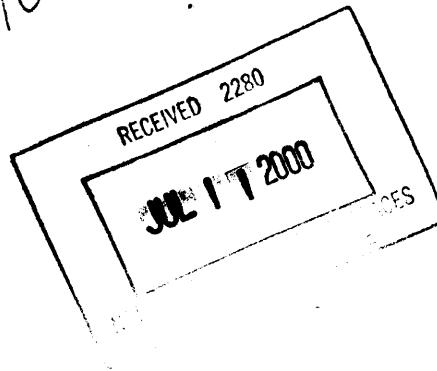


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United States Department of Interior  
National Park Service

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 Jahn, William F., Farmstead  
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number	12112-12116 North Wauwatosa Road	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Mequon	N/A	vicinity
state	Wisconsin	code WI	county Ozaukee
		code 89	zip code 53097

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Alicia J. Gorkin  
Signature of certifying official/Title  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

June 27, 2000  
Date

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

William F. Jahn Farmstead

Ozaukee

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

### 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*

8/10/00

*[Signature]*

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

### 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

structure

site

object

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

contributing

noncontributing

3

3 buildings

sites

structures

objects

3

3 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)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

AGRICULTURE/animal facility

DOMESTIC/Secondary Structure

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

AGRICULTURE/Storage

DOMESTIC/Secondary Structure

### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century/Greek Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Stone

walls

Weatherboard

Stone

roof

Asphalt

other

Wood

### Narrative Description

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

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Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 1 Jahn, William F., Farmstead  
Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

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**DESCRIPTION**

The William F. Jahn Farmstead is made up of an historic farmhouse, two historic barns, an historic summer kitchen, and two small outbuildings. No longer used for agricultural purposes, the farmstead today consists of the farmhouse, one barn used for storage, one barn used as a residence, the smokehouse converted into a guest cottage, and the two outbuildings. Once part of a large farm in the rural Town of Mequon, the Jahn Farmstead now sits on a spacious three-acre lot in the City of Mequon, a rural-suburban community just north of the City of Milwaukee in southeastern Wisconsin. Until about 20 years ago, this area of Mequon was still largely rural, but during the past two decades, and especially during the last decade, the intensive suburban development that has almost completely encompassed the eastern half of the city has begun to move into this area, and it includes a large residential development across North Wauwatosa Road from this farmstead.

The farmstead's site is partially wooded, with large expanses of lawn punctuated with many large, mature trees and shrubs. In fact, a large tree next to the farmhouse is over 150 years old and is reputed to be the oldest tree in the area. There are many mature shrubs around the buildings on the site, and some decorative wood and stockade-style fencing next to the farmhouse. The topography of the site is relatively flat, with a slight rise toward the road. By the barn, at the back of the property, the land falls slightly, accented by the artificial banking of the barn's west elevation.

North Wauwatosa Road is a two-lane highway that is a heavily traveled thoroughfare through the city. The farmhouse sits about 66 feet back from the road and is shielded somewhat by the trees and shrubs along the front of the property. The other residence, the old pig barn, sits farther back from the road, northeast of the farmhouse. Two asphalt-paved driveways enter the property from the road. One leads to the pig barn, while the other runs past the south elevation of the farmhouse and summer kitchen and back to the barn.

**Farmhouse**

Greek Revival, c. 1855, contributing (1)

The farmhouse has an original one and one-half story main block with several additions. The main block has a side gable form, a low-pitched gable roof, and Greek Revival details. Built around 1855, the main block is decorated with a narrow frieze, returned eaves, regular fenestration of primarily six-

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Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

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over-six-light double-hung sashes decorated with shutters, and clapboard siding. The building sits on a fieldstone foundation. The historic main entrance is in the west elevation of the main block and consists of a simple wood paneled door with built-in transom lights and period hardware. The door is decorated with sidelights, an architrave molding, and a wide frieze and projecting cornice. Also on the west elevation is a row of three small windows that sit under the eaves. They are decorated with small shutters.

Attached to the south elevation of the main block is a mid-twentieth century chimney constructed of limestone, and attached to the north elevation of the main block is a one-story wing built in 1957. This wing was given details to match the main block, including a fieldstone foundation, clapboard siding, multi-light openings with shutters, and returned eaves that decorate the low-pitched roofline.

Attached to the east elevation is an historic wing, probably added during the late nineteenth century, then remodeled around 1957. This one-story wing has a gable roof, and two additions. Added to the south elevation of the wing is a one-story enclosed porch that has a shed roof. This porch was enclosed and remodeled in 1957 with multi-light openings and wood siding. Attached to the northeast corner of the wing is a small shed-roofed addition. It is covered with clapboards and has multi-light sashes and an entrance with a wood and glass door.

