OMB No. 10024-0018

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   Rutland United Brethren in Christ Meeting House and Cemetery

other names/site number   Rutland Center Church and Cemetery

2. Location

street & number	687 U.S. Highway 14	N/A	**not for publication**
city or town	Town of Rutland	N/A	**Vicinity**
state Wisconsin	**code** WI **county** Dane	**code** 025	**zip code** 53575

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 _ x statewide _ locally. (_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title   Date   8/3/04
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

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   9/15/04

_____
Signature of the Keeper   Date of Action

5. Classification

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

     private
X   public-local
     public-State
     public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

X   building(s)
     district
     structure
     site
     object

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

contributing	noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	0	total

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

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

     0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
RELIGION/RELIGIOUS FACILITY

FUNERARY/ CEMETERY

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
VACANT/NOT IN USE

FUNERARY/ CEMETERY

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-Nineteenth Century

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
Foundation STONE
walls   WEATHERBOARD

roof   ASPHALT
other   WOOD

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

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.)

_x_ 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:

_x_ A   owned by a religious institution or
used for religious purposes.

_ B   removed from its original location.

_ C   a birthplace or grave.

X 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)

Religion

Period of Significance

1852-1922

Significant Dates

1852-53

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.)

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:
X State Historic Preservation Office
_ Other State Agency
_ Federal Agency
_ Local government
_ University
x Other
       Name of repository: Archives of the
       Wisconsin Conference of the United
       Methodist Church, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _1.5 acres_

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

1	16	307960	4750300		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	Elizabeth L. Miller, Historic Preservation Consultant, on behalf of					
organization	Town of Rutland			**Date**	April 2004
street & number	785 Center Road			**Telephone**	608-873-9553
city or town	Stoughton	**state**	WI	**zip code**	53589

Rutland United Brethren in Christ Meeting House and Cemetery	Dane County	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	Dale Beske, Town Chairman				
organization	Town of Rutland		**date**		
street&number	785 Center Road		**telephone**	608-873-9553	
city or town	Stoughton	**state** WI	**zip code**	53589	

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INTRODUCTION

The Rutland United Brethren in Christ Meeting House and Cemetery are situated on the west side of U.S. Highway 14 just north of Rome Corners Road in the town of Rutland, in southeastern Dane County (see photo 1). The property is composed of three contributing resources: the meeting house, the cemetery and a small storage shed/outhouse. The meeting house is a simple, frame, front gable form building set on a limestone ashlar foundation. It is finished with clapboards and capped with an asphalt-shingled roof. The meeting house was probably erected in 1852 or 1853.[1] The cemetery was established in 1852.[2] The tiny outbuilding, set downhill and in the southwest corner of the property, is a frame, side gable structure clad with dropped siding. It has a standing-seam, metal roof and was erected in 1914.[3]

PRESENT APPEARANCE

The Rutland United Brethren in Christ Meeting House and Cemetery is set on a rise overlooking U.S. Highway 14, a two-lane roadway that curves along the east edge of the site. The property is surrounded by farmland. On site, a narrow, dirt driveway runs north from Rome Corners Road, stopping at the storage shed/outhouse on the south edge of the cemetery. The cemetery lies west (behind) and south (downhill) of the meeting house (see attached site plan). Several mature trees shade the property.

The meeting house is rectangular in plan and measures 26 feet (north-south) by 36 feet (east-west). It is embellished with plain corner boards, and broad cornice boards with returned eaves, suggesting the influence of the Greek Revival style.

The east-facing (front) façade is two bays wide and displays two, evenly-spaced doors in plain surrounds (see photo 2). Original to the structure, each is a four-panel, wooden door with a metal knob. For many years, a wooden stoop extended across the front façade. This was removed circa 1994.[4] The stoop was about eight feet wide (east-west), and had three or four wooden steps, and a

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[1] Property purchased in 1852, Dane County Deeds, 15:379, 16 March 1852; and dedicated in the fall of 1853, Herman A. Block, *Historical Data: Wisconsin Conference, Evangelical Association, the Evangelical Church, the Evangelical United Brethren Church, 1840-1969*, (Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Ken Cook Transnational, 1971), p. 21.
[2] Dane County Deeds, 15:379.
[3] Rutland Center Cemetery Association (Wisconsin), Minutes of Meetings of the Board of Trustees, Meeting of 31 March 1914, in possession of Rutland Town Clerk, transcribed by Gerald Neath.
[4] Charles Anthony, Brooklyn, Wisconsin, long-time member of the Rutland Center Cemetery Association, personal communication, 10 March 2004.

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plain railing. This stoop may not have been original, although physical evidence suggests there never was anything but a stoop there. A 1935 photograph shows that the stoop looked the same at that time as it did when it was removed. However, a 1910 photograph of the Rutland Center School, which stood across the road from the meeting house (on the southwest corner of U.S. Highway 14) and was nearly identical in appearance to the meeting house, shows that the school had a narrower stoop, with no rails.[5] It seems likely that the meeting house's original stoop was probably more like the one on the Rutland Center School, a building that was built around the same time (1847), was nearly identical, and therefore likely built by the same builder. Further, the minutes of the Board of Trustees of the Rutland Cemetery Association indicate that the stoop was repaired in 1931, and the steps replaced in 1971,[6] so the stoop was certainly changed over time. In any case, the loss of the stoop is not very noticeable, and its function was simply to provide access to the meeting house. Its loss therefore does not compromise the integrity of the meeting house.

