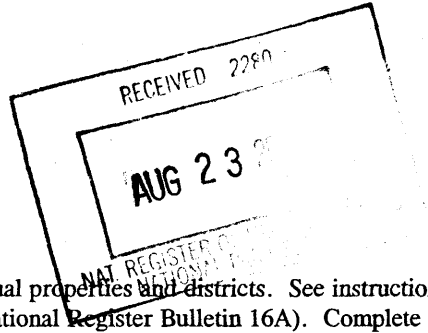


1164

**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 Voigt, Jacob, House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 11550 North Wauwatosa Road N/A not for publication
city or town Mequon N/A vicinity
state Wisconsin code WI county Ozaukee code 89 zip code 53097

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.)

Alicia Z. Gorb August 7, 2000
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

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

Jacob Voigt House
Name of Property

Ozaukee
County and State

Wisconsin

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

9/27/00

for
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

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

private
___ public-local
___ public-State
___ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

building(s)
___ district
___ structure
___ site
___ object

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

contributing	noncontributing
<u>2</u>	<u>2 buildings</u>
	<u> sites</u>
	<u> structures</u>
	<u> objects</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>2 total</u>

Name of related multiple property listing:
(Enter "N/A" if property not part of a multiple property
listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources
is previously listed in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling
AGRICULTURE/animal facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling
AGRICULTURE/Storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Stone
walls Stone
Wood
roof Asphalt
other Brick

Narrative Description

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

Jacob Voigt House
Name of Property

Ozaukee
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)

Architecture

Ethnic Heritage-European

Period of Significance

c. 1855-1891 (1)

Significant Dates

c. 1855

c. 1880 (2)

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.)

Jacob Voight House
Name of Property

Ozaukee
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

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

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

1	<u>1/6</u>	<u>4/1/8/1/5/4</u>	<u>4/7/8/6/5/2/0</u>	3	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone Easting Northing
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		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	Carol Lohry Cartwright, Consultant	date	7/1/99
organization	Prepared for City of Mequon	telephone	414/473-6820
street & number	W7646 Hackett Rd.	zip code	53190
city or town	Whitewater	state	WI

Jacob Voight House

Ozaukee

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

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	Branislava A. Kevich		
organization		date	
street&number	11550 N. Wauwatosa Rd.	telephone	414/238-5328
city or town	Mequon	state	WI
		zip code	53097

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 Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 1 Voigt, Jacob, House
Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

DESCRIPTION

The Jacob Voigt property consists of four buildings; two historic contributing buildings, and two non-contributing buildings. The house sits on a large suburban lot of less than one acre along a busy road (N. Wauwatosa Rd., STH 181) in Mequon, a suburban-rural city lying just north of the large city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Wauwatosa Road is one of Mequon's busiest thoroughfares because it runs through the city, providing relatively quick access to the north side of the city of Milwaukee and to other suburban locations north of Mequon.

The farmhouse sits about 49 feet from the roadway, closer than most of the old farmhouses that lie along Mequon's main roads. What was once open farmland surrounding the Voigt farmstead is now a modern residential subdivision of primarily single-family homes. The topography of the former farmstead's site is flat, and the site, itself, is well landscaped with both mature trees and shrubs and with more recent plantings.

Landscape features of the site include an asphalt driveway that runs between the farmhouse and shed and back to the large barn and garage. In front of the barn and garage, the driveway widens to become a parking and turning area. The lawn in front of the property is punctuated with many mature trees and shrubs, and a low, rubble stone fence runs across the front of the property between the road and the farmhouse. In the large lawns along the sides and rear of the property, numerous trees and shrubs have recently been planted, filling up most of this space.

