

DATA SHEET

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wisconsin
COUNTY: Fond du Lac
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE SEP 5 1976

1. NAME

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Ceresco Site

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
North, Church, Union and Warren Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Ripon

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Sixth

STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 55 COUNTY: Fond du Lac CODE: 039

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Ripon and A. Benson

STREET AND NUMBER:
625 Harvey Street (Benson)

CITY OR TOWN:
Ripon

STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 55

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
City Assessor's and City Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
City Hall

CITY OR TOWN:
Ripon

STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 55

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings

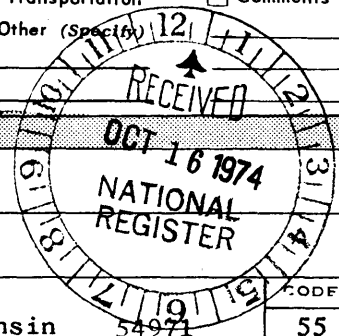
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969-1974 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Madison

STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 55



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Wisconsin

COUNTY: Fond du Lac

ENTRY NUMBER: 1976

DATE: SEP 5 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

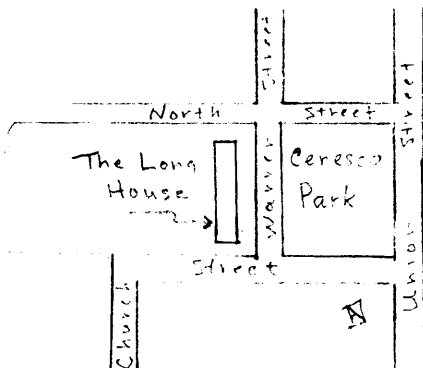
CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ceresco Site (see sketch below) consists of a small, wooded city park, Ceresco Park, bounded by North Street on the North, Union Street on the east, Church Street on the south, and Warren Street on the west; and a private property fronting on the entire western side of Warren Street and extending westward between North and Church streets to the rear lot line.

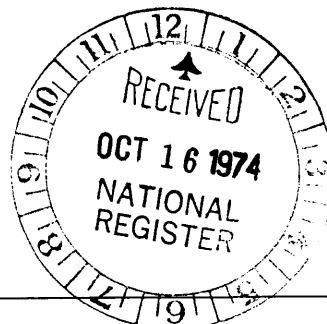
On the private property is a long, narrow building known as The Long House, which was once the central house of a communal settlement and was divided into spacious apartments, providing living quarters for twenty families. The site is only a small remnant of the original 1,000-acre Ceresco commune on which stood, besides the Long House, a mill, a schoolhouse, and numerous other buildings. The Long House is the only remaining structure. Part of the original site now makes up a 21-block plat on Ripon's west side.

The Long House has been altered in numerous remodelings to the point that except for being long, it bears little resemblance to its original appearance. Of wood construction and having a monitor roof, the original was a two-story building which contained two rows of apartments separated by a corridor on each of its two floors. It is now a simple, long, rectangular, two-story apartment block with a gable roof and cornice returns at the north end, and with a fan window in the pediment. At the south end an additional unit of apparently recent vintage does not harmonize with the rest of the building. The main facade on Warren Street is quite simple. Small wooden porches cover the entrances to the individual apartments and upstairs and downstairs windows are set flush against the walls. The building is now covered with aluminum siding except for the added unit on the south.



CERESCO SITE
(not drawn in scale)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1844-1851

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

During the early 1840's there was widespread interest across the United States in Francois Marie Charles Fourier's theory of association. In 1844 a group of Fourierites organized in Southport (Kenosha), Wisconsin, moved to what is now the Ripon area, and established a commune. The group, known as a Phalanx, settled on a plot of about 1,000 acres. They named the community Ceresco (the company of Ceres, the Roman goddess of agriculture). The Ceresco community farmed its land in common, but members held stock, accrued profit, and were paid according to their work. Evenings were given over to lectures, discussions, singing, and social activities. The group eventually amounted to 180 people, most of whom lived communally in The Long House, a long, two-story structure which housed about twenty families.

Members of the Wisconsin Phalanx practiced no organized religion, but they observed the Sabbath and held religious classes and Sabbath schools led by representatives of several denominations. They lived according to a stringent moral code as their by-laws allowed no drinking, swearing, gambling, licentiousness, indolence, quarrelling, or abuse of property. But problems arose as early as 1846. Originally meals were taken in common, but as time passed, the settlers wished to have separate stoves for cooking and did not want to be cramped into the small communal quarters when so much land was readily available. Dissolution was begun in 1849 and in 1851 the Ceresco community disbanded and the plat was sold. The Phalanx had been a success economically but a failure socially. Much of the land was sold at a profit for town lots in the new city of Ripon and many Ceresco settlers stayed on to become Ripon citizens. Others moved on to new frontiers.

