

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 Plum Grove Primitive Methodist Church

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number CTH BB, .7 mile S of USH N/A not for publication
18/151

city or town Town of Ridgeway N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Iowa code 049 zip code 53533

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] _____ Date 3/10/95
Signature of certifying official/Title
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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Plum Grove P. M. Church
Name of Property

Iowa County, Wisconsin
County and State

Entered in the
National Register

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:)

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Edson H. Beall 4-27-95

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing		Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
			Total

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is 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)

RELIGION: Religious facility

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls WOOD: Weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD

Narrative Description

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

Plum Grove P.M. Church
Name of Property

Iowa County, Wisconsin
County and State

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.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from
instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance

1882

Significant Dates

1882

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is
marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Young and Company, carpenters
Yates, mason

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- 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 achieved
significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Plum Grove P. M. Church
Name of Property

Iowa County, Wisconsin
County and State

Previous Documentation on File (NPS):
 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:
WI Inventory of Historic Places

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

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

1	<u>1/6</u>	<u>7/4/3/0/7/0</u>	<u>4/7/6/1/3/3/0</u>	3	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing				
2	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	4	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>
	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 Elizabeth L. Miller, Consultant (608-233-5942) for
organization Folklore Village Farm date 5-01-1994
street & number Route 3 telephone 608-924-4000
city or town Dodgeville state WI zip code 53533

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)

Plum Grove P. M. Church
Name of Property

Iowa County, Wisconsin
County and State

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Folklore Village Farm, Incorporated
street & number Route 3 telephone 608-924-4000
city or town Dodgeville state WI zip code 53533

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.).

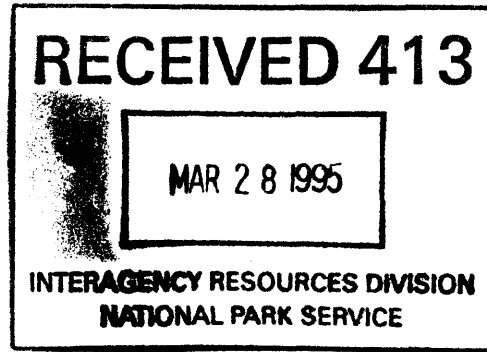
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form 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.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 3/87)

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**National Register of Historic Places
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Section 7 Page 1



Plum Grove Primitive Methodist Church
Ridgeway Township, Iowa County, WI

INTRODUCTION

The Plum Grove Primitive Methodist Church (Church) is located on the east side of CTH BB, .7 mile south of USH 18/151. The Church is a one-story front-gabled frame building with a raised stone foundation on a poured concrete basement. Built in 1882, it shows the influence of the Gothic Revival style. The exterior walls are weatherboard, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. On the interior, there is a small vestibule which opens into one large room, or auditorium. The Church retains excellent integrity, except that it was moved from its original site in July, 1993.

DESCRIPTION

The Plum Grove Primitive Methodist Church was built in 1882.¹ It measures approximately 24 feet (north-south) by 35 feet, and is rectangular in plan. It is a one-story front-gabled frame building finished with weatherboard. The roof is clad with asphalt shingles. The Church is set on a raised foundation of random rock-faced limestone ashlar. When the building was moved to its current site in July, 1993, the foundation was reconstructed on top of a poured concrete basement, to prevent further rotting of the frame substructure. This alteration will not be visible once the restoration of the Church is complete, and therefore does not compromise the integrity of the building.

The main (west) facade is three-bays-wide, symmetrical about the central entrance. At the original site, a short flight of wide stone steps led up to the entrance. This will be rebuilt. The entrance is composed of a pair of flat-arched Italianate two-panel wood doors, the upper panels of which are round-arched. The original hardware has been retained, and consists of a long metal plate with raised circular designs and a thumb latch, with a separate lock for a skeleton key. The shape of the metal lock echoes the skeleton keyhole. Above the doors is a pointed-arch fixed transom with four lights. The doors and transom are unified in a pointed-arched surround with compound moldings, capped by a

¹Minutes, Trustees of Plum Grove Primitive Methodist Church, 1882.