The exterior of the Jahn farmhouse appears to be a conventional mid-nineteenth century frame-constructed house. But, during an interior remodeling effort, some evidence was uncovered to suggest that the main block was built with a half-timber construction method and brick infill. This type of half-timber construction is well documented in Mequon, and associated primarily with the many German settlers who came to the area in the mid-nineteenth century. Many of the half-timber buildings in Mequon were covered with clapboards or stucco immediately upon construction or at a later date. If future renovation or remodeling uncovers the structure of the main block, an investigation and photo documentation of this feature would be of great interest.

The historic main entrance on the west elevation leads into the main block, or original portion, of the house. The original plan of the first floor included two rooms on each side of a central staircase and small foyer. This floorplan has been somewhat altered. To the south of the staircase, the original two rooms of this half of the main block are now one large living room. A heavy ceiling beam marks the place where the original wall on this side of the house

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Meguon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

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divided the room.

The living room has features from both the original house and from the 1957 remodeling, and these features are repeated throughout the house. The room has plastered walls and ceilings and the original flat woodwork around the windows and doors is extant. Some very narrow moldings have been added to the original woodwork around the windows, and the original floors have been covered with black walnut wide board flooring that simulates the historic wide pine flooring that was probably original to this house, and which appears on the second floor. A mid-twentieth century fireplace sits at the center of the south wall. It has a simple wood mantel that suggests Colonial style architecture. Built-in bookshelves flank the window on the west wall of the room. They sit on a built-in cabinet that spans the bottom of the entire wall.

The north half of the main block also had two rooms, and this plan is somewhat intact. At the west end is a bedroom and behind it, the second original room has been remodeled into a closet and a bathroom. In the bedroom, the decorative features are similar to the living room, including the black walnut wide board flooring, the flat trim around doors and windows with the addition of the narrow moldings, and plastered walls and ceilings. The closet and bathroom have been remodeled with carpeting and other modern materials.

To the north of the bedroom is the one-story wing that was added in 1957. This area is used as a sitting room. It is decorated with the walnut flooring and simple window trim that is seen in the other rooms of the first floor of the main block. Most of the doors in the main block are simple wood paneled doors with period hardware.

At the northeast end of the living room, there is a small hallway that leads into the dining room, located in the east wing that was added during the late nineteenth century. This room has a narrow board maple floor, similar wide moldings around windows that are seen in the rest of the house, and wainscoting on the lower half of the wall surfaces. Behind the dining room is the kitchen, which was remodeled around 1957. It features a floor of narrow maple boards, c.1957 cabinets, and plain moldings around doors and windows. A side entrance in the south wall of the kitchen is used as the main entrance for the house today. Attached to the north wall of the kitchen is a small addition, which contains a bathroom along with cellar and exit doors.

Attached to the south wall of the dining room and kitchen is the old porch that was enclosed and remodeled in 1957 for living space. It is a family room today. The room has the wide board walnut flooring seen in other areas of the

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Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

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first floor, and the walls are covered with pine paneling that has been painted. Along the west wall of this room, the pine paneling has been used to construct cabinets that surround a bookshelf. The cabinet is decorated with replicated period wrought-iron fixtures. Pine paneling also encloses a built-in fireplace in the northwest corner of the room.

The central staircase leads up to the second floor of the main block. The staircase features wood risers and a small balustrade of painted turned posts and a maple banister. This part of the staircase is a replacement for the original balustrade that was probably identical to the balustrade that is extant along the second floor hallway. This balustrade features simple turned posts supporting a rectangular banister topped with a maple wood molding.

The original plan of the second story is intact. It features four bedrooms, two each off of the central hallway. One of the bedrooms has been remodeled into a bathroom. At the west end of the hallway are two larger bedrooms. Both feature plain plastered walls and ceilings, simple flat trim around doors and windows, to which narrow moldings have been applied, and original wide board pine floors. The bedroom at the southwest corner has been carpeted. At the east end of the hallway are the two smaller bedrooms. The bedroom at the southeast corner has the same features as the other bedrooms, while the bedroom at the northeast corner has been remodeled into a bathroom.

The second floor has a high level of historic integrity, and the c.1957 remodeling, which is seen primarily on the first floor, was tastefully executed in the mid-twentieth century Colonial style. The remodeling effort used high quality materials that the current owners have maintained at a high level of preservation. In fact, this type of mid-twentieth century interior decoration may, at some future date, be significant in its own right because of the high quality of construction and materials. The current owners have also maintained all of the extant original features of the house and their antique furniture and historically-influenced interior decoration adds to this house's fine historic character.