Although much altered, The Long House which stands on the Ceresco site today is the only tangible symbol of the Wisconsin Phalanx of Fourierites.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Anonymous, A History of Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin. Chicago Historical Company, 1880, 673.

Nesbit, Robert C., Wisconsin: A History. University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, 1973, 231-232; 239.

Pedrick, Samuel M., A History of Ripon, Wisconsin. Ripon: Ripon Historical Society, 1964, 30-56.

Smith, Alice E., The History of Wisconsin, Volume I (From Exploration to Statehood), State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, 1973, 643-644.

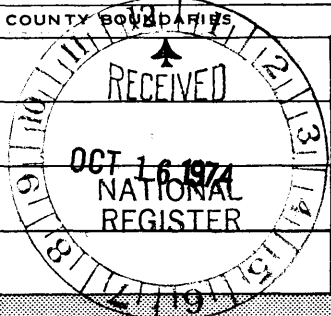
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		*****	*****	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "	°	'	"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "	°	'	"	
SE	° ' "	° ' "	°	'	"	
SW	° ' "	° ' "	°	'	"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2.5

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Charlene Stant Engel, Preservation Planning Assistant

ORGANIZATION: **State Historical Society of Wisconsin** DATE: **23 July 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Madison** STATE: **Wisconsin 53706** CODE: **55**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

National State Local

Name James Morton Smith
James Morton Smith

Title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Date 10 October 1974

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

AK Anderson
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 9/5/75

ATTEST:

W. M. Smith
Keeper of The National Register

Date SEP 4 1975

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	SEP 5 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET See
ITEM NUMBER below PAGE 1

CERESCO SITE¹

7. (See appended sketch.) Although statements of the amounts of acreage of the original Ceresco holdings vary, the appended sketch indicates the approximate extent of the lands held in 1849 at about the peak of activity of the settlement. All of these lands were not necessarily cleared and under cultivation, and the amount of research time that would be required to determine the extent of clearing and cultivation, if indeed it could be determined, cannot be justified.

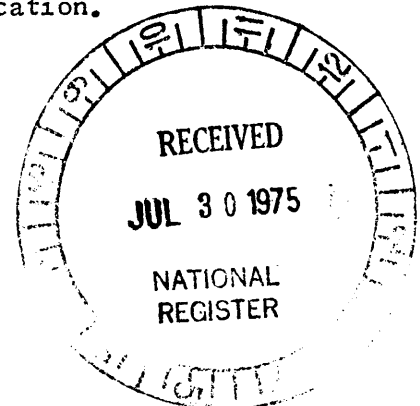
is shown

The original Ceresco plat of c. 1849/in context of the current corporate boundaries of the City of Ripon, which are outlined in green. The remaining relatively undeveloped areas within the city limits appear in red to emphasize that, except for what small parts of the original Ceresco plat remain within the red-outlined areas, the city is developed residentially and commercially to the extent that none of the original Ceresco village site remains undisturbed except for the Long House and the park. The remainder of the original Ceresco plat contains no known or probable archeological potential, either aboriginal or historical. Sites of all original Ceresco buildings except the Long House are now occupied by residences and paved streets. In other words, the sketch shows that nearly all of the original Ceresco plat has been incorporated into the City of Ripon and has been developed accordingly over a period of well over 120 years.

The Ceresco Park of today is part of a somewhat larger common in the original Ceresco village and has remained an unoccupied site ever since. As such, it possesses considerable integrity as part of the Ceresco village site. It is a small, simple park with grass and a good cover of shade trees.

8. The significance of the small park in front of the Long House is that it is a part of the village common of the original, small Ceresco settlement. It therefore possesses integrity of use as well as of location.