On each of the north- and south-facing facades of the meeting house, three regularly-distributed window openings appear (see photos 2 and 3). Each holds a tall, 6/6, double-hung sash window, held together with wooden pegs. The west-facing (rear) façade has no openings (see photo 3). An interior chimney of cream brick with a corbelled cap rises through the ridge of the roof at the west end of the building. The chimney was erected in 1904.[7]

The interior of the meeting house is open and features high ceilings, broad board flooring, and horizontal board wainscoting (see photos 4 and 5). Above the wainscoting, the plastered walls and ceilings are covered with beige and cream wallpaper, installed by the Rutland Cemetery Association in 1925.[8] A raised platform extends across the west end of the interior. A wooden pulpit (not original) is centered on the platform. Four rows of wooden pews form two aisles that lead, east-west, from one front door to the pulpit. The pews are original. Each displays a scrolled arm and compound moldings on one end; the other end attaches either to an exterior wall or to the central wooden divider (see photo 6). A tiny cubicle is tucked into the northeast corner of the building. The cubicle is an alteration, probably dating from c. 1925. The walls of the cubicle do not rise to the ceiling. Two nineteenth century, cast-iron stoves that heated the meeting house remain in place. Three pendant lights on chains

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[5] "Church Reminder of Old Village," *Daily Gazette* (Janesville, Wisconsin), 2 March 1935; and *Standard Historical Atlas of Dane County, Wisconsin,* (Madison, Wisconsin: Cantwell Printing Co., 1911), p. 102.
[6] Rutland Center Cemetery Association (Wisconsin), Minutes of Meetings of the Board of Trustees, Meetings of 13 January 1931 and January 1971, transcribed by Gerald Neath.
[7] *The Oregon Observer*, 5 May 1904.
[8] Rutland Center Cemetery Association (Wisconsin), Minutes of the Meetings of the Board of Trustees, Meetings of 13 January 1925 and 3 February 1925, transcribed by Gerald Neath.

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Rutland United Brethren in Christ Meeting House and Cemetery

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hang from the ceiling. Each is thought to have had a globe, but these are gone. The lighting was probably installed when electricity was extended to rural Dane County during the 1930s.

The cemetery is laid out west (behind) and south (downhill) of the meeting house. Rows of markers commemorate many of the early settlers of southern Rutland Township, and their descendants (see photo 7). The cemetery was established in 1852. It was surveyed and the plat recorded on May 25, 1911, when the Church of the United Brethren in Christ transferred ownership of the cemetery to the Rutland Cemetery Association.[9] Additional lots were platted just south of the cemetery in 1932.[10] The earliest headstones date from the 1850s and include symbols characteristic of the era, such as clasped hands (for married couples), roses not yet in full bloom (for young women), and a hand pointing toward heaven. Twentieth century markers include a delicate, Art Deco bench (1934), and many of the boxy, polished stone markers popular in the late twentieth century. The cemetery is still active.

The 1914, side gable storage shed/outhouse at the southwest corner of the property is rectangular in plan (see photo 8). It measures eight feet (east-west) by 14 feet (north-south). The north end is the storage shed, accessed through a wooden door in the north-facing façade. A small, fixed window is found west of the door. The outhouse occupies the south end of the structure, entered through a wooden door on the south-facing façade. A small fixed window appears west of this door. Another small, fixed window lights the interior of the storage shed on the east-facing façade. There are no openings on the west-facing façade.

ALTERATIONS

The Rutland United Brethren in Christ Meeting House and Cemetery property retains a high degree of integrity. The sole exterior alteration is the missing front stoop. On the interior, the diminutive cubicle and wallpaper (both dating from c. 1925) are the only alterations. The impact of these alterations on the integrity of the Rutland United Brethren Meeting House is negligible. The cemetery and the storage shed/outhouse are unaltered.

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[9] Dane County Plats, 7:1-2; and Dane County Warranty Deeds, 226:335, dated 23 May 1911.
[10] Dane County Plats, 7:38, dated 22 March 1932.

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There was a parish house associated with the Rutland United Brethren in Christ. It was located on a separate parcel about one-quarter of a mile south of the meeting house on the east side of U.S. Highway 14, south of Old Stage Road. According to historical maps, it was built prior 1873 and was demolished sometime between 1911 and 1926.[11] An 1883 photo shows that it was a small, plain, Greek Revival-influenced, frame, front gable house with 6/6 double-hung sash windows. Since the parsonage was on a separate site, some distance from the meeting house, and it represented an ancillary use (particularly since most United Brethren pastors were itinerant), the removal of the parish house does not affect the integrity of the Rutland United Brethren in Christ Meeting House and Cemetery.

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[11] *Atlas of Dane County, Wisconsin,* (Madison, Wisconsin: Harrison & Warner, 1873); *New Atlas of Dane County, Wisconsin,* (Madison, Wisconsin: Dane County Atlas Co., 1926); and *Standard Historical Atlas of Dane County, Wisconsin.* It may appear on A. Ligowsky, *Map of Dane County, Wisconsin,* (Madison, Wisconsin: Menges & Ligowsky, 1861).

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: SUMMARY

The Rutland United Brethren in Christ Meeting House and Cemetery is eligible for the National
Register of Historic Places under *Criterion A*, in the history of religion, for its association with the
Church of the United Brethren in Christ, reflecting the westward expansion of evangelistic
Protestantism. The United Brethren is said to be the first Protestant denomination founded in the
United States and the Rutland United Brethren Meeting House was the first erected for that
denomination in Wisconsin. In addition, the church's statewide organization, the Wisconsin
Conference of the United Brethren in Christ, was formed in this building in 1858. The period of
significance extends from 1852 until 1922, when the United Brethren in Christ Church sold the
meeting house to the Rutland Center Cemetery Association. The Rutland United Brethren in Christ
Meeting House and Cemetery property retains excellent integrity.