**Summer Kitchen**

c.1855, contributing (2)

The old summer kitchen is a one-story building constructed of fieldstone. It has a steeply-pitched gable roof topped with a later-added decorative bell tower at the north end. The stone walls are punctuated with six-over-six-light double-hung sashes on the west elevation. They are decorated with shutters.

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The south wall features a large fieldstone chimney that is stepped at the west end to form a wide base that features an exterior oven. To the east of the chimney is the building entrance, a simple wood and glass door. Attached to the east wall of the building is a later-added (probably c.1957) shed-roofed ell that is covered with board and batten siding. Two multi-light sashes punctuate the east wall of this ell.

The interior of the summer kitchen has been fitted up as a guest cottage that is used as a bed and breakfast lodging room. The original summer kitchen space has been converted into a large bedroom. The interior walls are a combination of rough fieldstone that have been painted and horizontal board wainscoting. The ceiling is covered with horizontal boards, as well. A fireplace is located in the south wall.

In the shed-roofed addition to the building, there is a small kitchen and bathroom. The kitchen features c.1957-era apartment-size cabinets and appliances. The bathroom is reached through a door in the kitchen. Like the interior of the farmhouse, the summer kitchen has been tastefully remodeled, and with the retention of some of the stone wall surfaces, much of the character of the building as an historic summer kitchen has been retained.

**Basement Barn**

c.1855, c.1955, contributing (3)

The basement barn is a large one and one-half story building with a gable roof and clapboard siding. The siding is a mid-twentieth century addition, replacing the original wood sheathing. The building sits on a raised fieldstone foundation that is artificially banked on the west elevation, providing a ramp that leads up to the original main entrances into the barn.

There are a number of openings in this building. The original main entrances in the west elevation were covered with very large sliding doors that are still extant and sit next to the modern entrance that sits in the center of this elevation. This entrance consists of a set of doors topped with a multi-light transom. A large, sliding door sits beside an opening in the center of the east elevation of the barn, as well. Entrances in the raised fieldstone foundation are in the east wall and consist of two single wood and glass doors and a set of wooden doors. Other openings in the barn are filled with multi-light windows, including arched openings in each gable peak.

The interior of the barn has two levels. The upper or main level of the barn

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is a large open space with a wood floor and exposed structural elements. At the south end are two large granaries. The fieldstone foundation is also used for storage and still features structures built for animal storage and dairying.

The clapboard siding and modern glazing were added around 1957, when the farmstead was remodeled into a country estate. The owners converted the barn from agricultural purposes to storage and entertaining space, while retaining most of the barn's original features. Like the remodeling in the farmhouse and summer kitchen, the remodeling of the barn was tastefully executed with high quality materials, and has helped to preserve the structure and interior of the building. And, like the farmhouse and summer kitchen, the current owners have maintained the barn at a high level of preservation.

**Garage**  
non-contributing

The one-story garage has a rectangular plan, a concrete foundation, and a gable roof. Its walls are covered with clapboards and a modern garage door sits in the north elevation.

**Pig Barn**  
c.1861-1880, non-contributing (4)

The pig barn was originally a one-story fieldstone structure with a low-pitched gable roof. Around 1957, it was remodeled into a residence and is now under separate ownership. A new roof raised the height of the building to a one and one-half story structure. Projecting from the north and south walls are large, multi-gabled dormers filled with multi-light openings. The dormers and the gables of both ends of the building are covered with clapboards.

There are many varied openings in this building. Along the west wall there is a set of eight multi-light openings, four stacked on top of four. Along the south elevation there are small openings that were probably original to the building, but are filled with modern multi-light glazing. A large screen porch also spans about half of this wall. Along the north elevation, there are a number of openings, including a small, original opening; a larger, multi-light opening; and two modern garage doors. A shed-roofed porch covers the main entrance. It has multi-light openings, a wooden door with multi-light glazing, and board and batten siding.



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The interior of the pig barn has also been largely remodeled. Behind the main entrance is the kitchen, which is the only living space that has the original low ceiling that was once in the pig barn. The kitchen has been remodeled with modern fixtures and cabinets. To the west of the kitchen is the living room, which has a cathedral ceiling that is open to the second floor. This floor is reached via a small staircase in the kitchen. On this floor are two bedrooms and a bathroom. This area is carpeted and is of modern construction.

Like the farmhouse, summer kitchen, and barn, the remodeling of the pig shed was tastefully done with high quality materials and is a small, but elegant home today. However, because so much historic integrity was lost in this remodeling effort, the building, although attractive, is a non-contributing resource of the farmstead.

At the back of the pig barn is a small shed that is also a non-contributing element of the property.

**Notes to Section 7:**

(1) Carol Lohry Cartwright, Donald Silldorff, and Sharon C. Robinson, *City of Mequon Intensive Survey Report*, Mequon: City of Mequon, 1990, p. 22.

