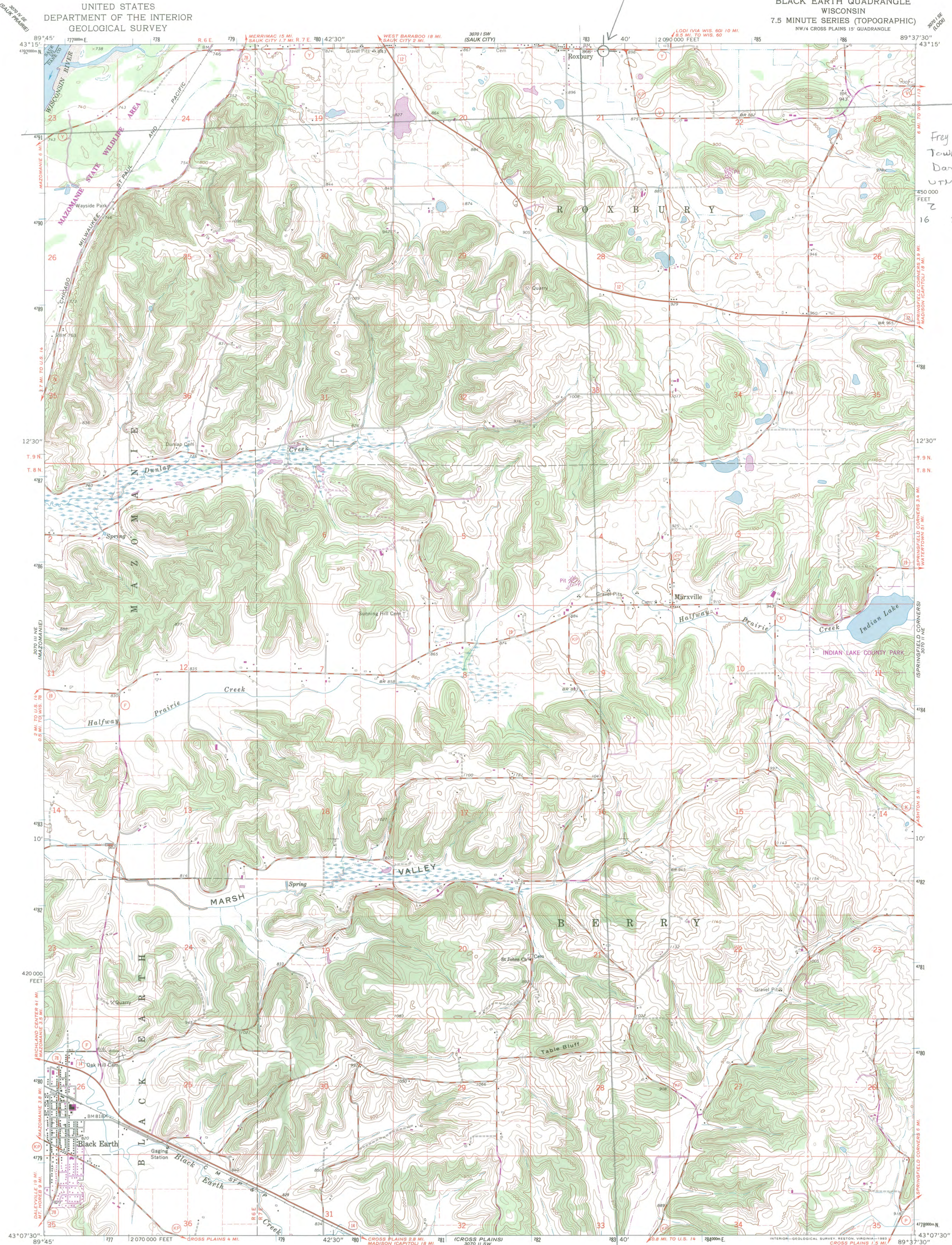
Frey School

Town of Roxbury, Dane Co, WI

8 of 8

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

BLACK EARTH QUADRANGLE
WISCONSIN
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NW/4 CROSS PLAINS 15' QUADRANGLE



Frey School
Town of Roxbury
Dane Co., WI
UTM co-ordinates
283 370 4791750

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
in cooperation with State of Wisconsin agencies
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1960. Field checked 1962
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Wisconsin coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 16, shown in blue
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 4 meters north and
10 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map

UTM GRID AND 1982 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24 000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
U.S. Route ——— State Route ———

BLACK EARTH, WIS.
NW/4 CROSS PLAINS 15' QUADRANGLE
N4307.5—W8937.5/7.5
1962
PHOTOREVISED 1982
DMA 3070 11 NW—SERIES V861

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND WISCONSIN GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY, MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial
photographs taken 1980 and other sources
This information not field checked. Map edited 1982



TAMMY BALDWIN

2ND DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

Website: tammybaldwin.house.gov

COMMITTEE ON
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

COMMITTEE ON
THE JUDICIARY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CONSTITUTION, CIVIL RIGHTS AND
CIVIL LIBERTIES

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House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TEL: (202) 225-2906
FAX: (202) 225-6942

19 EAST DOTY STREET, SUITE 405
MADISON, WI 53703
TEL: (608) 258-9800
FAX: (608) 258-9808

400 EAST GRAND AVENUE, SUITE 402
BELOIT, WI 53511
TEL: (608) 362-2800
FAX: (608) 362-2838

RECEIVED

NOV 19 2010

DIV HIST PRES

November 18, 2010

Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board
c/o Daina Penkiunas
Wisconsin Historical Society
816 State Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Dear Ms. Penkiunas,

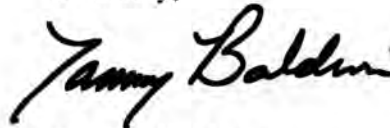
I am pleased to write in strong support of four Wisconsin Historic Places that are nominated to be placed on the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places in order to preserve their history and heritage for many generations and to enhance the tourism that accompanies such historic designations.

The nominees are:

- The Frey School at 8847 County Highway Y in the Town of Roxbury, Dane County
- The Island Woolen Company Office Building at 900 Second Avenue in Baraboo, Sauk County
- The Grove Street Historic District in Evansville, Rock County, and
- The South First Street Residential Historic District in Evansville, Rock County.

If entered into the Wisconsin State and National Registers, the heritage and the tradition of these properties will be celebrated for years to come. I appreciate your full consideration of these nominations and ask that you please keep Helen Forbeck in my Beloit office informed on the progress of the application process. She may be reached by facsimile at (608) 362-2838 or by email at Helen.Forbeck@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress

cc: Ellsworth Brown, Director