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Section 7 Page 2

Plum Grove Primitive Methodist Church
Ridgeway Township, Iowa County, WI

drip molding. On either side of the door is a tall pointed-arch window with wood double-hung sash in a four-over-four configuration. The compound moldings, finished with a drip molding, match the surround of the main entrance. In the gable end, centered above the door, is a pointed-arched wood date plate, painted "1882." Originally, this may have been a fixed window, with the date as well as the name, "Primitive Methodist Church," painted on it.² The main facade features panelled corner boards, each with a raised lancet design. The gable end also features a plain, wide frieze board with a simple cornice.

The north and south side elevations are identical. Each is three-bays-wide and has plain corner boards. There is a tall, pointed-arched window in each bay, matching those on the main facade. The rear (east) elevation has no openings, but does have plain corner boards and a frieze board with a simple cornice.

The plan of this one-room church consists of a small interior entrance vestibule, two aisles with three rows of pews, and a platform across the east end of the room. The entrance doors open into a small enclosed vestibule. The vestibule is 4-1/2-feet-wide and 5 feet deep. The ceiling of the vestibule rises to the top of the pointed-arched transom. On each of the north and south walls of the vestibule, there is a four-paneled wood door with a round porcelain knob. Each door opens onto an aisle. Originally, there were six free-standing pews down the middle of the room and nine on each side. Many of them have survived. All the pews have scroll ends. The side pews are attached to the wall. In the middle of the south wall, several pews were removed around the turn-of-the-century to accommodate a large stove for heating. The Church was originally heated with two small stoves, one on either side of the pulpit. On the rear wall there are two pilaster-like projections which encased the chimneys through which these stoves were vented. The platform at the west end is 6-1/2-feet-deep. The pulpit stood in the center, surrounded by a curving rail. Both have been lost.

The interior, including the vestibule, is finished with wide pine board flooring, tongue-in-groove wood wainscot capped with a chair

²Ibid., October 23, 1882.

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Plum Grove Primitive Methodist Church
Ridgeway Township, Iowa County, WI

rail, and papered lath-and-plaster walls and ceilings. A drop ceiling was installed in the Church in the late 1940s;³ this will be removed. There are three layers of wall paper beneath the drop ceiling. The original layer has a golden beige field with stylized flowers. The two later layers carry similar motifs, but in different shades of brown and beige. The second layer of wall paper may date from 1934, when the Church was redecorated by the Dodge Corners Community Club for use as a community building.⁴ The third layer was put on when the drop ceiling was installed. The light fixtures consist of a series of porcelain sockets down the middle of the auditorium. The window frames have compound moldings; the chair rail forms the sills. Originally, some of the woodwork in the church was hand-grained. Graining in a faux-oak finish can still be seen on the window casings. It appears as if the window moldings and the chair rail, at least, were also grained. Currently, there are louvered blinds attached to the insides of the windows. These are probably not original, as the church trustees specified cloth blinds.⁵

Above the drop ceiling, the original full-height ceiling is intact. Here, there are two layers of paper. The first consists of a pattern of circles, overlaid with a wide floral border, and finished with a narrower floral border where the wall and ceiling meet. The second layer is a silvery paper with an overall floral pattern installed at the same time as the second layer of wallpaper. The ceiling also features two plaster medallions, each with three concentric circles, from which hung the original gas-lit chandeliers.⁶

³Stan Sullivan, long-time member of the Dodge Corners Community Club, interview April 14, 1994.

⁴Dodgeville Chronicle, (hereafter, DC), October 11, 1934, p. 1.

⁵Minutes, Trustees of Plum Grove Primitive Methodist Church, Meeting of April 5, 1883.

⁶Stan Sullivan.

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Plum Grove Primitive Methodist Church
Ridgeway Township, Iowa County, WI

The Plum Grove Church has not been used as such for nearly 20 years. The church is currently part of Folklore Village Farm and is set on a hill-top overlooking CTH BB. A drive will be built to sweep in north and west of the building. There are farm fields north, east and west of the Church. About 75 yards south of the Church are four small frame buildings, also part of Folklore Village Farm. The Church was originally located on the west side of USH 23/151 at CTH D in Mineral Point Township, about half-way between the cities of Mineral Point and Dodgeville. That site was quite similar, on a hill-top overlooking a road, and set among farm fields. The relocation of the Plum Grove Church does not compromise the architectural integrity of the building.