(2) Although no exact date of construction could be found for the summer kitchen, it was an integral part of the early farmstead and was probably built around the same time the house was erected, c. 1855.

(3) Again, no exact date could be found for the barn, but it was probably built around the time the farmhouse was constructed.

(4) Two dates appear on the building; a datestone that appears to read 1861, and an inscription that reads 188?.

William F. Jahn Farmstead  
Name of Property

Ozaukee  
County and State

Wisconsin

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

### Period of Significance

c. 1855 (1)

### Significant Dates

c. 1855

### 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.)

NPS Form 10-900-a  
(Rev. 8-86)  
Wisconsin Word Processing Format  
(Approved 1/92)

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Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

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The Jahn Farmstead is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C because the farmhouse is a fine example of the Greek Revival architectural style in Mequon. The house has retained most of its fine Greek Revival features and is one of the most decorative mid-nineteenth century houses in the city. The farmstead also contains a fine example of fieldstone construction in its summer kitchen, a type of outbuilding important to German farmsteads of the mid-nineteenth century.

***HISTORICAL BACKGROUND***

Land in southern Wisconsin was opened up for formal settlement shortly after the Blackhawk War of 1832, when white militias defeated the last resistance effort of Native Americans to signing over their land rights. White settlement began in Mequon in 1835 when the federal government allowed the sale of some of the land in southern Wisconsin, including the area in Mequon east of Range Line Road. Land west of Range Line Road was officially sold in 1839, but some of this land was settled as early as 1836 by "squatters" who did not hold official title until the sale in 1839. (2)

Like most of southern Wisconsin, the first settlers in Mequon were Yankees who came to the area to exploit the water power of the Milwaukee River and its tributaries and to farm the fertile soil of the town. Moving settlers through the area was the old Indian Trail which ran north to Green Bay. This old trail ran north from Milwaukee along the Milwaukee River to Saukville, then traveled along the western shore of Lake Michigan to Manitowoc, before moving inland again to Fort Howard at Green Bay. In 1835, the federal government surveyed the trail for use as a military road between Fort Dearborn in Chicago and Fort Howard. The military road followed the trail between Milwaukee and Saukville, but north to Green Bay, the road ran through Sheboygan Falls and Manitowoc Rapids before returning to the old trail to Green Bay. The military importance of this road ceased when the government abandoned the forts at Chicago and Green Bay, but the road became an important transportation route for early settlement in eastern Wisconsin and in Mequon. (3)

During the early 1840s, some of the most intensive settlement occurred in Mequon. Joining the Yankee families were many groups of German immigrants and a number of Irish immigrants, as well. The German immigrants, though, made the most significant architectural and cultural contribution to Mequon. The first Germans in Mequon were William Opitz, his father and mother, and his sister

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and brother-in-law, who immigrated in 1839. About a half dozen families from Saxony, led by Andreas Geidel, also came in 1839, creating the Altenburg Settlement along what is now Wauwatosa Road. A larger German immigrant group that came in 1839 became one of the most significant German groups in Mequon.

This group consisted of about 40 families from Pomerania who settled in western Mequon and established a community known as "Freystatt" (Freistadt). Known as "Old Lutherans," these Germans left Germany rather than join the state church. By 1850, many more German families settled in Mequon, filling in all the available land of the town (4)

In the center of the old town of Mequon, a village grew up during the 1840s. Named Thiensville for John Thien, who built the first grist mill, the community grew into a thriving village during the nineteenth century. Freistadt was another village that grew up in Mequon during the nineteenth century. Although much smaller than Thiensville, Freistadt was located in the heart of the German immigrant community and by 1880, it had two churches, a general store, a post office, two shops, and about 24 houses. Other concentrations of houses appeared at the crossroads of the town's major arteries, but none developed into villages like Freistadt or Thiensville. (5)

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

In 1850, Mequon's population was 2,100 and it would stay between 2,500 and 3,000 through the Great Depression of the 1930s. (6)

During the early twentieth century, the beginnings of Mequon's suburbanization could be seen along the major arteries of the town. During the 1910s and 1920s, bungalows were built on large suburban-style lots that were divided off of farm land along Cedarburg, Green Bay, Freistadt, Wauwatosa, and Port Washington roads. Also during this time, especially along the Milwaukee River and the Lake Michigan shoreline, some wealthy families built suburban estates featuring fine period revival style homes. (7)

Despite these developments, the rural character of the town so prevailed that the citizens did not even build a formal town hall during most of its history,

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Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

