



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

## 1. Name

historic / Jacob Schunk / Farmhouse

and/or common N/A

## 2. Location

street & number N104 W15446 Donges Bay Road, not for publication

city, town Germantown vic. vicinity of Congressional District

state Wisconsin code 55 county Washington code 131

## 3. Classification

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

## 4. Owner of Property

name Francis and Carlyn Rott

street & number N104 W15446 Donges Bay Road

city, town Germantown vicinity of state Wisconsin 53022

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse

street & number 432 East Washington Street

city, town West Bend state Wisconsin 53095

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1977  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

## 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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

With an addition in 1870 made to the original 1858 house, the Jacob Schunk farmhouse acquired a T-shaped form. The original two-story, gable-front building of limestone rubble faces south, and is intersected by the two-story stone (lower story) and clapboard (upper) addition. Simple wood sills and lintels frame the double-hung windows in both portions: three per story on the front gable end, two per story on the rear and east gable ends, and four per story on the west side elevation. Wide wood entablatures underline the horizontal roof cornices, and wood fascias trim the raking cornices in the gable ends. Quarter-round windows light the peaks of the front (south) and side (east) gable ends. Unrelated to the house in period and materials, the three outbuildings (chicken coop, garage, and pumphouse) on the property are not included in the nomination.

The single-door entrance at the east end of the original gable end is recessed, and framed by sidelights and transom. Doors in the front and rear of the intersecting wing are undecorated. Simple square columns span the open porch in the front of the wing. Of the four red brick interior chimneys (two per ridge) on the roof, only that over the front gable end is possibly original. The roof is currently covered with composition shingles, and clapboards on the addition were renewed in 1977. A lean-to summer kitchen appended to the rear wall was removed sometime before 1940, but was replaced in 1982 with a board-and-batten version; this new addition is not considered significant.

Although the current use and general disposition of rooms in the interior resembles patterns of use in the nineteenth century, sizes have been altered by removal or slight shifting of walls. (The most significant change has been conversion of the original kitchen and a bedroom, both at the rear of the original house, to use as a family room. A second kitchen, included in the 1870 wing which served the household of the son of the original owner, is now the kitchen of the single-family residence.) The front hall and stair against the east wall of the original section remain as original, with a (painted) wood balustrade and stained newel guarding the single flight of stairs. The living room on the first story, and bedrooms (and baths) on second, parallel nineteenth-century uses, although the sizes of rooms have been changed. Due to comprehensive remodeling in the mid to recent twentieth century, only the stair and painted plaster outside wall surfaces and openings can be considered representative of the historic interior of the 1857-70 era.

Although the original farm property has been subdivided among various owners, tillage of the land to the rear (north) of the house recalls the historic qualities of the site. The area is still largely rural in feeling, but tract housing and light industrial development are visible from the site.

## 8. Significance

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

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**Specific dates** 1858<sup>1</sup> 1870<sup>2</sup> **Builder/Architect** unknown

### Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Jacob Schunk farmhouse is one of a number of Greek Revival and/or stone buildings in southern Washington County, corresponding in time and form to characteristic construction of German settlers in southeastern Wisconsin. Among buildings of the same period or method of construction in the area, the house is distinguished by its broad proportions, handsome coursed rubble walls with simple articulation, and its fine state of preservation.

Originally the single-family dwelling of German immigrant<sup>3</sup> Jacob Schunk, the house grew to its present form in 1870 with the addition of a stone-and-clapboard side wing for the second generation of the family. Both the added east gable end and original south gable end are decorated with Greek Revival-era quarter-round windows and "capitals" marking the termination of wood entablatures on the side walls. A reconnaissance survey of 1977 identified a substantial number of surviving Greek Revival and variously-constructed stone buildings in the Germantown area and beyond, remnants of German and Yankee settlement in the early to mid nineteenth-century in Wisconsin. German-born Schunk and his New York-born wife<sup>5</sup> thus represented both points of origin when they arrived in Germantown in 1841, in the 1840-43 period of principal settlement of the area.<sup>4</sup> The farmer Schunks retained title to the house and its eighty acres of land until the property was divided and sold in 1924,<sup>5</sup> since which the house has passed through several owners.

Recent inspection suggests that increasing development threatens the historic feeling of the rural areas surrounding metropolitan Milwaukee, including the Germantown vicinity. Given that several formerly-significant buildings have been neglected or recently altered, and that tract housing and industrial parks are common sights in the area, the efforts of the present and previous owners of the Jacob Schunk house to maintain the property are noteworthy, and the significance of the house as a survivor of its type may well increase.

<sup>1</sup> Tax Rolls, Washington County, Courthouse, West Bend, Wisconsin.

<sup>2</sup> Cornerstone, 1870 addition.

<sup>3</sup> Washington County census records, 1850, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison.

<sup>4</sup> Western Historical Company, History of Washington and Ozaukee Counties, Wisconsin, 1881, p. 323.

<sup>5</sup> Abstract of title.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

History of Washington and Ozaukee Counties, Wisconsin; Western Historical Company, Chicago, 1881.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

see continuation sheet

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

state code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diane H. Filipowicz/Architectural Historian (Continued)

organization State Historical Society of Wisconsin date June 1983

street & number 816 State Street telephone 608/262-2732

city or town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Director, Historic Preservation Division, SHSW date Nov. 1, 1983

For NPS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 12/8/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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

Jacob Schunk Farmhouse, Germantown, Washington County, Wisconsin  
Continuation sheet

Item number 10, 11

Page 1

For NPS use only

received

date entered

10. Verbal Boundary Description:

In the west one-half of the SW quarter of Section 26, Township 9N, Range 20E, in the County of Washington and State of Wisconsin; commencing at a point on the S line of said  $\frac{1}{4}$  section, 440.00 feet N 88 27'16" E on the southwest corner of said  $\frac{1}{4}$  section; thence N 88 27'16" E along the south line of said  $\frac{1}{4}$  section, 150 feet; thence N 1 29' 37" W, parallel with the west line of said  $\frac{1}{4}$  section, 200 feet; thence S 88 27'16" W, parallel with the south line of said  $\frac{1}{4}$  section, 150 feet; thence S 1 29'37" E, parallel with the west line of said  $\frac{1}{4}$  section 200 feet to the point of the beginning, excepting from the S 33.00 feet for public street purposes.

11. Form Prepared By:

Research Assistance By:

Francis and Carlyn Rott  
N104 W15446 Donges Bay Road  
Germantown

June, 1981  
414/255-1692  
Wisconsin 53022