Farmhouse (c.1855, 1995); contributing (1)

The Jacob Voigt farmhouse is a one and one-half story building constructed in three sections. The main block has a side gable form and a rectangular plan with the gable end facing the road. Extending north from the east gable end is a one-story, shed-roofed ell. The main block of the house is constructed of randomly coursed fieldstone walls sitting on a fieldstone foundation. Two sizes of limestone blocks are alternated to form the corner quoins. First story openings are simple multi-light sashes that are decorated with segmental or flat brick arches. The openings with segmental arches have had their narrow arches filled in to accommodate rectangular windows. The upper story openings in the end walls are smaller sashes that are undecorated. "Rustic" decorative wooden shutters flank all of the window openings.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 2 Voigt, Jacob, House
Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

Projecting from the south elevation of the moderately pitched roof of the main block is a shed-roofed dormer clad with wood siding. Two small windows punctuate the front of the dormer. Under the dormer is the main entrance, a simple wooden door under a shed-roofed overhang that is supported by large knee-brace brackets. The roof with the dormers and the overhang are modern; the roof form and the broad overhangs indicate a replacement from the original.

Attached to the north side of the main block are two ells. Flush with the northwest corner of the main block is a frame one-story ell that features clapboard siding, a low-pitched gable roof, and simple sash openings. Attached to the east side of this historic ell is a modern ell that extends slightly north of the historic ell. This ell is also sided with clapboards and has simple sash openings.

The interior of the main block of the house is reached through the main entrance in the south elevation. A narrow hallway on the interior side of the entrance runs along a narrow wooden staircase that leads to the second floor. To the east of this hallway is the kitchen and to the west, the hall leads into the living room. The kitchen has been modernized with built-in wooden cabinets and modern appliances. To the north of the kitchen is a small bathroom with modern fixtures that sits in the shed-roofed extension of the east gable end of the main block.

The living room, like the kitchen, has plain plastered walls, undecorated moldings around doors and windows, and wide board flooring that is a modern replica of the original flooring of the house. Projecting from the north wall of the living room is a large stone oven that has been heavily painted. It is possibly the original cooking/heating oven for the house, as it resembles pioneer-era ovens typical on German farmsteads. To the north of the living room is the historic frame ell, which is used as a formal dining room today. In back of this room is the new addition, which is used for a bedroom with an attached bathroom and a fireplace.

The second story of the house is reached by a narrow wooden staircase. Since the staircase is historic, it is probable that the upstairs was originally a sleeping loft or bedroom area. During the twentieth century, the dormer was added to provide additional second floor space. This space is at the top of the stairs and is used as a loft. Two small bedrooms are at each end of the second story hall, which is next to the loft. All of the second floor area has plastered walls, plain, modern woodwork and doors, and carpeting. The ceilings are sharply slanted due to the pitch of the roof and low height of the second story.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 3 Voigt, Jacob, House
Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

Bank Barn (c.1880); contributing (2)

The bank barn is a large structure that has its foundation banked into a slight rise along the east elevation. The barn has a rectangular plan and a large, gambrel roof. A large gable projects from the roofline at the center of the west elevation of the barn. At the center of the gable is a sash window and below the gable are two massive sliding doors, which are the main entrances for the barn. These entry doors and the barn walls are sheathed with vertical wood siding and the walls sit on a fieldstone foundation that is covered by rough vertical boards. **The barn is a contributing structure.**

Most of the openings in the barn are doors, either large sliding doors or smaller dutch style wooden doors. A few irregularly placed multi-light windows are also on the east and west elevation walls. Attached to the northeast corner of the barn is a tall and narrow, one-story, shed-roofed ell. A lower and wider one-story, shed-roofed ell is also attached to the south elevation of the barn.

Garage (c. 1995), Shed (c.1900); both non-contributing (3)

Sitting to the southwest of the barn is a modern multi-car garage. The garage features a gable roof, clapboard siding, large garage doors, and a concrete foundation. Across the driveway from the farmhouse is a shed that is a one-story building with a steeply-pitched gable roof and shiplap siding. A wooden, dutch door in the north wall provides the main entrance to the shed. Both of these buildings are non-contributing elements of this nomination.