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Section 8 Page 1

Plum Grove Primitive Methodist Church
Ridgeway Township, Iowa County, WI

SUMMARY

The Plum Grove Primitive Methodist Church, built in 1882, is architecturally significant at the local level under Criterion C. It is a fine local example of a Gothic Revival-influenced rural church and retains a high degree of integrity, despite having been relocated to a new site in July, 1993.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The discovery of abundant surface deposits brought thousands of miners and prospectors to what would become the Wisconsin Lead Region (Grant, Lafayette and Iowa counties) following the Winnebago uprising of 1827.⁷ Ezra Lamb and a partner were the first to dig for lead in Iowa County, arriving in present-day Dodgeville in the summer or fall of 1827. Henry Dodge (1782-1867), who had established himself as a leader during the Winnebago uprising, settled in the area in October, 1827.⁸ By 1829, although Dodge had moved three or four miles south, Dodgeville had been named in his honor.⁹ Dodge would go on to a distinguished political career, serving as the first territorial governor of Wisconsin (1836) and as one of the first U.S. Senators representing the new state of Wisconsin (1848).

⁷Barbara Wyatt, editor. Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin. (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), III:3-1.

⁸Mary Taylor, An Intensive Architectural and Historical Survey of Lancaster, Potosi/Tennyson, Dodgeville, Belmont and Gratiot, (Platteville, Wisconsin: Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, 1985), p. 121; and George and Robert Crawford, editors, Memoirs of Iowa County, Wisconsin: From the Earliest Historical Times Down to the Present, (N.p.: Northwestern Historical Association, 1913), I:177-78.

⁹R.W. Chandler, "1829 Map of the United States Lead Mines on the Upper Mississippi River, Wisconsin Historical Collections, volume 11.

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Plum Grove Primitive Methodist Church
Ridgeway Township, Iowa County, WI

The first permanent settlers of European descent in the vicinity of Mineral Point were John and Mathilda Hood. John Hood was a miner, and had been unsuccessfully prospecting for lead. In the late spring of 1828, Nat Morris arrived and immediately located rich veins of lead on the steep ridge that would later be called Mineral Point. Other miners soon followed and a small community quickly sprang up. In October, 1829, the lead region south of the Wisconsin River was organized as Iowa County, and Mineral Point was made county seat.¹⁰

During the late 1820s, Dodgeville was the principal commercial and lead mining center in what is now Iowa County. This prosperity was short lived. In 1829, the price of lead plummeted. Dodgeville, along with many other mining towns in the area including Mineral Point, was nearly abandoned. The market for lead improved in 1831 and, following the Blackhawk War of 1832, the mining communities began to grow again. By 1834, Mineral Point had surpassed Dodgeville, to become the undisputed capital of the Wisconsin Lead Region.¹¹ The federal land office for the region was established in Mineral Point that same year.¹²

The economy of Iowa County was centered on lead mining until the late 1840s. During this time, immigrants from the British Isles, especially Cornwall and Wales, settled the area. Many were skilled in hard-rock mining and contributed greatly to production in Wisconsin's Lead Region. Lead production peaked in 1845. In that year, Dodgeville's population was about 300, while in Mineral Point, there were about 1,500 people. Half the population in the area was Cornish.¹³ The Cornish, working hillside shafts in view

¹⁰Dieter, Marie G. The Story of Mineral Point: 1827-1941, (Mineral Point: Mineral Point Historical Society, 1979 reprint of 1941 document), pp. 23-28.

¹¹Taylor, p. 121.

¹²Robert C. Nesbit, Wisconsin: A History, (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1973), p. 113.

¹³Ibid., p. 114.

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Plum Grove Primitive Methodist Church
Ridgeway Township, Iowa County, WI

of the little community, earned Mineral Point the nickname "Shake Rag," or "Shake-Rag-Under-the-Hill" because wives called their husbands home for the noon meal by waving poles with cloths fastened to them.¹⁴

As lead mining declined in the late-1840s, many miners departed for the California gold rush. Of the 6,000 Cornishmen in Iowa County in 1849, about half had left for California by 1852.¹⁵ Many of the settlers who remained, as well as many new arrivals, turned to farming. Although lead mining continued, agriculture dominated the economy from about 1850 until the Civil War.¹⁶

