

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic <sup>NO,</sup> Ward District #3 Schoolhouse

and/or common

**2. Location**

WI 67 and Betts Rd.

street & number Wis. Highway 67 and Betts Road \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Eagle <sup>me</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ X vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district Ninth

state Wisconsin code 55 county Waukesha code 133

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Attn: Richard A. Erney, Director

street & number 816 State Street

city, town Madison \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Wisconsin 53706

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Waukesha County Courthouse

street & number 515 West Moreland Boulevard

city, town Waukesha \_\_\_\_\_ state Wisconsin 53186

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison \_\_\_\_\_ state Wisconsin 53706

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The nominated property is a simple frame construction two-room schoolhouse, measuring 24' 4" x 30' 4" with 11' 5" sidewall height and 17' 14" to gable peak. The structure displays simple capital and cornice return trim along with a crown molded eave. The school is one story in height and has a narrow crawl space under a plank and hewn timber floor joist system. A crude fieldstone and mortar 18" wide foundation supports the 8" x 8" pine sill timbers. The wall framing is of 2" x 4" and 4" x 4" vertical studs mortised into the sill timbers and running the full length to the 1" x 8" rafter plate. This rather weak plate supports 2" x 8" pine rafters and 1" pine roof sheathing. Original roofing was of cedar shingles.

The original exterior wall covering was painted 1/2" x 6" - 8" square edge horizontal pine clapboards. The interior wall surface is wainscoting of 1" horizontal tongue and groove pine boards up to the 4 foot level and then lath and plaster. The ceiling in the main room is vaulted and plastered, while the cloakroom had a flat plastered ceiling and walls of horizontal 1" tongue and groove pine boards with very irregular tapering widths.

The original 1849 schoolhouse had eleven sets of 6/6 double hung sash windows. The front (south) wall contained one opening, the main access door. Two layers of random width 1" thick square edge pine boards were the original floor surface. Eventually three more layers of flooring were added, including narrow maple tongue and groove material.

Vertical beaded boards were used as shutters on the schoolhouse after about 1880. School records prior to that time contained many fall entries for window glass, putty, and related supplies. The original chimney corbelling style is unknown at this time. Also, the installation date and design of the bell tower is unknown.

Three layers of siding were removed in 1980 to reveal the original 1849 siding. New window jamb and sash assemblies were added about 1950. The structure now stands stripped of most of the later additions, awaiting a restoration plan.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1957	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1849<sup>1</sup> **Builder/Architect** Local carpenters Ferrand Bigelow & Herman Enos. (From school board treasurer's report, Jan. 1850)

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Ward District #3 Schoolhouse is significant to the history of southeastern Wisconsin because it represents the typical country schoolhouse type built by the first settlement Yankee farmers for the education of their children. It is the oldest schoolhouse still standing in Waukesha County and has kept all of the original 108 years of school board records, which include the teachers' names and wages and the students' names and their grades.

Architecture

The Ward School is a typical Greek Revival style framed structure. It was built in 1849 by local carpenters for a cost of \$300.00 out of material brought from Milwaukee.

Education

Yankee farmers started settling on and breaking up the deep prairie soil of the Town of Eagle in the late 1830's. By 1841 a small frame schoolhouse was built by the area farmers on the old territorial road connecting Janesville and Milwaukee, along the southern foot of the glacial moraine bluffs. By 1849 the state road system was established in the Town of Eagle, relocating the highway to its present location. A new school was deemed necessary as a result. By a vote taken by the school district fathers, a new 24' x 30' schoolhouse was approved, to be built by November 15, 1849 on a location some 300 feet south of the first school site. The original schoolhouse was sold to a neighbor and moved for use as a kitchen wing on his home.

Numerous entries in the second schoolhouse board meeting notes indicate most of the additions and changes that occurred to the structure. More than 1,000 pupils have attended the Ward School since its founding and there have been about 100 teachers. A 100-year celebration was held in 1949, where over 100 people attended. The building went out of use as a public school in 1957 and was sold by public auction to a private individual who converted it to rental housing property.

The most noteworthy student to have attended the Ward School was J. Earl Baker, United States Commissioner on Rural Reconstruction in China. Baker, brother of Alice Baker, a former student and teacher in 1900, was also Inspector General of the Burma Road in 1941, and had worked in China on the flood relief program in 1931 and 1932, in which he is known to have helped keep millions of people from starvation.

<sup>1</sup> Waukesha County School History Inventory, 31.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Small amount of newspaper stories and personal remembrances.  
 1975 Waukesha County School History Inventory, p. 31

# 10. Geographical Data

~~UTM NOT VERIFIED~~  
~~ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED~~

Acreeage of nominated property 1.6  
 Quadrangle name East Troy, Wis. Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A	<u>16</u>	<u>377890</u>	<u>4745880</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

**Verbal boundary description and justification** In SE 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 28, T5N, R17E: Beginning at the southwest corner of the property, which lies 150 feet east of the centerline of Betts Road, proceed 320 feet eastward, parallel to STH 67, thence north 220 feet to a corner, thence west 320 feet to a corner, thence south 220 feet to the point of beginning.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Alan C. Pape, Director of Restoration, Old World Wisconsin

organization State Historical Society of Wisconsin date August 1, 1980

street & number 816 State Street telephone 414/594-2116 (OWW)

city or town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Richard Murray*

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 5/15/81

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	Entered in the
<i>Selous Byers</i>	National Register
keeper of the National Register	date <u>7/7/81</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	