Notes to Section 7:

- (1) Information from current owner, field observation.
- (2) Field observation. According to an historic photograph, there was a barn in this location as early as the 1870s. However, the size and features of this barn suggest a late nineteenth century date of construction. It is possible that the old barn was enlarged or was demolished in favor of this structure. A complete structural analysis was beyond the scope of this nomination. Such an analysis by an expert could determine if an older barn is still extant within this structure.
- (3) Field observation.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 1 Voigt, Jacob, House
Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

The Jacob Voigt Farmstead is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C. It is being nominated under criterion A, for history, because it is locally significant for Ethnic Heritage-European. The Voigt Farmstead is related to the important nineteenth century ethnic German settlement that dominated Mequon for much of its history; it represents this history through the use of a traditional building type. Jacob Voigt and his family lived on this farm into the early twentieth century and the family represents the wide variety of ethnic Germans who gave Mequon its German heritage for decades.

The Jacob Voigt Farmstead is also being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C because the farmhouse is a fine example of stone construction in Mequon. The farmhouse's fieldstone construction is typical of stone construction in Mequon and it has retained a good level of integrity. The bank barn is also a good and well-maintained example of a large Wisconsin barn. Due to the decline of working farms in Mequon, many barns have been lost due to deterioration and demolition. This barn is a good example of a vanishing local resource.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Land in southern Wisconsin was opened up for formal settlement shortly after the Blackhawk War of 1832, when white militias defeated the last resistance effort of Native Americans to signing over their land rights. White settlement began in Mequon in 1835 when the federal government allowed the sale of some of the land in southern Wisconsin, including the area in Mequon east of Range Line Road. Land west of Range Line Road was officially sold in 1839, but some of this land was settled as early as 1836 by "squatters" who did not hold official title until the sale in 1839. (3)

Like most of southern Wisconsin, the first settlers in Mequon were Yankees who came to the area to exploit the water power of the Milwaukee River and its tributaries and to farm the fertile soil of the town. Moving settlers through the area was the old Indian Trail which ran north to Green Bay. This old trail ran north from Milwaukee along the Milwaukee River to Saukville, then traveled along the western shore of Lake Michigan to Manitowoc, before moving inland again to Fort Howard at Green Bay. In 1835, the federal government surveyed the trail for use as a military road between Fort Dearborn in Chicago and Fort Howard. The military road followed the trail between Milwaukee and Saukville, but north to Green Bay, the road ran through Sheboygan Falls and

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 2 Voigt, Jacob, House
Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

Manitowoc Rapids before returning to the old trail to Green Bay. The military importance of this road ceased when the government abandoned the forts at Chicago and Green Bay, but the road became an important transportation route for early settlement in eastern Wisconsin and in Mequon. (4)

During the early 1840s, some of the most intensive settlement occurred in Mequon. Joining the Yankee families were many groups of German immigrants and a number of Irish immigrants, as well. The German immigrants, though, made the most significant architectural and cultural contribution to Mequon. The first Germans in Mequon were William Opitz, his father and mother, and his sister and brother-in-law who immigrated in 1839. About a half dozen families from Saxony, led by Andreas Geidel, also came in 1839, creating the Altenburg Settlement along what is now Wauwatosa Road. A larger German immigrant group that came in 1839 became one of the most significant German groups in Mequon.

This group consisted of about 40 families from Pomerania who settled in western Mequon and established a community known as "Freystatt" (Freistadt). Known as "Old Lutherans," these Germans left Germany rather than join the state church. By 1850, many more German families settled in Mequon, filling in all the available land of the town (5)

In the center of the old town of Mequon, a village grew up during the 1840s. Named Thiensville for John Thien, who built the first grist mill, the community grew into a thriving village during the nineteenth century. Freistadt was another village that grew up in Mequon during the nineteenth century. Although much smaller than Thiensville, Freistadt was located in the heart of the German immigrant community and by 1880, it had two churches, a general store, a post office, two shops, and about 24 houses. Other concentrations of houses appeared at the crossroads of the town's major arteries, but none developed into villages like Freistadt or Thiensville. (6)

The old town of Mequon was originally a part of the large Old Washington County, established in 1836. Officially the Town of Mequon was established in 1846, and in 1853, Washington County was split into two counties and Mequon became a town in the new Ozaukee County. For most of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Mequon was a rural town surrounding the village of Thiensville. Many of the town's farms were large, and some families held several hundred acres of land at a time. The rural character of the town can be seen in its population during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

In 1850, Mequon's population was 2,100 and it would stay between 2,500 and 3,000 through the Great Depression of the 1930s. (7)