HISTORY OF RUTLAND TOWNSHIP AND RUTLAND CENTER

European-American pioneers in what would become Rutland Township came predominantly from
Maine, New York state and Vermont. The first families settled in the area around 1840, taking up
farmsteads and raising wheat along present-day U.S. Highway 14, then known as the Janesville and
Madison Road. Settlers began arriving in earnest in 1844, and by 1845 some 400 European-Americans
lived in the township. In 1846, Rutland Township was organized, and named after Rutland, Vermont.
A small hamlet sprang up at the intersection of what are now U.S. Highway 14, Rome Corners Road
and Old Stage Road. Called Rutland Center, it was designated a post office by 1855. At its most
prosperous, Rutland Center had a hotel with a dance hall, a general store, a saloon, a shoe store, a
schoolhouse, the United Brethren Meeting House, three blacksmith shops, and a wagonmaker. The
Anthony Sawmill was located just north of the community, on the Rutland Branch of Badfish Creek,
on the west side of U.S. Highway 14. During the 1850s, two railroad lines were laid through southern
Dane County: one from Milwaukee to Madison (later a part of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul
line) and one from Janesville to Madison (part of the Chicago and NorthWestern network). Both by-
passed Rutland Center. As a result, although Rutland Center continued to exist, it did not grow. By
1873, the sawmill had closed and the DeJean Gristmill had been built on the Rutland Branch, just east
of U.S. Highway 14. The gristmill was later remodeled into a cheese factory. Rutland Center was
platted as the Village of Rutland in 1876. By this time, wheat cultivation was giving way to dairying
and tobacco raising in Rutland Township, and the population of the town had reached 1,139.[12]

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[12] *Madison, Dane County and Surrounding Towns,* (Madison: Wm. J. Park & Company, 1877), pp. 387-392; *The Oregon
Observer,* 7 August 1924; Ligowsky; *Atlas of Dane County, Wisconsin* (1873); Dane County Plats, B:5; and "Story of
Rutland Center," *The Oregon Observer,* 6 May 1920.

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During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Rutland Center continued to serve as a post office, but the number of businesses dwindled. By 1960, the Rutland Center School had been demolished. Today a handful of houses, a tavern and the Rutland United Brethren Meeting House are all that is left of what was Rutland Center. Rutland Township remains predominantly rural, with dairying and tobacco culture the leading agricultural endeavors. The Badfish Creek State Wildlife Area occupies a portion of the township east of the Rutland United Brethren Meeting House.[13]

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF THE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST IN THE UNITED STATES

The Church of the United Brethren in Christ traces its origins to an embrace between two ministers at a revival meeting held in a barn near Lancaster, Pennsylvania in 1767. Martin Boehm (1725-1812) and Philip William Otterbein (1726-1813) came from very different backgrounds. Boehm was born on a farm south of Lancaster, the son of a Mennonite minister. Although Boehm received no formal education, he learned to read and write in both German and English. He became a Mennonite pastor himself in 1756 at Byerland, Pennsylvania, by lot. At that time, Mennonite ministers were not paid, but rather earned their living farming or in some other occupation. A congregation called its minister by nominating a number of men from among the worshippers, each of whom would then select a bible from among several, in one of which had been placed a slip of paper with a proverb such as the one Boehm is said to have drawn, "The lot is cast into the lap, but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord." Thrust into the role of preacher, Boehm struggled for months, preparing and memorizing his sermon each week only to find that, when he stood up to speak, he would "stammer out a few words and then be obliged to sit down in shame and remorse!"[14] Boehm agonized over his inability to preach, reaching a spiritual crisis one day while ploughing.

> I felt and saw myself a poor sinner. I was LOST. My agony became great...Midway in the field I could go no further, but sank behind the plough, crying, Lord save, I am lost! – and again the thought or voice said, "I am come to seek and to save that which is lost." In a moment a stream of joy was poured over me.[15]

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[13] *Plat Book of Dane County, Wisconsin* (Minneapolis: C.M. Foote & Co., 1890); *Atlas and Plat Book of Dane County, Wisconsin*, (Rockford, Illinois: Thrift Press, 1931); *Standard Historical Atlas of Dane County, Wisconsin; New Atlas of Dane County, Wisconsin,* (Madison, Wisconsin: Dane County Atlas Company, 1926) *Ownership Plat Book of Dane County, Wisconsin,* (Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Marathon Map Service, 1947); and *Rutland Quadrangle,* (Washington, D.C: United States Geological Survey, 1961).

[14] Martin Boehm, quoted in Henry G. Spayth, *History of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ,* (Circleville, Ohio: Conference Office of the United Brethren in Christ, 1851), p. 29.

[15] Ibid., pp. 29-30.

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From that time on, Boehm preached with passion, inspiring many hundreds of listeners to experience the same overwhelming joy of evangelical fervor. In 1761, Boehm became a Mennonite bishop, again by lot, and was called to serve the Mennonite families in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. There, Boehm began holding meetings in cooperation with other revival preachers, drawing several hundred people from among the Mennonite, German Reformed, Lutheran and other predominantly German-speaking denominations to each meeting. These events lasted two or three days, and were typically held in a barn or outdoors.[16]

On 10 May 1767, Boehm spoke at a revival meeting in a barn near Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Philip William Otterbein, a German Reformed minister stationed in York, Pennsylvania, moved by Boehm's preaching, stood up as Boehm was finishing and "folding Boehm in his arms, said with a loud voice, '*Wir sind Bruder.*'[17] It is believed that Otterbein's declaration, "We are brethren," inspired the choice of the name, the United Brethren in Christ, when the organization was established some years later.[18] Otterbein was a charismatic, evangelistic preacher himself and the two men quickly became close friends.

Philip William Otterbein was born in Dillenburg, Nassau, Germany. His father was a teacher and a rector. The younger Otterbein was educated in Herborn, including three years at the Herborn seminary. Upon graduation, Otterbein taught briefly and then was ordained as a minister. He first served as a pastor of the Reformed church in Ocksdorf, where his fervency earned him few supporters. When Reverend Michael Schlatter came recruiting Reformed missionaries to go to the British American colonies, Otterbein was one of six young pastors to answer the call. The group sailed from Holland in April 1752, arriving in New York in late July of that year. Otterbein ministered to the German Reformed congregation in Lancaster, Pennsylvania from 1752 until 1758, and to the congregation at Tulpehocken (near Reading, Pennsylvania) thereafter until 1760. From 1760 until 1765, Otterbein served as pastor to the German Reformed congregation of Frederick, Maryland, and then from 1765 to 1774 was assigned to the York, Pennsylvania church. In 1774, Otterbein accepted a call to the German Reformed church in Baltimore, where he would remain until his death.[19]

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[16] Paul R. Fetters, editor, *Trials and Triumphs: History of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ,* (Huntington, Indiana: Church of the United Brethren in Christ, 1984). P. 43.
[17] Spayth, p. 41.
[18] Evangelical United Brethren in Christ Church, 10 March 2004, www.ub.org.?
[19] Fetters, pp. 58-69; Barbara L. Wyatt, *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin,* (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), volume 3, 10:1-3.

