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Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

**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**

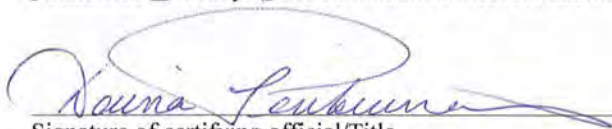
**historic name** Northern Casket Company Building  
**other names/site number**

**2. Location**

<b>street &amp; number</b>	16 North Brooke Street	N/A	<b>not for publication</b>
<b>city or town</b>	Fond du Lac	N/A	<b>vicinity</b>
<b>state</b> Wisconsin	<b>code</b> WI	<b>county</b> Fond du Lac	<b>code</b> 039
			<b>zip code</b> 54935

**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.)

  
Signature of certifying official/Title

11/26/2018  
Date

State Historic Preservation Office - Wisconsin  
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

Northern Casket Company Building | Fond du Lac | 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:)

*by Barbara Wyatt*  
Signature of the Keeper

*1-11-19*  
Date of Action

#### 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**  
(check as many boxes as  
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

1

noncontributing

buildings

sites

structures

objects

total

1

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

N/A

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

0

#### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/manufacturing  
facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/not in use

#### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN  
MOVEMENTS

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE, STONE

walls

BRICK

roof

ASPHALT

other

#### Narrative Description

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

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## 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)

INDUSTRY

### Period of Significance

1905-1962

### Significant Dates

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Hennen, Joseph E. (1869-1960)

### Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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## 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 1.5 acres

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

1    16T    382925.88    4848451.27  
      Zone    Easting        Northing

2    \_\_\_\_\_  
      Zone    Easting        Northing

3    \_\_\_\_\_  
      Zone    Easting        Northing

4    \_\_\_\_\_  
      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	Emily Ramsey	date	April 5, 2017
organization	MacRostie Historic Advisors LLC	telephone	(312) 786-3619
street & number	53 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1142	zip code	60604-3619
city or town	Chicago	state	IL

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### 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>	Louie A. Lange	<b>date</b>	April 5, 2017
<b>organization</b>	The Commonwealth Companies	<b>telephone</b>	608.709.5677
<b>street &amp; number</b>	9 Sheboygan Street	<b>zip code</b>	54935-4204
<b>city or town</b>	Fond du Lac	<b>state</b>	WI

**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 Reduction Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Northern Casket Company Building  
Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin

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**Summary**

The Northern Casket Company Building is located at 16 North Brooke Street in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, a mid-sized city on the southern tip of Lake Winnebago and 63 miles northwest of Milwaukee. The three-story manufacturing building is situated on a parcel on the west side of Brooke Street, between Lewis Street to the north and Taylor Street to the south. An unpaved road named Moore Street forms a diagonal border along the western edge of the site. The Northern Casket Company Building has a roughly U-shaped plan, and features a flat roof and elevations clad in common brick. The primary facade along Brooke Street is set back from the street approximately fifty feet by a narrow surface parking lot. A secondary rear parking area occupies the site's former rail stub connection and is accessed from Taylor Street.

Overall, the interior and exterior of the Northern Casket Company Building continues to display character-defining elements typical of early twentieth century industrial architecture.

**Exterior**

The Northern Casket Company Building is comprised of six main sections reflecting four periods of construction dating from 1892 to post-1927. Essentially a U-shaped building, this one- and three-story industrial building features exterior walls of brick, a concrete foundation, timber and concrete framing, and a flat roof. The structure is stylistically and materially uniform across its various sections and additions, with only slight differences in form, fenestration, and materials. The original portion, built in 1892 with a third story added in 1914, forms the northern wing and faces north onto Lewis Street. For the purposes of this narrative, the various additions to the original building are referred to as Additions A-E and labeled chronologically by year of construction, as shown on the attached chronological site plan. Addition A, a narrow three-story addition extending east from the main building and fronting on Brooke Street, was completed in 1910. Addition B, a three-story addition extend from the south end of Addition A, was completed in 1920. Addition C, a single-story storage and boiler house connected to the west side of Addition B, was also completed in 1920. Addition D, a small, single-story addition extend from the west side of the 1892 building, was completed in 1920 as well. Addition E, a three-story addition extending from the south elevation of the 1892 building, was constructed in phases between 1927 and 1950.