During the Civil War, an increased need for lead and a new demand for zinc bolstered the mining industry. By 1871, zinc production in southwestern Wisconsin consistently outstripped lead. Iowa County was Wisconsin's leading zinc producer from 1861 until 1890. After the turn of the century, lead and zinc mining declined steadily (except during the World Wars), and Iowa County became predominantly agricultural. Today, dairying leads the economy.¹⁷

The Cornish were influential in shaping the character of Iowa County. In addition to their hard-rock mining skills, they also brought native foods, such as the pasty, and took the lead in organizing and supporting churches.¹⁸ The Cornish were usually Methodists. The first Protestant congregation organized in Wisconsin was the Methodist-Episcopal Church of Mineral Point (later, First Methodist Church), established primarily by Cornish

¹⁴Dieter, pp. 46-48.

¹⁵Ibid., p. 96.

¹⁶Taylor, pp. 117 and 122; and History of Iowa County, Wisconsin: Containing an Account of its Settlement, Growth, Development and Resources, (Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1881), pp. 733 and 744.

¹⁷Taylor, p. 123-24.

¹⁸Dieter, p. 51.

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Plum Grove Primitive Methodist Church
Ridgeway Township, Iowa County, WI

settlers in 1834. In 1848, Reverend Joseph Hewett organized the Primitive Methodist Church of Mineral Point with 82 members, of whom 70 had just withdrawn from the Methodist-Episcopal Church. This splintering was the result of a disagreement over the purchase of an organ to accompany the choir. Dissenting members believed the choir should sing acapella.¹⁹ Unaccompanied singing was not a particular tenet of the Primitive Methodist Church. Rather, Primitive Methodism, which sprang from the revivalism and evangelism of the early 19th century, maintained two major policies: local decision-making for each church, and encouraging lay preaching.²⁰

The Primitive Methodist congregation in Mineral Point held meetings in members homes for the first year. In 1849, they built a simple limestone church (razed 1890). Membership grew rapidly, and this church became the headquarters for a circuit extending 40 miles in each direction, including the area where Plum Grove Church would be built. The circuit-riding ministers were under the direction of three pastors stationed in Mineral Point.²¹

In May, 1882, the Primitive Methodist Society at Plum Grove was established. A group of men, including William Murrish, Henry Kendall, Joseph Phillips, William Phillips, Edward D. Phillips, John Beckerleg, Edward Fitzsimmons and William Hosking, volunteered to serve as Trustees of the new church. Most were farmers, and of Cornish descent. The Trustees selected a half-acre site on the William Phillips farm, about halfway between Mineral Point and Dodgeville, in close proximity to the farms of several of the other Trustees. The Society took its name from the area, which had been

¹⁹George Fiedler, Mineral Point: A History, (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1973), p. 181.

²⁰Julia Stewart Werner, "Getting Into Liberty: The Background and Early History of the Primitive Methodist Connexion," (Ph.D. dissertation, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1982), pp. 1-50, and 435.

²¹Fiedler, p. 181.

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Plum Grove Primitive Methodist Church
Ridgeway Township, Iowa County, WI

called Plum Grove for many years. There was said to have been a large spring and many plum trees in the vicinity at one time.²²

At a series of meetings held during the month of May, the Trustees chose Bethel Primitive Methodist Church (1880, extant but somewhat altered) in Waldwick Township as a model for their new church. The Trustees went on to specify most of the materials and architectural details of the Plum Grove Church, borrowing only the general dimensions and front-gabled frame form from Bethel Church. At the May 15 meeting, the Trustees moved that the frame church

be sheeted with Shiplap and weather boarded with 2nd Clear 1/2 inch lumber, flooring 2nd Clear and the seats 2nd clear[,] the arms and tops of backs of seats of some hardwood[,] that the church be wainscotted so high as the seats, windows be Gothic style hung top and bottom with double[,] outside door Gothic. 8 windows. 5 on each side and 2 on the east end.²³

The Trustees also resolved that there be a "centre-piece" (name and date plate), and that it have "Primitive Methodist Church 1882" on it.²⁴

The Trustees bought their materials from merchants in both Dodgeville and Mineral Point. The lumber was purchased from (Owen) King and (Hiram) Weston, while the lock on the front doors came from Martin and Toay's hardware store, both firms in Dodgeville. The paint was bought from Coleman Moffett's drug store, and additional hardware from (John) Eden and (Charles) Blewett, both in Mineral Point. The plaster work was done by Yates and Gregory, the

²²Iowa County Bicentennial Education Committee, Schools of Iowa County, (Blanchardville: Ski Printers, 1976), n.p.