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Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 3 Voigt, Jacob, House
Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

During the early twentieth century, the beginnings of Mequon's suburbanization could be seen along the major arteries of the town. During the 1910s and 1920s, bungalows were built on large suburban-style lots that were divided off of farm land along Cedarburg, Green Bay, Freistadt, Wauwatosa, and Port Washington roads. Also during this time, especially along the Milwaukee River and the Lake Michigan shoreline, some wealthy families built suburban estates featuring fine period revival style homes. (8)

Despite these developments, the rural character of the town so prevailed that residents never built a town hall; rather, town officials conducted meetings in private homes. But, by the late 1930s, the necessity for a modern government building was met with the construction of the Mequon Town Hall in 1939. The new town hall housed offices and the fire department. A swimming pool and bath house were also erected next to the town hall building. (9)

After World War II, modern subdivisions began to appear in Mequon, which was just a short automobile trip from Milwaukee. During the 1950s and 1960s, Mequon began losing its rural identity in favor of one as a Milwaukee suburb.

In fact, between 1940 and 1960, the population of the town more than doubled to 8,543 residents, and most of the growth was due to the new subdivisions and modern houses being built in the town. But even with this growth, the town of Mequon still largely resembled a rural community. (10)

During the 1950s, Mequon's residents became concerned about town property being annexed to either Thiensville in the town, itself, or to cities to the north and south of the town. The town citizens' solution was to incorporate, which was completed on May 24, 1957, making Mequon an official city. In 1970, the now city of Mequon's population had grown to over 12,000 residents, and fueled by continued suburban development, the population in Mequon in 1980 was slightly over 16,000. (11)

During the 1980s and 1990s, favorable economic conditions resulted in skyrocketing suburban development in the city of Mequon, and today, almost the entire eastern half of the once-rural town of Mequon is filled with suburban residential development. The city is now considered a suburb of Milwaukee, not a farm community, although many areas in the western half of the city are still filled with fields and farmsteads. But, most of the farmsteads are occupied by non-farmers and it may be only a matter of time before the remaining fields are filled with houses as suburban development moves west. Because of this type of suburban pressure, it has been and continues to be, a challenge to maintain the historic rural features of the city's history.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 4 Voigt, Jacob, House
Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

ARCHITECTURE

The Jacob Voigt property is architecturally significant at the local level for the stone construction of the farmhouse and the construction type of the barn. The farmhouse is a fine example of fieldstone construction, of which there are several examples in Mequon. According to the 1990-completed intensive survey of Mequon, the Jacob Voigt farmhouse is one of a collection of outstanding fieldstone buildings in that city.

Stone construction is found throughout Wisconsin and the state's stone buildings express popular architectural styles, vernacular forms, and ethnic variations. Fieldstone construction was particularly popular in Wisconsin between 1850 and 1880, but, by the twentieth century, this type of stone construction was generally limited to agricultural outbuildings and foundations. But, during its heyday, fieldstone was used to build houses, barns, silos, churches, and commercial buildings. Early fieldstone construction utilized large boulders, filling in the spaces with smaller stones and liberal amounts of mortar. Later, boulders were split and mortar joints became thinner. Quarried rock or bricks were used to make corner quoins and the trim around doors and windows. (12)

Stone was an important building material in Wisconsin because of the natural materials found in the state and because its earliest immigrants were familiar with stone construction either from the eastern United States or Europe. In Wisconsin, fieldstones from pre-historic glacial activity were abundant and easily harvested. Also common in southern Wisconsin were sandstone and limestone deposits that were easily quarried. Many of the Yankee, English, and German settlers in Wisconsin in the mid-nineteenth century were familiar with stone construction, as it had been common in their home areas. The result was many fine examples of this type of construction in the state. (13)

According to the 1990-completed intensive survey of the city of Mequon, there is an outstanding collection of fieldstone buildings in the city, including houses, barns, and outbuildings. The fieldstone houses identified in the survey are largely vernacular side and front gable forms with some suggestions of the Greek Revival architectural style. These fieldstone houses are almost all constructed in the same manner, that is; walls of randomly coursed fieldstones with corner quoins of quarried stone or of brick. (14)

The Jacob Voigt farmhouse is one of the good examples of fieldstone construction mentioned in the 1990 survey. Its fieldstone walls are well-

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 5 Voigt, Jacob, House
Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

constructed and have a high level of integrity. The interesting size variation of the limestone corner quoins and the red brick arches and lintels give a decorative accent to the building, as well. Although there are some alterations to the building, such as the dormer and the modern ell, these alterations do not overly detract from the historic features of the main block. And, since the original plan and historic fieldstone walls of the building are extant, its architectural significance is intact.