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In contrast, Martin Boehm's evangelical style and his close association with non-Mennonites, notably Otterbein and Francis Asbury, the first bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the British American colonies, brought Boehm censure from Mennonite religious leaders and led to his excommunication around 1775.[20] Boehm continued to preach to German settlers, criss-crossing eastern Pennsylvania, Virginia and Maryland, urging listeners to form classes (societies) to support their spiritual life.[21]

On 25 September 1800, a group of 17 ministers including Boehm and Otterbein held a conference at the home of Peter Kemp in Frederick, Maryland. At this conference, the group established a separate religious body, which it named the United Brethren in Christ, and elected Boehm and Otterbein as the first bishops of the organization. This was said to be the first Protestant denomination formed in the United States. Interestingly, many of the early leaders of the United Brethren retained their previous religious affiliations. Otterbein, for example, continued as a minister of the German Reformed Church and Boehm joined the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1802.[22]

Following the formal establishment of the United Brethren in Christ, efforts began to carry the gospel westward. Christian Newcomer, a former Mennonite minister who had been present at the conference at which the United Brethren had been formed, led this movement. Itinerant, circuit-riding United Brethren preachers followed German-speaking settlers as they spread throughout western Pennsylvania and into Ohio, New York state, Kentucky and West Virginia in the first decade of the nineteenth century, crossing into Indiana soon thereafter. By 1830, the denomination had gained many English-speaking converts, and had spread into Illinois. Prior to 1840, circuit-riding ministers were serving congregations in Iowa and Michigan. By 1842, followers of the United Brethren were holding prayer meetings in Wisconsin. During the 1850s, the United Brethren ventured into Tennessee, Minnesota, Missouri (where some leaders suffered violence for the church's outspoken antislavery stance), Oregon, California and Washington state. By 1859, the Church of the United Brethren in Christ counted more than 94,000 members across the country (see attached map).[23]

By the late 1880s, a rift had developed within the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, primarily over whether the organization's constitution should be amended to permit lay delegates to participate in the annual national conference on equal footing with clergy (which the Wisconsin Conference had

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[20] Fetters, p. 45.

[21] Ibid., pp. 9, and 41-43; Wyatt, volume 3, 10:1; and John Lawrence, *The History of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ*, (Dayton, Ohio: W. J. Shuey, 1868), I:156-159.

[22] Wyatt, volume 3, 10:3; and Fetters, pp. 91-93 and 96.

[23]Lawrence, I:334, and II:346, 398, 404, 407, 409, and 421; and Fetters, pp. 104-05.

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permitted since 1881). Dissidents opposed to the manner in which the constitution was being revised, led by Bishop Milton Wright (father of Orville and Wilbur), withdrew from the general organization, forming the United Brethren in Christ-Old Constitution. The larger, parent church became the United Brethren in Christ-Revised Constitution. The Old Constitution group eventually adopted an amendment to the constitution that was nearly the same as that of the parent group, but the two groups never reconciled. In the mid-twentieth century, both churches began serious discussions with other, larger denominations regarding unification. In 1946, the United Brethren in Christ-Old Constitution joined with the Evangelical Church, to become the Evangelical United Brethren Church. The two groups were very similar in doctrine and faith; the Evangelical Church had also been founded among the German-speaking settlers of southeastern Pennsylvania. The United Brethren in Christ-Revised Constitution merged with the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1968, forming the United Methodist Church. Martin Boehm and Francis Asbury had explored unification of the two denominations as early as 1809, as they were nearly identical in faith and doctrine.[24]

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF THE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST IN WISCONSIN

During the late 1830s and the early 1840s, a number of United Brethren families settled in southern Wisconsin Territory. The first United Brethren prayer meeting in Wisconsin Territory was held at the home of "father" Johnson, near what would become the tiny community of Rutland Center.[25] No further information about Johnson or the date of the meeting has been discovered, but it probably took place in 1840. That year, the first United Brethren class in Wisconsin was established at the Joseph Dominic DeJean home in Rutland Township. Mr. DeJean served as class leader and the group continued to meet in private homes for some years.[26] In 1842, the Church of the United Brethren in Christ sent the Reverend James Davis (1809-1854) to Wisconsin Territory as its first missionary.[27] The Wisconsin Mission was initially funded by the Wabash (Indiana) Conference of the United Brethren, to which Reverend Davis belonged. Davis organized a United Brethren class in Monroe (the first in Wisconsin established by a minister), which was recognized as the first United Brethren congregation in Wisconsin in 1842. Davis also visited the class in Rutland Township and made it a part of the Wisconsin Mission. Many United Brethren societies were soon established in the southern part of Wisconsin Territory. Davis continued as the itinerant preacher for the Wisconsin Mission until 1844, when the mission was divided into two: the Monroe Circuit and the Rock River Mission. Davis

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[24] Fetters, pp. 99-100; and Wyatt, volume 3, 10:1-3.
[25] Lawrence, II:403.
[26] Block, p. 20.
[27] A.W. Drury, *History of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ*, (Dayton, Ohio: United Brethren Publishing House, 1931), p. 740.