²³Minutes, Trustees of Plum Grove Primitive Methodist Church, May 15, 1882.

²⁴Ibid., May 29 and October 23, 1882.

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Plum Grove Primitive Methodist Church
Ridgeway Township, Iowa County, WI

masonry by Yates, and the carpentry by Young and Company.²⁵ The locations of these firms has not been identified.

Mr. and Mrs. William H. Phillips sold the grounds for the church to the Trustees for \$25, in a deed dated October 25, 1882.²⁶ The Plum Grove Church was completed around the first of November, 1882. The total cost to build the Church was \$822.²⁷ On April 29, 1890, the Trustees met, declared the debt for the Church paid, and destroyed the bank note.²⁸

By the turn-of-the-century, membership in Primitive Methodist churches in the area was declining. Looking for a larger fellowship, the Primitive Methodist Church of Mineral Point severed its connection with the Western Conference of Primitive Methodist Churches, and became affiliated with the Congregational Conference of Wisconsin in November, 1913.²⁹ It seems likely that regular services were discontinued at Plum Grove Church at this time. The Trustees, their successors and families continued to care for the Church and grounds.

On September 29, 1933, the Plum Grove Community Club was organized. Soon afterward, the Dodgeville Chronicle reported:

At a recent meeting of the surviving members of the old Plum Grove Church, it was voted to convert the structure into a community hall. The building has not been used for church services for many years and has been rapidly deteriorating. There are funds on hand to make the

²⁵List of bills, no date, included with the minutes of the meetings of the Trustees.

²⁶Iowa County Deeds, vol. 38 p. 542.

²⁷List of bills.

²⁸Minutes, Trustees of the Plum Grove Primitive Methodist Church, April 29, 1890.

²⁹Fiedler, p. 182.

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Plum Grove Primitive Methodist Church
Ridgeway Township, Iowa County, WI

necessary repairs and its use will be limited to strictly legitimate community gatherings.³⁰

By October, 1934, the name of the organization had been changed to Dodge Corners Community Club. The Club Officers elected that year (two Murrishes and a Kendall) represented families with long-time membership in the Church. The Club redecorated the Church inside and out.³¹ The second layer of wall and ceiling papers may date from this redecoration.

The Dodge Corners Community Club hosted many events in the Church. Each June, all the rural schools in the area would meet at the Church and give recitals and plays, hold foot-races and so on. This was called "Play Days." During World War II, bond drives were held at the Church. Local baseball teams met at the Church, and Christmas programs were presented there. During the 1970s, the Church fell into disuse, although Community Club members continued to care for it.³²

In 1993, the Dodge Corners Community Club transferred ownership of the Church to Folklore Village Farm, Incorporated. Folklore Village is a non-profit organization which seeks to preserve traditional and ethnic arts and culture through educational programs and social events. The founder of the organization, Jane Farwell, wanted to move the Church to Folklore Village and restore it as a memorial to her parents. Farwell's maternal grandfather, Reverend William Cape, had served as a minister of the Church. Members of the Dodge Corners Community Club chose the new site, and helped move the building in July, 1993. When restoration of the Church is complete, it will be used for concerts, educational activities and local community gatherings.

³⁰January 4, 1934.

³¹DC, October 11, 1934, p. 1.

³²Stan Sullivan.

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Plum Grove Primitive Methodist Church
Ridgeway Township, Iowa County, WI

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Plum Grove Primitive Methodist Church, built in 1882, is architecturally significant at the local level under Criterion C. It is a fine example of a small Gothic Revival-influenced front gable form rural church that still retains a high degree of integrity.