*Original 1892 Building (with 1914 third-story addition)*

The original 1892 portion along Lewis Street is a brick industrial loft type with a third story added in 1914 with a plain parapet capped by coping tiles. Industrial loft type buildings are characterized by multiple stories with large, open floor areas allowing sufficient, unobstructed space for a variety of manufacturing operations. Circulation and service areas were grouped and often placed at the

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perimeter of the building to minimize intrusions into the manufacturing spaces. The design was optimized to provide plenty of natural light, and ventilation. All windows on the second and third floors features steel-framed, twenty-pane windows with a central six-pane louvered sash. The north elevation is organized into ten bays with an alternating pattern of single windows and closely spaced paired windows. A main entrance with a modern, non-historic awning is set in the sixth bay from the west, while secondary entrances are located in the eastern and western ends. All first-floor windows and entry doors feature non-historic replacements or are covered on the exterior with painted plywood. An iron fire escape installed around 1920 exits on the second and third floors at the western end of the north elevation. The west elevation is partially obscured on the first floor by a single-story addition to the west, and blends almost seamlessly with a matching three-story addition to the south. Upper floors have six evenly spaced windows per floor.

*Addition A (1910)*

Addition A is a three-story brick addition constructed to the east of the 1892 building and completed in 1910, visually extends the building's north elevation eastward by two bays of windows. The addition has seven bays of windows along its east elevation, separated by shallow brick pilasters, and topped by a plain brick parapet with a faded painted sign that reads "Northern Casket Co." A second diamond-shaped painted sign on the brick spandrel in the middle bay between the second and third floors reads "Established 1872." Windows are organized into tripartite sets of double-hung, six-over-six, wood sashes with stone sills. Several windows on the third floor have been boarded over. Two doorways along the east elevation feature non-historic replacement doors, while a service entrance in the east bay of the north elevation features a non-historic overhead door.

*Addition B (1920)*

Addition B, a three-story addition completed in 1920, extends from the south elevation of the 1910 addition. Addition B features an L-shaped footprint but mirrors the east elevation of Addition A. The east elevation is similarly organized into seven bays separated by shallow brick pilasters with a continuation of the brick parapet. Tripartite window groupings are also similar to those in Addition A, except that they feature cast concrete sills. A wide doorway with a non-historic aluminum framed door is set within a wood frame and located in the fifth bay from the south. As with Addition A, several windows on the third floor have been boarded, and several windows on the first floor are obscured by non-historic aluminum storm windows.

The south elevation of Addition B fronts onto Taylor Street and is four bays wide with two outer bays that project slightly. Brickwork along the parapet is parged. The fenestration in each bay is similar to the east elevation with divided-light, double-hung sash windows, except that several first-floor windows have non-historic replacement glass block or modern sash units. The outer projecting bays feature sets of windows, with groupings of three in the east bay and sets of four in the west bay. Windows in the middle two bays consist primarily of evenly-spaced single windows. Two entrances

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on this elevation include a main, double door entrance in the second bay from the east, and a secondary entrance in the western-most bay. Both entrances open onto concrete porches flanked by cement knee walls with plain brick pilasters supporting unornamented cast concrete entablatures. The north and west elevations of Addition B, facing the inner U-shaped court, have limited fenestration and are met at their intersection by a four-story brick freight elevator tower.

*Addition C (1920)*

Addition C, a single-story brick addition connected to the west side of Addition B, is divided into two sections—the south half is a garage with a flat roof, and the north half is a former machine shop and powerhouse with a sawtooth roof and a 110-foot-tall brick smokestack. The south elevation is symmetrically arranged with two overhead garage doors flanked by small window openings with non-historic infill. The north and west elevations of the north half are each divided into three bays separated by shallow brick pilasters; each bay features a large window opening with non-historic infill.

*Addition D (1920)*

A single-story addition was erected to the west of the 1892 portion around 1920 and features a very shallow gable roof. The masonry walls on all sides of this addition appear to have been altered with new brick infill, and portions of the south and west elevation are parged. Openings on this addition are limited to a single doorway at the western end of the north elevation and a series of overhead doors along the south elevation; all doors and windows are non-historic. The garage doors on the south elevation are set in a non-historic corrugated metal wall.