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rather, town officials conducted meetings in private homes. But, by the late 1930s, the necessity for a modern government building was met with the construction of the Mequon Town Hall in 1939. The new town hall housed offices and the fire department. A swimming pool and bath house were also erected next to the town hall building. (8)

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

In fact, between 1940 and 1960, the population of the town more than doubled to 8,543 residents, and most of the growth was due to the new subdivisions and modern houses being built in the town. But even with this growth, the town of Mequon still largely resembled a rural community. (9)

During the 1950s, Mequon's residents became concerned about town property being annexed to either Thiensville in the town, itself, or to cities to the north and south of the town. The town citizens' solution was to incorporate, which was completed on May 24, 1957, making Mequon an official city. In 1970, the now city of Mequon's population had grown to over 12,000 residents, and fueled by continued suburban development, the population in Mequon in 1980 was slightly over 16,000. (10)

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

**Resource History**

The Jahn farmstead is related to the German ethnic settlement in Mequon. By the turn of the twentieth century, Germans were the largest foreign-born group in Ozaukee County, and with the American-born descendants of German-born immigrants, Germans were, by far, the largest ethnic group in nineteenth and early twentieth century Ozaukee County. William Jahn was a part of the wide variety of Germans who contributed to the important German ethnic heritage of

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Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

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Mequon, and William Jahn, personally, was a noted member of the German community.

Germans were the largest non-English-speaking immigrant group that came to America from Western Europe. Over five million Germans came to the United States between 1820 and 1910, primarily in three waves of immigration. From 1845-1855, Germans came mostly from southwestern German states; from 1865-1884, they came mostly from northwestern German states; and from 1880-1893, they came mostly from northeastern Germany. In Wisconsin, Germans came in significant numbers during the 1840s, the 1850s, and the 1880s. German-born population in the state peaked in 1900, but subsequent generations of ethnic Germans continued the German influence in the state as they retained their culture and traditions well into the twentieth century. (11)

Germans came for economic, religious, and political reasons. Since German settlers tended to live within German communities in similar economic, political, or religious groups, many close-knit communities of Germans developed, sometimes within larger German settlement areas. Germans established their own fraternal organizations, their own churches, their own clubs and entertainment groups, and their own press. They even tended to support the same political ideas among themselves, being strong supporters of the Democratic party in the nineteenth century, and in Milwaukee, establishing a strong socialist movement in the twentieth century. (12)

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

Johann Christian Jahn brought his family to Mequon from Saxony, Germany in 1844. His son, William F., was 12 years old. William F. Jahn had attended school in Germany before immigrating to America, and he may have furthered his education in this country, either by attending a local school or by self-study, because by 1860, he was given a certificate to teach school, and after a few years, he became the Superintendent of Schools in Mequon. At the same time, he developed this farmstead, and also was a town surveyor. His son, William, Jr., joined him in the surveying work in 1886. (13)

Jahn's farm was a very successful operation. In 1860, the 60-acre farm had a value of over \$2,000. Unlike Yankee farmers who almost exclusively grew wheat

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during this era, Jahn had a more diversified operation. The 1860 agricultural census indicates that he was raising six milk cows, four other cattle, and eight pigs. Although he produced 100 bushels of wheat in 1860, he also grew four tons of hay, 50 bushels of corn, and 300 bushels of oats. The farm also produced 125 pounds of butter. By 1870, the farm had grown to 75 acres and was worth over \$4,000, and by 1880, the farm had over 100 acres and was valued at \$6,500. Still a diversified operation, in 1880, the agricultural census indicated that Jahn's farm had seven milk cows, six other cattle, seven pigs, and 80 chickens. The farm produced 60 tons of hay, 325 bushels of wheat, 240 bushels of corn, and 600 bushels of oats. Butter production had risen to 900 pounds per year, and the farm produced 8,000 eggs, suggesting that Jahn was selling butter and eggs off of the farm for profit. (14)

Aside from operating his farm, supervising schools, and surveying, William F. Jahn also held public offices. He was a justice of the peace in 1862 and served on the local draft board during the Civil War. He was Chairman of the Town of Mequon and was an Ozaukee County Board supervisor. His public work in the community made him one of the most notable citizens in Mequon and he was a leader in the German community, helping other families with their financial and legal concerns. (15)

In 1893, William turned over his farm to his son, William, Jr., and William, Jr. and his wife, Meta, held the farm until 1929. The Wright family acquired the farm in the mid-twentieth century, converting it into a country estate and preserving and remodeling the buildings in the late 1950s. During the later 1960s, a new owner, Robert Mologne, subdivided the farm and separated the pig barn from the main farmstead. After several other changes in ownership, the main farmstead became the property of current owners, Peter and Donna Steffen, in 1985. The old pig barn was owned by several different people until 1976, when current owner Sigrid Dynek, purchased it.