Primarily built in Wisconsin between 1850 and 1880, the Gothic Revival style is most often seen in churches and residences. The hallmark of the style is the pointed arch. Other details can include label moldings, steeply-pitched gables and tracery.³³ The Plum Grove Church shows the influence of this style in its pointed-arched openings and date plate, the raised lancet designs on the front facade's corner boards, and the fairly steep pitch of the front gable roof. There is one other small rural Gothic Revival church of the same era in Iowa County. The Mifflin Primitive Methodist Church in Mifflin Township, built in 1880, is also a frame church with pointed-arched windows. However, it has recently been converted to residential use. The other remaining Gothic Revival churches in the county do not really provide good comparisons. The 1881 Community Gospel Church in the crossroads community of Edmund, and the Presbyterian Kirche (1874) in Pulaski Township are both much larger. Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church (1871) in Dodgeville Township, and Otter Creek Church (1872) in Highland are both stone structures. The Wyoming Valley Methodist Church (1902) in Wyoming Township and the Fairview Lutheran Church (1917, of concrete block) in Pulaski Township are both much later examples of the style.

In 1915, there were 38 churches located outside the cities, towns, villages and cross-roads communities in Iowa County.³⁴ Today, only 14 of these rural churches remain. Few of these churches now retain the high degree of integrity that the Plum Grove Church does and fewer still that are comparable in size have designs that

³³Wyatt, II:2-5.

³⁴George Ogle and Company, Standard Atlas of Iowa County, (Chicago: George A. Ogle and Company, 1915).

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exhibit a consistent application of high style features. Consequently, the Gothic Revival elements that are an integral part of the design of the Plum Grove Church such as its pointed arch windows, entrance door opening, date plaque and panelled corner boards, serve to differentiate it from other Iowa County churches of this size and period. These features, coupled with the high integrity of the Plum Grove Church, serves to justify the considerable effort that has been made to preserve it and also the nomination of the building to the National Register of Historic Places.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS

Ordinarily, structures used for religious purposes, and structures which have been moved from their original locations, are not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, unless they meet certain criteria. The Plum Grove Primitive Methodist Church meets these criteria.

A religious property may be eligible for the National Register if its primary significance is derived from its architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance. The Plum Grove Church is architecturally significant as a fine and intact local example of a Gothic Revival influenced rural church. If the Church had not been removed from its original site, it might also be significant for its association with the Cornish settlers of Iowa County, and their descendants.

A building or structure removed from its original location may be eligible for the National Register if it is significant primarily for its architectural value, and retains its integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Plum Grove Church retains a very high degree of architectural integrity on its new site. Every part of the historic fabric of the structure which could be moved to the new site, has been moved. In addition, the setting and general environment of the new site must be similar to the old site, and the structure must be positioned in relation to its new site as it was positioned at its historic location. Members of the Dodge Corners Community Club carefully selected a new site similar to the original. Both locations are on hill-tops overlooking a road, and set amid farm fields. As on its original

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site, the Church faces the road, and a drive will eventually sweep in from the front-left corner.

The Plum Grove Church meets the eligibility criteria for religious and moved properties. Therefore, these considerations do not affect the Church's eligibility for listing on the National Register.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Part of the S 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 28, T6N, R4E, located in the Township of Ridgeway, Iowa County, Wisconsin, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at a brass cap set in concrete at the NE 1/4 corner of said Section 28; thence W along said E-W 1/4 line, 1343.19 feet to a railroad spike in the centerline of CTH BB; thence N 0 degrees 28'59" E along said centerline, 522 feet to point of beginning; thence N along said centerline 150.94 feet to a masonry nail; thence SE 66 degrees 11'11" a distance of 375.96 feet to a No. 6 reinforcing bar; thence due W 319.25 feet; a parcel containing less than one (55/100) acre.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This property includes the Plum Grove Primitive Methodist Church building and approximately the same amount of land (1/2 acre) that the building had on its original site.

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Photo 1 of 11
Plum Grove Primitive Methodist Church
Dodgeville, Iowa County, WI
Photo by Elizabeth L. Miller, March 1994
Negative on file in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin
West and north facades

The information for the following photographs is the same as the above, except as noted.