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was then named presiding elder of the Wisconsin Mission, and Reverend J. A. Mast was assigned to minister to the Monroe circuit, which included Rutland. A Reverend Corray served as the local preacher.[28] In 1845, the Illinois Conference was created by division from the Wabash Conference and given responsibility for the work in Wisconsin Territory. By 1848, the Wisconsin Mission included the Monroe Circuit and the Sugar River, Rock River and Fox River missions. The United Brethren in Wisconsin continued to grow and in 1853, the Wisconsin Mission, with its two circuits (Monroe and Union) and five missions (Sugar River, Richland, Coon Creek, Sauk Prairie and Jamestown) became a part of the newly-formed Rock River Conference.[29]

By 1857, the Wisconsin Mission had become financially self-supporting, inspiring the national General Conference to authorize its independence. Accordingly, Wisconsin separated from the Rock River Conference, becoming the Wisconsin Conference at a series of meetings held 16-18 September 1858, in the Rutland United Brethren in Christ Meeting House. The new conference was divided into two districts, with four circuits and 16 missions serving 609 members. The east district included Rutland, Union, Monroe, Sun Prairie, Whitewater, Fond du Lac, and Plymouth, while the west district included Viroqua, Crawford, Forest, Richland, Honey Creek, Lemmonware (Juneau County), Blake's Prairie, Blue River (Grant County), Otter Creek (Vernon County), and Rushacre (some of these locations have not been identified but may have been in Sauk and Richland counties).[30] By 1859 the Wisconsin Conference had increased to 1,885 members with 208 preaching places, 162 classes, 30 itinerant preachers, and 9 local preachers. Interestingly, there were only five meeting houses, of which the Rutland edifice was one. The United Brethren largely met in private homes and, to a lesser extent, in schoolhouses and town halls.[31] In 1861, the northern part of the Wisconsin Conference was split off as the Fox River Conference.[32]

In 1870, there were 34 United Brethren congregations in Wisconsin; the number of members is not cited. The Fox River Conference was absorbed into Wisconsin Conference in 1885, perhaps in response to falling membership. When the national Church of the United Brethren in Christ split in 1889, 47 of Wisconsin's United Brethren congregations, with a total of 1,687 members, joined the United Brethren in Christ-Revised Constitution group. Four congregations, with 63 members, followed the United Brethren in Christ-Old Constitution. The 1890 census showed the United

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[28] Blake, p. 45; and Drury, p. 740.
[29] Drury, pp. 740-41; and Block, p. 20.
[30] Wisconsin Annual Conference of the United Brethren in Christ, Minutes of the First Annual Meeting, Meeting of 16 September 1858, Wisconsin Historical Society Archives, Madison, Wisconsin.
[31] Lawrence, II:424.
[32] Drury, p. 741.

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Brethren were concentrated in Richland, Vernon and Grant counties, but present in eleven others, including Green, Rock, Dane, Juneau, and Crawford counties. During the early twentieth century, the number of Revised Constitution congregations fell, numbering 45 in 1906 and 33 in 1936, while membership rose from 2,036 in 1906 to 3,876 in 1936. In contrast, both the number of Old Constitution congregations and adherents decreased over the same period, from nine congregations with 144 members in 1906, to three congregations with 108 in 1936.[33] Both sects followed their parent organizations in unification, the Old Constitution with the Evangelical Church in 1946, and the Revised Constitution with the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1968.

HISTORY OF THE RUTLAND UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST MEETING HOUSE AND CEMETERY

The first United Brethren class in Wisconsin Territory was formed in Rutland Township in 1840, at the home of Joseph Dominic DeJean. The class in Rutland Township became a congregation in 1851, with some 65 members. The local pastor was Reverend A. Bacher (or Baker). On 16 March 1852, the Trustees of the Rutland Church of the United Brethren in Christ purchased 1.5 acres "for a meeting house and burial ground" from David and Jane Anthony for ten dollars. The Trustees were Joseph Dejane [DeJean], Robert Taylor Valentine and Alvah Newton; W. T. Bunton was the pastor. On 24 May 1852 the congregation is said to have incorporated, although no record of this has been found. The meeting house was built in 1852 or 1853, and dedicated in the fall of 1853. Some of the lumber may have come from David Anthony's sawmill, which was located not far north of the meeting house; some may have come from Stoughton. On 16-18 September 1858, the Wisconsin Conference of the United Brethren in Christ was organized in the Rutland Meeting House. The Rutland Meeting House hosted the annual conference again in 1860, 1862, 1871, 1882, and 1887. Around 1860, the United Brethren established the Rutland Circuit; Rutland became a station in 1862 and a mission church in 1867. The Wisconsin Annual Conference of the United Brethren lists the Rutland Meeting House variously as a mission church (1904), a mission station (1871 and 1908), and heading a circuit (1892) during its association with the United Brethren. Whether the role of the Rutland church actually changed to reflect these designations is unclear. After 1889, the Rutland congregation followed the Revised Constitution. In addition to prayer meetings, the Rutland Meeting House hosted numerous revivals over the years. At one held in the summer of 1883, nationally-prominent evangelist, George K. Little, preached daily for two weeks, drawing more listeners every day. At the close of the revival,

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[33] Barbara L. Wyatt, editor, *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, (Madison, Wisconsin: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), volume 3, 10:5-6.

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Little led some 3,000 people from the meeting house to a nearby lake to witness the baptism of 38 new converts. [34]

The congregation incorporated as the Rutland United Brethren in Christ Church on 22 June 1898. On 3 October 1903, a number of women in the congregation formed the Mite Society, in part "to help keep church property in repair." However, the upkeep on the cemetery proved too much for the Mite Society, and so the Rutland Center Cemetery Association was organized in 1908. It incorporated on 11 March 1911. The United Brethren Church deeded the cemetery to the Rutland Center Cemetery Association on 22 May 1911 for the sum of one dollar. Membership in the church had declined to such an extent that the Wisconsin Conference of the United Brethren in Christ quit sending ministers in 1912. The last local preacher was the Reverend W. O. Fogo. For awhile, a pastor from Janesville would preach occasionally. On 3 January 1922, the Rutland Cemetery Association bought the meeting house from the United Brethren for $100.00. Thereafter, the building was known as the Rutland Center Church. It was used infrequently for public meetings and events, funerals, and Seventh Day Adventist religious services. On 14 September 1958, the Rutland United Brethren Meeting House was the site of a centennial celebration for the Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren. The Wisconsin Conference Historical Society erected an historical marker east of the meeting house in the summer of 1968. [35] The marker reads:

RUTLAND CEMETERY
Site of the Rutland United Brethren Church. Erected in 1852. It was the first church building of the denomination in Wisconsin. Class meetings were first held in this vicinity in 1840. The congregation was organized in 1851. Services were discontinued in 1912.
The First Session
WISCONSIN CONFERENCE (U.B.)
Evangelical United Brethren Church 1946
United Methodist Church 1968
Was held here September 18 – 20, 1858 with Bishop Lewis Davis as advisor. Rev. G.G. Nickey was chairman. Thirteen of the fifteen ministers were present. Conference membership was 609.