William F. Jahn and his family were noted German residents in the old Town of Mequon and through their long ownership of this farmstead, contributed to the ethnic German community in the city. They were typical of the German immigrants in that they farmed successfully for decades, but were somewhat atypical in that William F. Jahn became a leader in the German community. In any event, this farmstead is a good example of one element of the German immigrant experience in Mequon.

The size and elaborateness of the farmstead's buildings represents Jahn's success as a farmer and leader in the community. If compared to other farms in

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the city, it can provide important information about German settlement in the area and in Wisconsin. German settlement was vast in the state and much is known about important German leaders, German ethnic buildings, and German organizations. By examining farmsteads of settlers such as the Jahn family, information can be gained beyond the most well-known Germans to the lesser known families, and this information can add to the area's understanding of German ethnic heritage in the state.

**ARCHITECTURE**

The William F. Jahn Farmstead is architecturally significant at the local level because the farmhouse is a good example of the Greek Revival style. The Greek Revival style was the first national style commonly seen in Wisconsin. It was popular between 1830 and 1870 in the state. Greek Revival buildings are formal, orderly, and symmetrical. Although most Greek Revival houses were frame buildings covered with clapboards, in Wisconsin, the style was used to adorn brick, fieldstone, and quarried stone structures. While Wisconsin has a number of high-style Greek Revival buildings, more commonly, the style is seen on vernacular houses in the form of symmetrical massing, regular fenestration, simple cornices and returned eaves, and entrances decorated with a transom and/or sidelights. (16)

The Jahn farmhouse has almost all of the features mentioned above that are typical of the Greek Revival style in Wisconsin. Specifically, the main block of the house, which is where the Greek Revival details appear, is formal, orderly, and symmetrical. It has the regular fenestration of the style, consisting of the six-over-six-light, double-hung sashes that are still extant. The simple frieze and returned eaves of the style are seen at the roofline of the house and the main entrance has the transom lights, the sidelights, and the frieze and cornice that are common details of Greek Revival houses.

The 1990-completed intensive survey of the City of Mequon indicated that the Jahn farmhouse was one of the most notable of the Greek Revival-influenced houses identified in the city. It was also the best example of a Greek Revival house that featured clapboard siding. The other good examples were all of fieldstone construction. The high level of integrity of this house makes it stand out in the city, and this integrity is one of the important reasons the building is architecturally significant. The remodeling done to the house during the mid-twentieth century made only a few changes to the exterior appearance of the main block, and the changes to the interior do not overwhelm



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the original character of the farmhouse.

Also architecturally significant is the fieldstone summer kitchen, both for its construction materials and its type of building, a summer kitchen. Stone construction is found throughout Wisconsin and the state's stone buildings often express popular architectural styles, vernacular forms, and ethnic variations. Fieldstone construction was particularly popular in Wisconsin between 1850 and 1880, but by the twentieth century, this type of stone construction was generally limited to agricultural outbuildings and foundations. But, during its heyday, fieldstone was used to build houses, barns, silos, churches, and commercial buildings. Early fieldstone construction utilized large boulders, filling in the spaces with smaller stones and liberal amounts of mortar. Later, boulders were split and mortar joints became thinner. Quarried rock or bricks were used to make corner quoins and the trim around doors and windows. (17)

Stone was an important building material in Wisconsin because of the natural materials found in the state and because its earliest immigrants were familiar with stone construction either from the eastern United States or Europe. In Wisconsin, fieldstones from pre-historic glacial activity were abundant and easily harvested. Also common in southern Wisconsin were sandstone and limestone deposits that were easily quarried. Many of the Yankee, English, and German settlers in Wisconsin in the mid-nineteenth century were familiar with stone construction, as it had been common in their home areas. The result was many fine examples of this type of construction in the state. (18)

According to the 1990-completed intensive survey of the city of Mequon, there is an outstanding collection of fieldstone buildings in the city, including houses, barns, and outbuildings. In particular, a collection of fieldstone summer kitchens and smokehouses were identified in the survey. The summer kitchen on the Jahn farmhouse is one of the resources identified in this collection. Because of its size and high quality of construction methods and materials, the summer kitchen on the Jahn farmstead stands out among this group as one of the most notable. It has a high degree of integrity, and its massive fieldstone chimney, a main detail of summer kitchens, is extant and in excellent condition. The remodeling to convert the building into living space does not significantly effect the building's overall historic integrity.