1. City of Ripon, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin



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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Wisconsin	
COUNTY Fond du Lac	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	SEP 5 1975

(Number all entries)

CERESCO SITE

11. Donald N. Anderson, Asst. Director, Historic Sites & Markers Division

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

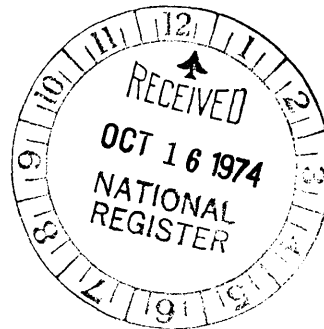
9 October 1974

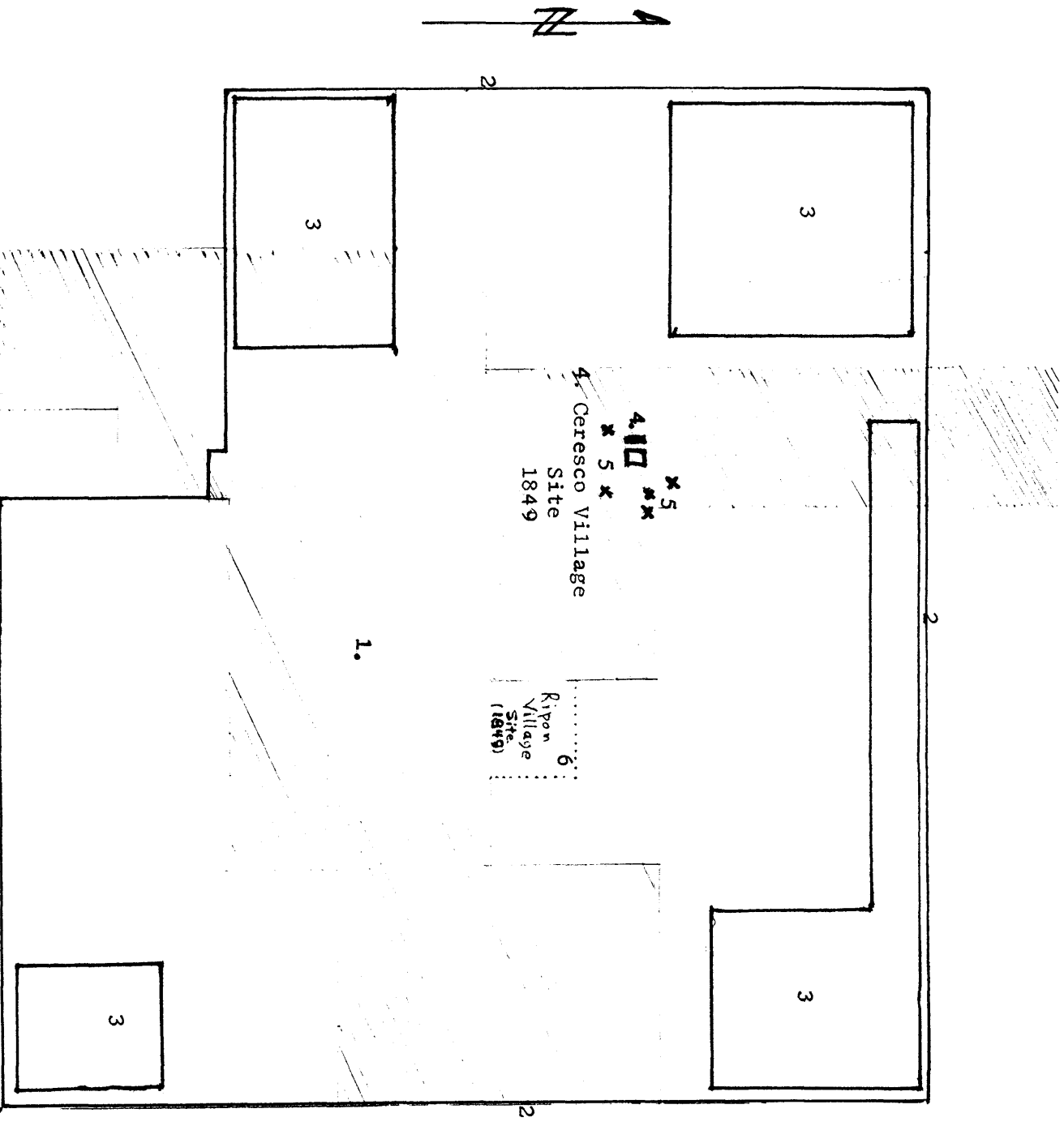
816 State Street

Madison

Wisconsin 53706

Code: 55





1. Other Ceresco buildings - approximate locations - no longer in existence.
2. Current City Limits of Ripon
3. Current partially undeveloped parcels within city.
4. Long House and Ceresco Park - approximate in situ locations - and village site
5. Other Ceresco buildings - approximate locations - no longer in existence.
6. Ripon Village Site - 1849

Legend:

Relative Plats of Ceresco Phalanx Lands and Current City of Ripon

(Not drawn to scale)