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[34] Block p. 20; Dane County Deeds, 15:379; Wisconsin Annual Conference of the United Brethren in Christ, Minutes of the First Annual Meeting, Meetings of 16-18 September 1858, Wisconsin Historical Society Archives, Madison, Wisconsin; and *The Oregon Observer*, 21 June 1883 and 5 July 1883.
[35] Dane County Deeds, 226:335 and 169:398; Rutland United Brethren in Christ Mite Society (Wisconsin), By-Laws of the Mite Society, Meeting of 7 October 1903, Mite Society Treasurer's Book, Oregon Area Historical Society, Oregon, Wisconsin; and Block, pp. 20-21.

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The Rutland United Brethren Meeting House site was expanded on 20 December 1960 when Herman Anthony donated a .7-acre, L-shaped parcel at the south end of the property. In 1974, the Rutland Center Cemetery Association found it was no longer able to care for the property, and so deeded it to the Town of Rutland. In March of 2003, the Rutland Center Church and Cemetery Committee organized to preserve the meeting house. The Committee and the Town are pursuing National Register listing for the meeting house, and raising funds for the building's restoration.[36]

SIGNIFICANCE: RELIGION

The Rutland United Brethren in Christ Meeting House and Cemetery is significant at the state level under *Criterion A* in religion. The property reflects an important religious current of the mid-nineteenth century, in which European-American settlers brought the evangelistic Protestantism of the Great Awakening, which had swept the British American colonies during the eighteenth century, westward to their new homes. During the nineteenth century, the United Brethren expanded westward following a specific, three-phase pattern similar to that of many religious denominations: organization, mission and conference. During the organization phase, a group of communicants would form a class, which would hold prayer meetings. The class would then either petition for a visit from a clergyman, or a circuit-riding minister would find them and schedule occasional visits. When the class had regular attendance and sufficient membership, the church established a "mission" among the communicants. This was the second phase. A circuit-riding minister, financially supported by the church, was assigned to that mission. The circuit-riding minister was responsible for several classes and congregations (a class that had grown sufficiently large could become a congregation) and would travel among them. When the number of classes, congregations, membership and financial resources grew such that the mission could support itself, the United Brethren in Christ Church would authorize the mission to become a conference. This was the third phase. New conferences could also establish missions.

The establishment and development of the United Brethren in Christ in Wisconsin followed the pattern described above and the Rutland United Brethren in Christ Meeting House exemplifies the pattern. The United Brethren in Christ Church in Wisconsin began with the organization phase, in which a small group formed a class and met in private homes in Rutland Township beginning in 1840. In 1842, the Wabash Conference extended a mission to Wisconsin Territory, assigning Rev. James Davis as circuit-riding minister. The Rutland Class became a congregation in 1851. By 1857, the Wisconsin mission was self-sustaining and had been given permission from the parent United Brethren Church to

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[36] Dane County Deeds, 718:596; and Rutland Center Cemetery Association (Wisconsin), Minutes of the Meetings of the Board of Trustees, Meetings of 1 June and 6 February 1974, transcribed by Gerald Neath.

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organize the Wisconsin Conference, which it did in 1858. The Rutland Meeting House is the only surviving building associated with mission phase of United Brethren in Wisconsin, and was the first building erected for the denomination in Wisconsin. The Rutland Meeting House is also associated with the conference phase, as it was the site of organization of the Wisconsin Conference of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ in 1858, and was a part of the Wisconsin Conference from 1858 until 1922.

The Church of the United Brethren in Christ was very active in Wisconsin during the pre-Civil War era. During the height of the church's influence, around 1860, the church's circuit-riding ministers visited as many as 300 preaching places in 40 counties, although United Brethren congregations were concentrated in rural Rock, Green, Richland, Sauk, Vernon, Crawford, Grant and Juneau counties. The Rutland United Brethren in Christ Meeting House is the only property in Wisconsin that dates from the time of the denomination's greatest importance. The Church of the United Brethren in Christ did not construct many buildings in Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory (AHI) includes only eleven churches/meeting houses erected for the denomination. In addition, the United Brethren operated a seminary in Elroy from 1874 until 1882, but no buildings associated with it have been identified.

The eleven churches/meeting houses in the AHI associated with the United Brethren are: the Rutland United Brethren Meeting House (1852-53), the Rome Evangelical United Brethren Church (Jefferson County, 1868), the Cascade United Brethren Church (Sheboygan County, 1872), the United Brethren Church (Marshall Township, Richland County, 1889), the Troy Evangelical United Brethren Church (Sauk County, c. 1890), the Janesville United Brethren Church (c. 1890), the New Glarus Evangelical United Brethren Church (1890), the Bloomer United Brethren Church (Chippewa County, 1901), the Richland Center First United Brethren Church (1911), the Chippewa Falls Zion Evangelical United Brethren Church (1922), and the Reedsburg United Brethren Church (1923). Of these eleven churches, those at Rome, Troy, New Glarus, and Chippewa Falls could have been built for the Evangelical Church rather than the United Brethren, although this seems unlikely as the first three are located in areas where the United Brethren had many members, and the one in Chippewa Falls is now a Methodist church.