The summer kitchen is also an important building for its type of construction. Summer kitchens were common in some parts of Wisconsin and were related to certain ethnic groups, such as the Germans. Because summer kitchens and

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related smokehouses were generally only used in the nineteenth century, many have not survived into the late twentieth century. Those that have are often in poor condition. The summer kitchen of the Jahn farmhouse has been well-preserved and exists as a fine example of this type of construction. It is an important artifact that can add to the knowledge of this type of building on mid-nineteenth century German ethnic farmsteads.

Although the pig barn is not a contributing structure because of the remodeling that has altered its appearance, the walls of the pig shed are also good examples of fieldstone construction. They are very similar to the walls of the summer kitchen and the foundation of the basement barn and suggest a common builder. The extant basement barn also adds interest to this farmstead. Although the clapboard siding has changed its appearance somewhat, the barn is an important, relatively intact, component of this farmstead and adds architectural interest to the property.

Because the Jahn farmstead is a relatively intact, very well-preserved farmstead in Mequon, it is an important historic resource in the city. Its architectural significance lies primarily in its fine Greek Revival farmhouse and the stone construction of the summer kitchen. But, the fact that most of the components of the original farmstead are still extant adds to the significance of the resource. The conversion of this property to a country estate in the mid-twentieth century has some interest, both architecturally and historically. In the future, if the mid-twentieth century alterations remain as they are today, this element of the property could be evaluated and additional significance attributed to this resource for its use as a country estate.

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**Notes to Section 8:**

(1) The period of significance is the year in which this farmstead was constructed.

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

(3) *Ibid.*

(4) Silldorff, p. 3.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(11) Barbara Wyatt, ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin* (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), Vol. I, Settlement, pp. 2-1--2-10.

(12) *Ibid.*

(13) "William F. Jahn, Surveyor, Educator, Public Servant," *Pioneer Village Review*, Vol. 7, No. 1, March, 1978.

(14) Determination of Eligibility for the William F. Jahn Farmstead, on file in the Division of Historic Preservation, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, 1994.

(15) "William F. Jahn, Surveyor."

(16) Wyatt,, Vol. II, p. 2-3.

(17) *Ibid.*, p. 4-6.

(18) *Ibid.*

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**ARCHEOLOGICAL STATEMENT**

The Jahn Farmstead was once part of a large, working farm in an area that was known to have had active Native American settlement. Because the farm sits on three acres and includes some relatively undeveloped spaces, there is a possibility that unknown archeological resources, either pre-historic or historic, may exist on the property. An archeological investigation was outside of the scope of this nomination, but if such an investigation was undertaken, it is possible that some pre-historic or historic archeological resources may be uncovered.

William F. Jahn Farmstead  
Name of Property

Ozaukee  
County and State

Wisconsin

### 9. Major Bibliographic References

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

**Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3 acres

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

1	<u>1/6</u>	<u>4/1/8/5/6/0</u>	<u>4/7/8/7/2/2/0</u>	3	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

See Continuation Sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Carol Lohry Cartwright, Consultant	date	8/15/99
organization	Prepared for City of Mequon	telephone	414/473-6820
street & number	W7646 Hackett Rd.	zip code	53190
city or town	Whitewater	state	WI

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**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:**

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

Determination of Eligibility for the William J. Jahn Farmstead. On file in the Division of Historic Preservation, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

Silldorff, Don. "Mequon's Early One Room Schools," April 1996. Unpublished manuscript on file in the Planning Department, City of Mequon, Mequon City Hall, Mequon, Wisconsin.

"William F. Jahn, Surveyor, Educator, Public Servant." *Pioneer Village Review*, Vol. 7, No. 1, March, 1978.

Wyatt, Barbara, ed. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, Vol. I and II*. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986.

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The verbal boundary description of this property is as follows: Beginning at the intersection of the south lot line of 1112-1116 N. Wauwatosa Rd. and the right-of-way of North Wauwatosa Road, then north along the west lot line of 1112-1116 N. Wauwatosa Rd. 405 feet to the north lot line of 1112-1116 N. Wauwatosa Rd., then east along this line 328 feet to the east lot line of 1112-1116 N. Wauwatosa Rd., then south along this line 405 feet to the south lot line of 1112-1116 N. Wauwatosa Rd., then west along this line 328 feet to the point of beginning.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

This boundary includes the historic buildings of the Jahn farmstead and its traditional historic site. It includes both the parcels for the old pig barn and the old farmhouse property.

William F. Jahn Farmstead

Ozaukee

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs** Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional Items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

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

<b>name/title</b>	Peter and Donna Steffen and Sigrid E. Dynek		
<b>organization</b>		<b>date</b>	
<b>street&amp;number</b>	12112 and 12116 N. Wauwatosa Rd.	<b>telephone</b>	414/242-0194
<b>city or town</b>	Mequon	<b>state</b>	WI
		<b>zip code</b>	53097

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.