*Addition E (c.1927-1950)*

A one- and three-story addition on the south elevation of the 1892 portion was completed sometime after 1927. It is comprised of a one-story center section that once supported a large water tank, flanked by a three-story, five-bay section with loading on the ground floor to the west and a three-story, four-bay section to the east. Overall, the addition mirrors the design, form, and materials of the 1892 portion, with unornamented brick walls that are regularly fenestrated primarily with historic 16-pane steel windows with operable center panels. The ground floor along the west and center portions houses large loading entrances; several openings retain original wood and glass overhead doors. A metal fire-escape is located at the far east end of south elevation of Addition E.

**Interior**

The six main sections that form the Northern Casket Company Building are connected on the interior by doorways on each floor. Several connecting doorways retain original steel plated, weighted fire doors. Floors are connected via two non-historic stairs: one at the southwest corner of the 1892 building and the second at the center of Addition A. Original freight elevators are located on the west



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side of Addition B and the near the center of Addition E. The interior of each section is described separately below.

*1892 Building (with 1914 third-story)*

Historically, the 1892 building functioned as a typical manufacturing facility, with open utilitarian spaces, exposed masonry walls, and exposed steel and wood structural members. Much of this space has been reconfigured in recent years for use as offices and commercial businesses, particularly on the first floor, but the changes are primarily additive and have not resulted in the wholesale removal of historic fabric. A non-historic lobby with non-historic entrance has been added to the east end of the first floor, and a non-historic entrance with enclosed vestibule is located near the center of the first floor. Non-historic toilet rooms are located at the southeast corner of the first floor. Modern drywall and wallboard partitions subdivide the remainder of the space for multiple tenants' uses. Flooring in the offices are carpet, vinyl tile, and limited areas of concrete. Modern drywall covers existing columns. Ceilings are non-historic dropped ceilings with fluorescent lighting and ducts concealed above. The ceiling framing in the center office is set at angles. A non-historic stair with simple wood steps and 2" x 4" railings is located at the far western end of the 1892 building.

The second and third floors of the 1892 building are very similar to the first floor. Reversible, non-historic partitions were added at both floors to create storage areas against the north side of the building. The south side of the second floor retains some open space, with additional partitions scattered throughout the floor. The third floor is largely open to the south. Unlike the first floor, more of the historic features of the building are exposed on the second and third floors, including wood floors, exposed painted brick perimeter walls, exposed timber frame, and exposed wood ceiling structure. Modern finishes include carpet, wallboard partitions, modern door infill, wood and metal wall studs, dropped fluorescent lights, exposed conduit, dropped ceilings, and exposed insulation above the ceilings.

*Addition A (1910)*

Addition A is connected to the 1892 building and additions through two openings in the bearing walls, infilled with modern metal doors. The 1910 addition was built to provide additional factory space. The 1910 addition retains its historic footprint and open floorplan, with a row of evenly spaced wood columns running through the middle of the floor and a stair in the southeast corner leading to the basement. Modern finishes date to more recent building renovations and are found throughout the floor, including vinyl tile floor, carpet, furred perimeter walls, dropped ceilings with florescent lights, exposed conduit, and exposed ventilation ducts. Modern drywall covers the existing columns. The second floor is largely open, with the addition of modern, short partitions. The third floor is subdivided into storage rooms along the east and north perimeter walls. In some locations, only wood framing remains. Both floors retain historic finishes including painted wood floors, exposed painted brick perimeter walls, exposed painted timber columns, exposed, painted wood ceiling structure, and metal

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fire doors, located at select openings between additions. Modern finishes include areas of carpet, wallboard partitions, dropped fluorescent lights, and exposed conduit.

*Addition B (1920)*

Additions A and B are separated by a brick wall on the interior; two pairs of original weighted fire doors connect the two additions. Historically, this addition served as additional factory space and housed the company's offices, display room, and other finished spaces as recounted in a 1993 article on the building. None of these spaces remain intact, and their locations are indicated only by limited areas of plaster molding and a decorative column capital at the center of the first floor and some remnants of wood trim on the second floor.

The factory spaces of Addition B retain the historic L-shaped footprint and interior wood columns. While a majority of the space is open, some areas have been subdivided for modern tenant use. Two modern entrance lobbies and vestibules are located on the east and south sides of the building, constructed of non-historic partitions. To the west, the space is subdivided with modern partitions for storage. The historic freight elevator is located on the north side of the building, adjacent to the non-historic stair. Wood floors, timber columns and beams remain intact. In addition to partitions, other modern finishes include vinyl flooring, furred perimeter walls, areas of dropped ceilings with florescent lights, and exposed conduit.