The Rome church, although erected 16 years after the Rutland Meeting House, is the closest in age and the most similar in appearance to it. The church in Rome is a small, front gable building of cream brick. A pair of doors is centered on the front façade and the side facades display three bays of pointed-arched windows with leaded glass. A square bell cupola sits on the roof. The church in Rome retains excellent integrity and currently houses the Sullivan Township Historical Society. The other

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churches are larger and were built much later than the Rutland Meeting House. Most are more ornate, displaying the influence of the Queen Anne or Gothic Revival styles, and several have been altered considerably. As such, they do not provide good comparisons with the Rutland Meeting House. In any case, the Rutland United Brethren Meeting House is the only one of the eleven that was constructed during the pre-Civil War era, when the United Brethren was at the height of its influence in Wisconsin. That it was the first meeting house built for the United Brethren in Wisconsin, the only surviving structure associated with the mission phase of the denomination, and the site where the Wisconsin Conference of the United Brethren was established, further enhance the significance of the Rutland United Brethren in Christ Meeting House. The building retains excellent integrity.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS A and D

Certain types of properties ordinarily are not eligible for listing on the National Register. Two of these "criteria considerations" apply to the Rutland United Brethren in Christ Meeting House and Cemetery. Under the criterion considerations, cemeteries or properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes are not eligible for listing on the National Register. However, criterion consideration A states that a property may be eligible if it is directly associated with a broad pattern in the history of a religion, such as the historic spread of a religious movement, provided that the property retains sufficient integrity to convey that function and association. The Rutland United Brethren in Christ Meeting House is directly associated with the westward expansion of evangelistic Protestantism and its function as a church building is still evident in its appearance. Therefore, criterion consideration A does apply, and does not bar the Rutland United Brethren in Christ Meeting House from listing on the National Register. Criteria consideration D states that cemeteries may be eligible if they are associated with historic events. The Rutland United Brethren in Christ Cemetery is an integral part of the meeting house complex and was founded in the same year as the meeting house and is related to the building's history.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Rutland United Brethren in Christ Meeting House and Cemetery is located in the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 19, Township 5 North, Range 10 East, Rutland Township, Dane County, more particularly described as: Lot 2, Block 4, Survey Plat of the Village of Rutland, filed 14 June 1876, Dane County Plats, B:5. The area encompassed totals 1.5 acres.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the Rutland United Brethren in Christ Meeting House and Cemetery encompass all those resources historically associated with it and coincide with the legal boundaries of the original parcel purchased in 1852. A second parcel added to the property lying immediately south of the original has been excluded because it was added 29 December 1960 (Dane County Warranty Deeds 718:596), after the period of significance.

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Town of Rutland, Dane County, Wisconsin

Photo 1 of 8
Rutland United Brethren in Christ Meeting House and Cemetery
Rutland Township, Dane County, Wisconsin
Photo by Elizabeth L. Miller, March 2004
Negatives on file, Wisconsin Historical Society
View of the east-facing (front) façade of the meeting house, looking west and showing the cemetery in the background.

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

Photo 2 of 8
View of the east- (front-) and south-facing facades of the meeting house, looking northwest.

Photo 3 of 8
View of the north- and west-facing (rear) facades of the meeting house, looking southeast.

Photo 4 of 8
View of the interior of the meeting house, looking west toward the pulpit.

Photo 5 of 8
View of the interior of the meeting house, looking east toward the entrance.

Photo 6 of 8
Close up of a pew in the meeting house.

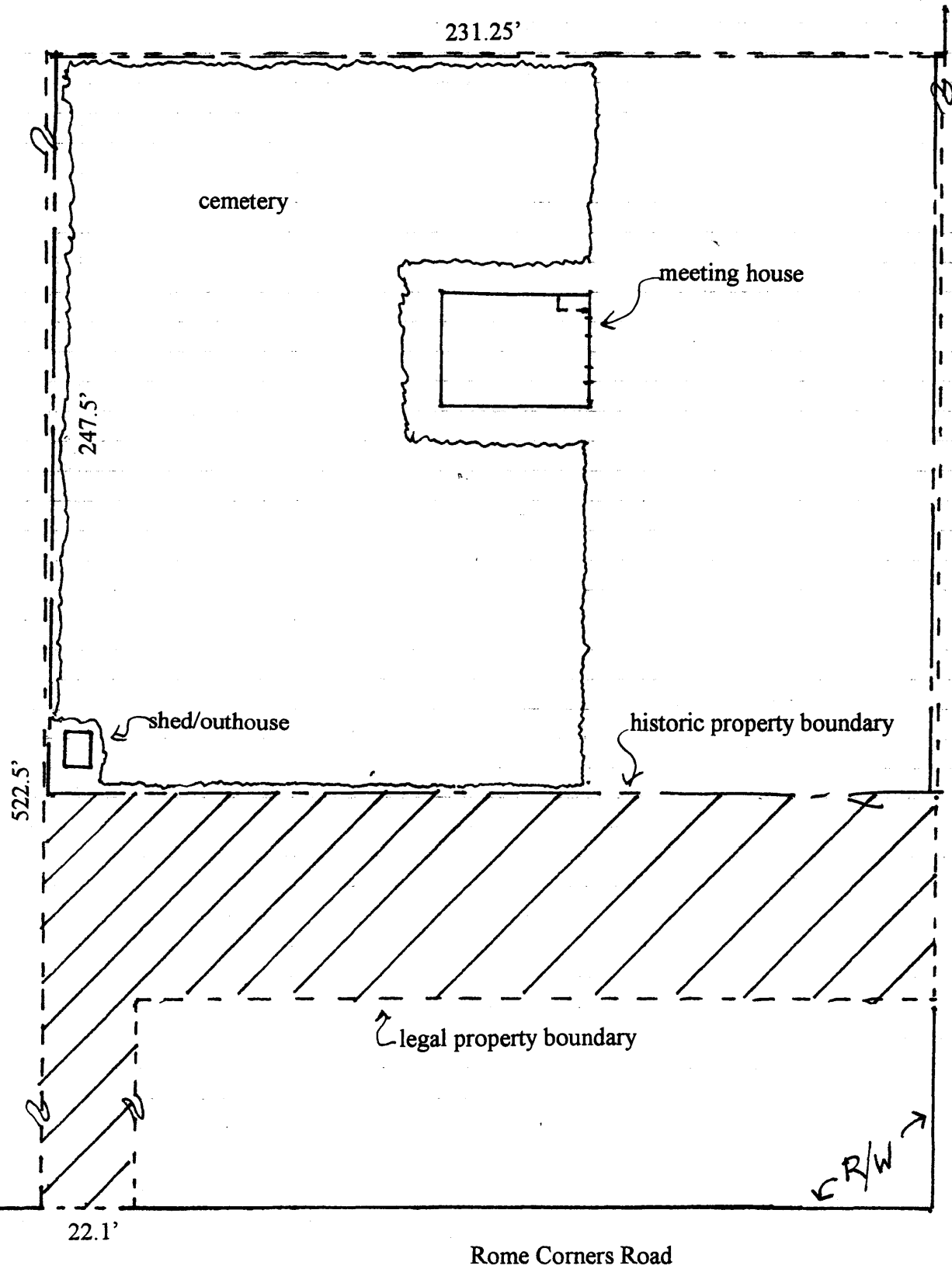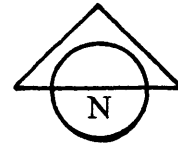Photo 7 of 8
View of the cemetery, looking south.