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

- 1 of 15: House, south and west elevations, from the southwest.
- 2 of 15: House, north elevation, from the north.
- 3 of 15: House, east elevation, from the southeast.
- 4 of 15: House, interior, living room.
- 5 of 15: House, interior, dining room.
- 6 of 15: House, interior, dining room.
- 7 of 15: House, interior, first floor bedroom and north wing addition.
- 8 of 15: House, interior, family room (remodeled porch).
- 9 of 15: House, interior, main entrance.
- 10 of 15: House, interior, second floor bedroom.
- 11 of 15: House, interior, second floor balustrade (original).
- 12 of 15: Summer kitchen, view from the southwest.
- 13 of 15: Pig Barn, view from the northwest.
- 14 of 15: Pig Barn, view from the south.
- 15 of 15: Basement Barn, view from the southeast.

**JAHN, WILLIAM F. FARMSTEAD  
MEQUON, OZAUKEE COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

**SITE MAP**

Key:

A: Farmhouse

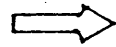
B: Summer Kitchen

C: Basement Barn

D: Pig Barn

E: Garage

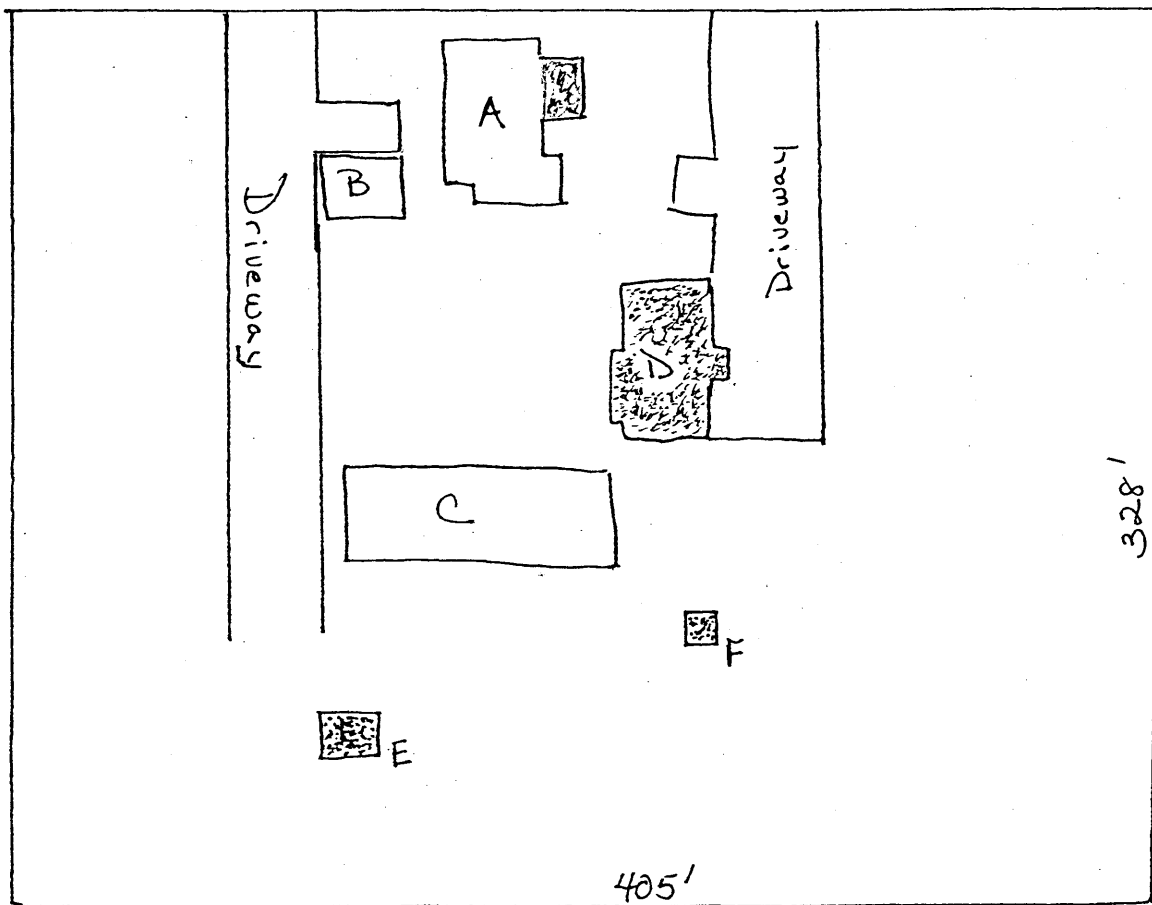
F: Shed




NORTH

no scale

N. Wauwatosa Rd.



 Contributing

 Non-contributing