The second and third floors retain their largely open floor plan, with few modern partitions. A shallow wood stair vestibule encloses the stair to the north on both floors. An original toilet room remains on the south side of the building, with exterior plaster walls and interior fixtures. To the north is the freight elevator. Both floors retain historic finishes including painted wood floors, exposed painted brick perimeter walls, exposed, painted timber columns, exposed painted wood ceiling structure, and metal fire doors, located at openings between additions. Limited wood trim and terrazzo floors remain at the toilet room. Some window enframements also remain. Modern alterations are limited to select areas of additional structural beams and the addition of exposed conduit and dropped fluorescent lighting.

*Addition C (1920)*

Addition C is connected to the 1920 addition to the east through one opening in the brick bearing wall. This addition provided burial vault storage for the Northern Casket Company and contained a boiler house. A shallow basement runs underneath this space and contains no historic finishes or features. A modern wallboard stair at the north end connects the basement to the first floor. The first floor retains its historic double-height space and largely open floor plan, with the addition of a modern mezzanine to the north. Wallboard partitions and vinyl siding create two open mezzanine areas, with interior offices overlooking the mezzanine to the east. The ceiling is saw-toothed, following the exterior pattern of historic locations of monitor lights, which were either removed or covered from the exterior.

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Historic finishes, include concrete floors, exposed brick perimeter walls, brick partition walls, and exposed timber frame ceiling. Modern alterations include wallboard floors, dropped conduit and florescent lights, and painted wood ceiling coverings.

*Addition D (1920)*

Addition D is located to the west of the 1892 addition, but does not have any direct openings into the 1892 building or additions to the east. This addition provided additional storage for the company. It retains its L-shaped footprint and historically largely open floor plan with limited partition walls. Its finishes include concrete floors and exposed brick perimeter walls.

*Addition E (c. 1927-1950)*

Addition E was constructed between 1927-1950 to provide additional loading and manufacturing space. The addition is connected to the original 1892 building through two openings in the bearing wall. These later sections retain their historic footprints and largely open floorplans. Historic finishes include exposed brick walls, concrete floors, exposed timber framing, and steel sash frames of formerly exterior window openings. A small brick enclosure projects into the center portion of the addition, containing a historic freight elevator, likely pre-dating the 1927-1950 additions. Minor alterations include non-historic partitions, non-historic metal and wood doors, and the infill of a former light-well at the center of the building. Several ramps are used to adjust for grade differences when moving east to west in the building.

**Integrity**

The Northern Casket Company Building is one of only a few remaining factory buildings in Fond du Lac that exhibit a high degree of architectural integrity. Most of its historic features are intact and well preserved. The building retains almost all historic exterior features, including its overall form and footprint and historic arrangement of entrances and windows. Some of the window units have been changed, but there is little other alteration. Although some more original finished spaces were added during the Northern Casket Company's ownership, including the office spaces and display room on the first floor of Addition B, are no longer intact, the interior of the building still retains a great deal of architectural integrity including its general historic floor plan and circulation pattern related to its historic use as a manufacturing facility. The high level of architectural integrity of the Northern Casket Company Building provides important information on factory design and construction from the early-twentieth century.

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**Summary**

The Northern Casket Company Building, built in stages between 1892 to post-1927, is locally significant under National Register Criterion A, in the area of Industry as the building most associated historically with the Northern Casket Company, a locally-significant casket manufacturer within the context of Fond du Lac's industrial history. The factory at 16 N. Brooke Street reflects the evolution and growth of the Northern Casket Company, from an early producer of wooden caskets to one of the leading concerns of its kind in the country, with a line of caskets in a wide range of materials including steel, statuary bronze, and mahogany. The building remains one of the best surviving examples in Fond du Lac of a late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century factory devoted entirely to the production of caskets and as a general reminder of the city's industrial past, of which very few buildings remain.

The building served most notably as the main factory and offices for the Northern Casket Company, which resided in the space beginning in 1905 when the Nehrbass Casket Company, as the company was formerly known, relocated from Hartford, Wisconsin. The largest of the building's four periods of expansion was completed in 1920 and resulted in the overall form and footprint of the building as it stands today.

The period of significance for the Northern Casket Company Building begins in 1905, when the company first moved into the building, and ends in 1962, the year the company vacated the building.