Photo 2 of 11
West (front) facade

Photo 3 of 11
West and south facades

Photo 4 of 11
South and east facades

Photo 5 of 11
Closeup showing details on west (front) facade

Photo 6 of 11
View of auditorium from southwest corner looking northeast

Photo 7 of 11
View of auditorium and vestibule from northeast corner looking southwest

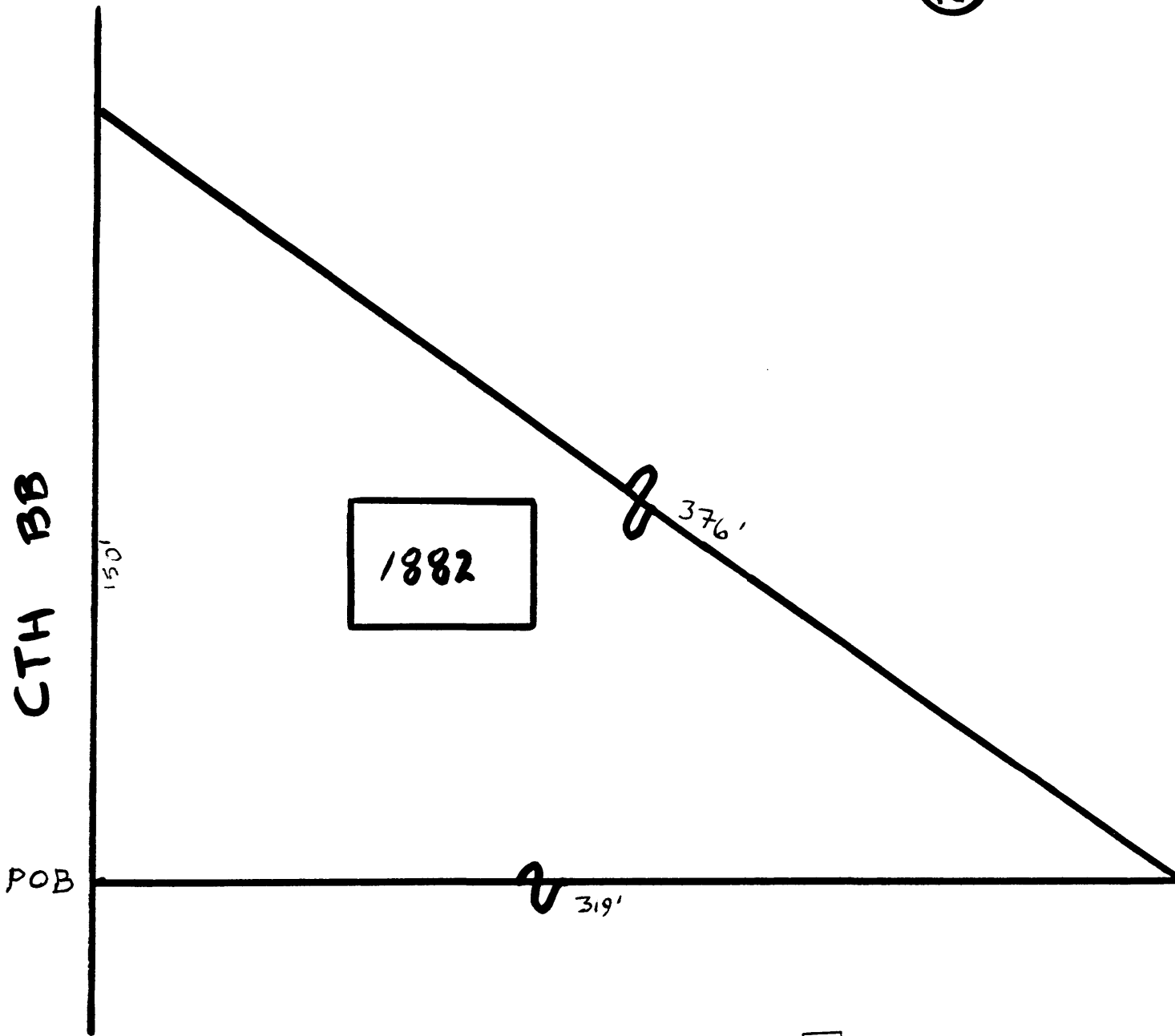
Photo 8 of 11
Closeup of built-in pews

Photo 9 of 11
Closeup of faux oak (grained) finish on window frame

Photo 10 of 11
Closeup of decorative details wallpaper on ceiling

Photo 11 of 11
View of site where church was originally located

PLUM GROVE PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH
Ridgeway Township, Iowa County, WI
1" = 30'



- Contributing
- Non-Contributing