The bank barn on this farmstead is a good example of this type of construction. According to Wisconsin's *Cultural Resource Management Plan*, the state's barns fall into a number of categories, including animal barns, bank barns, basement barns, hay barns, and dairy barns. All of these barns share details such as a tall foundation and large storage area above it. Gable and gambrel roofs are common to all of these barns. The bank barn is generally a medium to large sized building with a raised foundation that is banked into a hill or rise. The foundation is used for animals and a large upper story is used for feed and implement storage. (15)

According to the 1990-completed intensive survey report, Mequon's barns cross over many categories. In particular, bank and basement barns are almost indistinguishable from each other, since almost all of Mequon's barns are banked, either by building into a rise, or by the construction of an artificial bank to an upper level entrance. The survey report also indicates that due to the rapid residential development in Mequon at the time (1990), development that has not ceased, barns are threatened resources in the city and an important factor in the preservation of the community's rural heritage. (16)

The Voigt bank barn has both typical and unusual details. It is typical because it has a gambrel roof and vertical board siding, details that are common in Mequon's barns. It is unusual, though, in that its foundation is not raised and has no openings. Most large barns with gambrel roofs date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and most feature raised foundations that could accommodate dairying or stock raising, common agricultural pursuits during that era in Wisconsin. It is unusual for a barn of this size and type to have such a shallow foundation.

Overall, the high level of integrity is what makes this barn a good historic resource. Almost all of its historic details are extant and in good condition. The high level of construction and maintenance of this barn makes it stand out in the city and makes it a good candidate for future preservation. The

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 6 Voigt, Jacob, House
Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

barn adds considerable architectural significance to this nomination.

ETHNIC HERITAGE - EUROPEAN

The Jacob Voigt House is locally historically significant because it is a good example of a traditional German house in a community where German heritage was an important component of its history. In fact, by the turn-of-the-twentieth-century, Germans were the largest foreign-born group in Ozaukee County, and counting the American-born descendants of German-born immigrants, Germans were, by far, the largest ethnic group in nineteenth and early twentieth century Ozaukee County. Jacob Voigt and his family were part of the wide variety of Germans who contributed to the important German ethnic heritage of Mequon.

Germans were the largest non-English-speaking immigrant group that came to America from Western Europe. Over five million Germans came to the United States between 1820 and 1910. Three waves of Germans flooded to America: from 1845-1855, they came mostly from southwestern German states; from 1865-1884, they came mostly northwestern German states; and from 1880-1893, they came mostly from northeastern Germany. In Wisconsin, Germans came in significant numbers during the 1840s, the 1850s, and the 1880s. German-born population in the state peaked in 1900, but subsequent generations of ethnic Germans continued the German influence in the state as they retained their culture and traditions well into the twentieth century. (17)

Germans came for economic reasons, for religious reasons, and for political reasons. Since German settlers tended to live within German communities in similar economic, political, or religious groups, many close-knit communities of Germans developed, sometimes within larger German settlement areas. Germans established their own fraternal organizations, their own churches, their own clubs and entertainment groups, and their own press. They even tended to support the same political ideas among themselves, being strong supporters of the Democratic party in the nineteenth century, and in Milwaukee, establishing a strong socialist movement in the twentieth century (18)

As stated in the historical background section, Germans came to Mequon as early as 1839 and the most significant group of German settlers, the Old Lutherans who made up the Freistadt settlement, came between 1839 and 1846. Many other Germans came to Mequon during the nineteenth century, among them Jacob Voigt and his family.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 7 Voigt, Jacob, House
Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