*An Overview of the History of Fond du Lac*

The city of Fond du Lac is a largely working- and middle-class city in Fond du Lac County, located on the Fond du Lac River, at the southern tip of Lake Winnebago in east-central Wisconsin. It was historically centered, economically speaking, around the railroad and lumber industries, which drew European immigrants as residents to the city during the period of its greatest development in the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.

The part of the state of Wisconsin where Fond du Lac is located was first explored by French Catholic missionaries and fur traders most likely between the 1670s and 1718. The name "Fond du Lac" means "farthest or end of the lake" in French and appears to have become associated with this general area during this early period of European exploration.<sup>1</sup> In 1787, the Fond du Lac area officially became part of the United States as part of the Northwest Territory. That year, a European trading post was

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<sup>1</sup> Michael D. Lempinen and Les Ross, "Intensive Survey Report, Architectural and Historical Survey Project, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin," Prepared for the City of Fond-du-Lac (Wisconsin, May 1989), 9.

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established at the fork in the Fond du Lac River. Although abandoned sometime before 1819, this post served early European traders and trappers in their interactions with Ho-Chunk Indians living in the area, as did a trading post established that year in the area. <sup>2</sup>

By the 1820s, the fur trade was waning, and Native Americans were being removed from their land for resettlement on reservations or pushed further west. Europeans began to settle in the Fond du Lac area permanently in the 1830s, starting with the 1835 purchase of 3,705 acres of land at the mouth of the Fond du Lac River into Lake Winnebago by the Fond du Lac Company, led by James Duane Doty and George McWilliams. At this time, the city of Fond du Lac was platted. Soon after, early pioneers Colwert and Edward Pier each purchased 160 acres of Doty's original plat of Fond du Lac from the Fond du Lac Company, and Colwert Pier and his wife Fanny began operating a tavern, inn, and land office as agents for the company. The Piers are acknowledged as the first permanent European settlers of Fond du Lac. <sup>3</sup>

In 1838, the Fond du Lac Company recruited a doctor, Mason C. Darling, to settle in the new community. Darling saw opportunity in real-estate development and purchased 80 acres from the company. Through shrewd business moves, Darling was able to center the new settlement's development on his acreage, which became the center of Fond du Lac's historic downtown. <sup>4</sup>

Despite the efforts of Darling and other early residents, the new town grew slowly, reaching a population of only 400 by 1847. That year, the Wisconsin territorial legislature authorized a village charter for Fond du Lac. <sup>5</sup> Commercial activity increased in the next few years, thanks to receiving a branch line of the Chicago & NorthWestern Railroad. By 1852, when the community received a city charter, Fond du Lac was a bustling city of approximately 5,000 - centered on several lumber mills making 12 million board feet of lumber and 6 million shingles a year. Besides eight hotels and numerous shops and other commercial ventures, the city now had four elementary schools and six churches of major denominations, including St. Louis Roman Catholic Church, which was started in 1847. <sup>6</sup>

The combination of the lumber industry and the Chicago & NorthWestern Railroad encouraged Fond du Lac's growth. <sup>7</sup> By the 1860s, the city had doubled in size to 10,000 residents, many of whom

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, 10.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, 8.

<sup>7</sup> Barbara Wyatt, *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin: A Manual for Historic Properties (Wisconsin CRMP)*, (Madison: Wisconsin Historical Society, 1986).

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worked in the lumber mills and the railroad's car shops. Other industries included flour mills and iron works,<sup>8</sup> however, the lumber industry was waning by this time, and combined initially with the 1873 economic panic, which affected economic growth in general throughout the United States, Fond du Lac began to slow in economic growth despite the efforts of new industries, including tanneries, machine shops and similar endeavors. A small resort industry centered on Lake Winnebago and local artesian wells grew in popularity, but by itself was unable to replace the economic might of the declining lumber industry.<sup>9</sup>

*Twentieth Century Industrial Expansion*

It was not until the early 1900s that Fond du Lac's economy began to recover. Railroad repair shops owned by the Soo Line and the Chicago & NorthWestern Railroad employed around 1,700 men in 1912. The city's industrial base expanded from one of the top pioneer lumbering towns in the state to a more diversified market with companies such as the Fred Rueping Leather Company, the Sweet Company, the Moore and Galloway Lumber Company, the Huber and Fuhrman Drug Mills, the Giddings and Lewis Company, the O.C. Steenberg Company, the Vulcan Manufacturing Company, the Galloway-West Company, the Bechaud Brewing Company, and the Northern Casket Company. Between the railroads and these and other industries, Fond du Lac remained a prosperous small city of commerce and industry until the post-World War II era. The population of the community steadily grew from 15,100 in 1900 to 18,797 in just 10 years, doubling again by 1920 with a population of 23,427.<sup>10</sup>