Photo 8 of 8
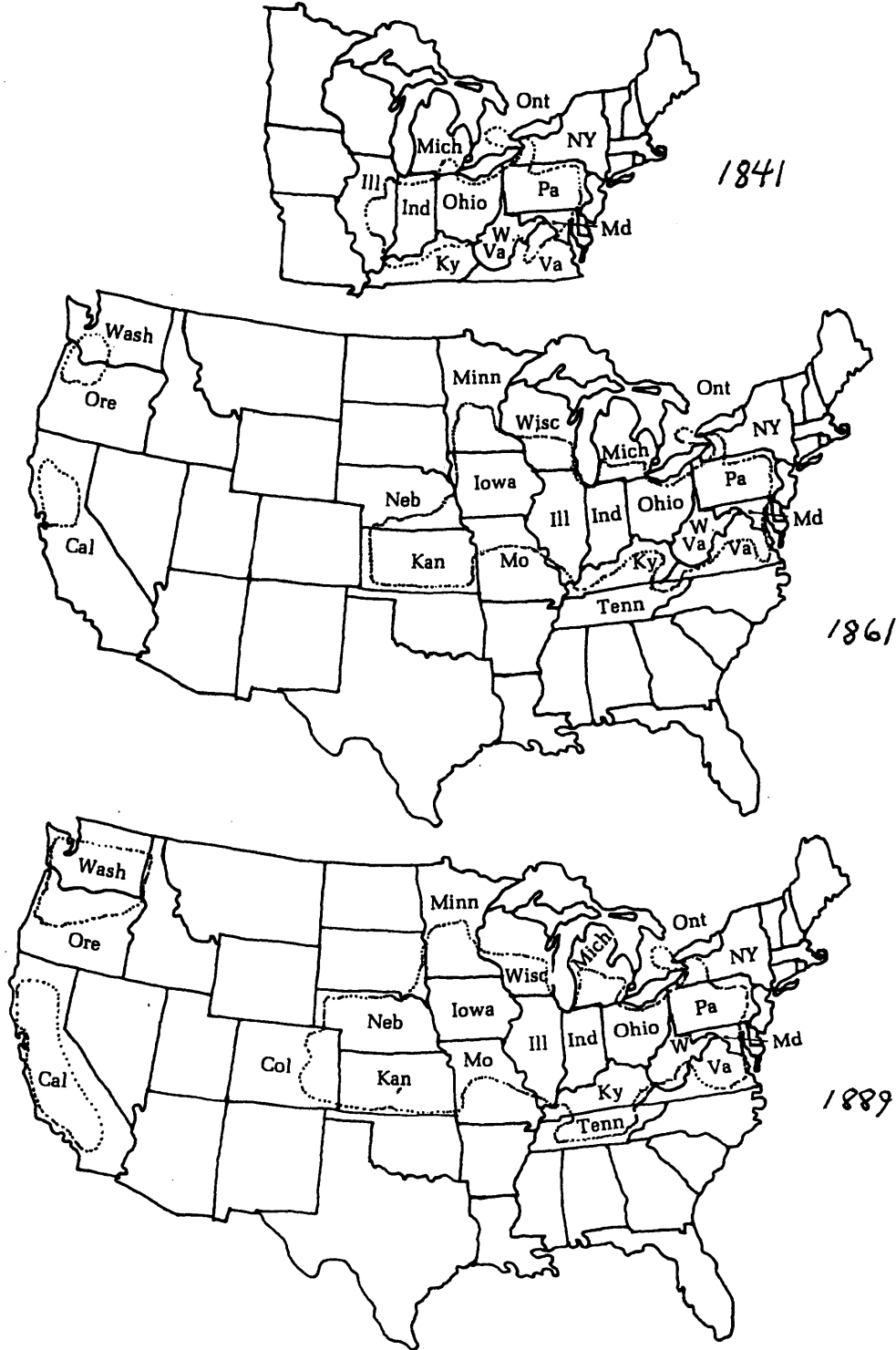View of the storage shed/outhouse, looking northwest.

Rutland United Brethren in Christ Meeting House and Cemetery
Rutland Township, Dane County, Wisconsin

Scale: 1 inch = 40 feet
▢ Contributing
▨ Non-contributing

N

231.25'

cemetery

meeting house

247.5'

shed/outhouse

historic property boundary

522.5'

legal property boundary

U.S. Highway 14

R/W

22.1'

R/W

Rome Corners Road

Geographic Extension of the United Brethren Church in the Nineteenth Century

Source: Paul R. Fetters, editor. *Trials and Triumphs: History of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ.* Huntington, Indiana: Meeting house of the United Brethren in Christ, 1984.