Jacob Voigt was a tailor who, with his wife Johanna, acquired several acres of land in this location prior to 1860. The 1860 federal census indicates that Voigt owned 10 acres in that year, a small farm that produced wheat, oats, and hay. His two cows were responsible for 150 pounds of butter produced on the farm. By 1880, Johanna Voigt had died, Jacob had remarried, and the couple had two children. The Voigts had acquired an additional five acres which produced wheat, oats, corn, and hay. Besides three cows, two cattle, and three pigs, the Voigts were raising 40 chickens that produced 3,000 dozen eggs in 1880, suggesting that eggs were a cash crop for the family. (19)

Jacob occupied this farmstead until he died in 1891, and Jacob's daughter and son-in-law owned the farm for much of the period between 1900 and the late 1920s. At that time, the land was divided and sold and the farmstead, itself, became a private residence on a small portion of the original acreage. (20)

Jacob Voigt and his family were one of many German residents of Mequon in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Immigrating from Germany in the mid-nineteenth century, Voigt operated a small farm for many decades. This farm continued on in the family for several additional decades, before being sold away from the family. Most of the German immigrants who came to Mequon operated larger farms. But, even though Voigt only acquired 15 acres, the census information indicates that he made the most of these acres, producing an adequate living for himself and his family. As such, he represents one element of the German immigrant experience in Mequon.

Because the Voigt farmhouse has a good level of integrity, it still exists today as a good example of the mid-nineteenth century home constructed in the traditional German form. The house is typical of residences built in German communities throughout Wisconsin where masonry construction was prevalent. Distinguishing features include the side gabled roof, the irregular fenestration pattern, and an off-centered door. This modest farmhouse, that has not been significantly altered or replaced, is suggestive of the type of farm the Voigts operated. The size of the barn that dates from the late nineteenth century is suggestive of the success that Voigt made of his small holdings. An examination of these historic resources can add to the interpretation of German farm life in Mequon during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and can add to the understanding of the city's German ethnic heritage.

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Section 8 Page 8 Voigt, Jacob, House
Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

Notes to Section 8:

(1) The period of significance includes the years during which this building was important as a German ethnic farmstead in Mequon.

(2) Dates of construction are based on information from the owner, historical information, and knowledge of stone construction in Mequon.

(3) Don Silldorff, "Mequon's Early One Room Schools," April 1996, unpublished manuscript on file in the Planning Department, City of Mequon, Mequon City Hall, Mequon, Wisconsin, p. 2; Carol Lohry Cartwright, Donald Silldorff, and Sharon C. Robinson, *City of Mequon Intensive Survey Report*, Mequon: City of Mequon, 1990, p. 8.

(4) *Ibid.*

(5) Silldorff, p. 3.

(6) Cartwright, et. al., pp. 9-10.

(7) *Ibid.*, pp. 10-11.

(8) *Ibid.*, p. 12.

(9) *Ibid.*, pp. 11-12.

(10) *Ibid.*, p. 12.

(11) *Ibid.*, pp. 12-13.

(12) Barbara Wyatt, ed. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, Vol. II*, Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, Architecture, p. 4-6.

(13) *Ibid.*

(14) Cartwright, et. al., p. 46.

(15) Wyatt, Architecture, p. 5-2--5-4.

(16) Cartwright, et. al., pp. 50-51.

(17) Wyatt, Vol. I, Settlement, pp. 2-1--2-10.

(18) *Ibid.*

(19) Determination of Eligibility for the Jacob Voigt Farmstead, on file in the Division of Historic Preservation, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, 1994.

(20) *Ibid.*

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Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

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Cartwright, Carol Lohry, Donald Silldorff, and Sharon C. Robinson. *City of Mequon Intensive Survey Report*. Mequon: City of Mequon, 1990.

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Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The verbal boundary description of this property is as follows: Beginning at the intersection of the south lot line of 11550 N. Wauwatosa Rd. and the right-of-way of N. Wauwatosa Rd., then north 179 feet along the right-of-way 179 feet to the north lot line of 11550 N. Wauwatosa Rd., then east 220 feet along this line to the east lot line of 11550 N. Wauwatosa Rd., then south 179 feet along this line to the south lot line of 11550 N. Wauwatosa Rd., then west 220 feet along this line to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This boundary includes the buildings of the Voigt house on their traditional historic site.

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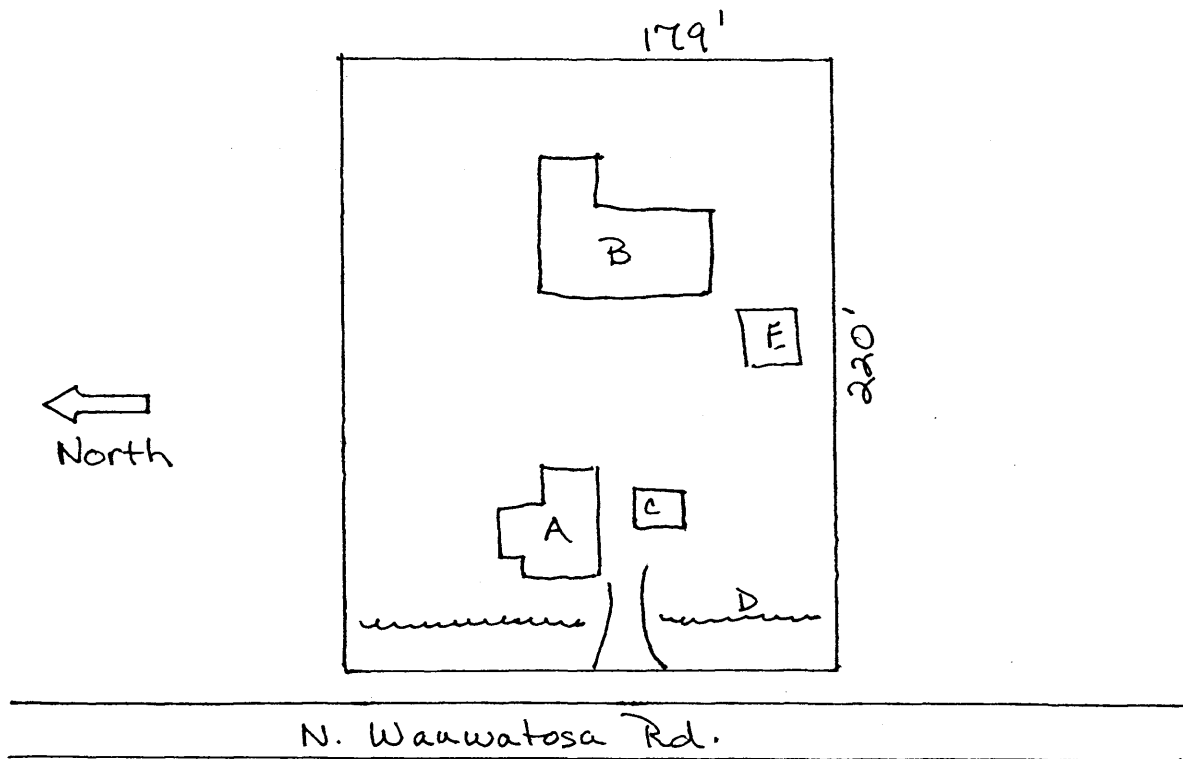
Section Photos Page 1 Voigt, Jacob, Farmstead
Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

VOIGT, JACOB FARMSTEAD, Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin.
Photos by Carol Cartwright, May, 1999. Negatives on file in the Historic
Preservation Division of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison,
Wisconsin. Views:

- 1 of 6: Site view, from the west.
- 2 of 6: House, west and south elevations, from the southwest.
- 3 of 6: House, south and east elevations, from the northwest.
- 4 of 6: House, interior, kitchen.
- 5 of 6: House, interior, second floor hallway.
- 6 of 6: Barn, west elevation, from the west.

JACOB VOIGT HOUSE

11550 N. WAUWATOSA RD.
MEQUON, OZAUKEE COUNTY, WISCONSIN



- A: Farmhouse, contributing
- B: Bank Barn, contributing
- C: shed, non-contributing
- D: stone fence, non-contributing
- E: garage, non-contributing

Map Not to Scale