The post-World War II era saw some stagnation in industrial output and the removal of much retail activity from Fond du Lac's historic downtown to the city's west side, although specialty retail shops remain in the historic downtown, along with many government offices and professional service providers.<sup>11</sup> Industry has declined with the general rise of overseas manufacturing since the 1960s, which has adversely affected formerly industrial-oriented communities through much of the United States, including Fond du Lac. The city today has 43,021 residents as of the 2010 United States census.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Lempinen and Ross, "Intensive Survey Report," 8.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid, 11-12.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid, 12.

<sup>12</sup> "American Fact Finder," United States Census, [http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community\\_facts.xhtml](http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml); accessed December 6, 2015.

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*A Brief History of Casket Manufacturing in Wisconsin*

The casket industry dates to the early 1800s in the United States. Funeral directors, then known as undertakers or morticians, often operated a local store where they built caskets for the customers they served. Casket makers began mass-producing caskets during the 1860s to meet the demands of the Civil War, at which time caskets became standard practice for the transport of fallen soldiers. Following the war, casket making began developing as a separate industry with newly formed business ventures devoted solely to their manufacture and production. Cloth-covered wooden caskets comprised a large sector of the market well into the early part of the twentieth century. It was not until the Batesville Casket Company of Indiana pioneered mass-production techniques with steel caskets in 1918, which allowed the production of steel to become more economically viable than wood. This sparked the expansion of several casket manufacturers across Wisconsin and across the entire nation, including the Northern Casket Company's incorporation of metalworking in 1920.

The number of independent casket manufacturers continued to grow significantly with the expansion of the industrial revolution. Casket finishes were largely still dependent upon access to local raw materials, which at the time, was primarily wood. City directories in the first half of the twentieth century confirm the growing industry across Wisconsin with companies such as Milwaukee Casket Company (Milwaukee), Unity Casket Company (Milwaukee), Erbe-Laun Casket Warehouse (New Holstein), Buckstaff-Edwards Company (Oshkosh), Cream City Casket Company (Milwaukee), North American Casket Company (Fox Lake), E. C. Manger & Son Company (Green Bay), Edwards-Ibrig Company (Oshkosh), Crescent Casket Company (Pewaukee), Felix Kamrowski (Stevens Point), Kewaunee Casket and Manufacturing Company (Kewaunee), Northern States Casket Company (Chippewa), Weidemann & Linden Manufacturing Company (Green Bay), Badger Casket Company (Columbus), and the Northern Casket Company (Fond du Lac).<sup>13</sup>

During World War II, many casket manufacturers produced cloth-covered cardboard caskets to conserve wood and steel needed for the war effort. In the early 1950s, there were over 700 casket manufacturers employing more than 20,000 workers in the United States with nearly 75% of the market still dominated by wood production.<sup>14</sup> It was not until the 1960s that many companies switched entirely to steel production.

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<sup>13</sup> *Wright's Directory of Fond du Lac County*, 1905, 1915. *Polk's Wisconsin State Gazetteer and Business Directory*, vol. 41-42, (Detroit, Michigan: R.L. Polk & Co., Publishers, 1921-1922). Franklin Howard Smith, Edward M. Griffith, and Homer S. Sacket, *Study of the Wisconsin Wood Using Industries* (Madison, Wis. : Democrat Print. Co., State printer, 1910), 48

<sup>14</sup> "A Brief History of Caskets," Northwoods Casket Company, <http://www.northwoodscasket.com/northwoodscasket/2011/03/brief-history-of-caskets.html>, accessed Dec. 18, 2016.

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Assembly line production and more advanced manufacturing processes refined by the growing auto industry rapidly transformed the casket industry into a more consolidated market. By 1960, there were around 500 casket manufacturers across the country, which only further consolidated in the 1970s and 1980s with corporate acquisitions. By 1996, a dozen manufacturers in the United States supplied more than 90% of the market for steel caskets.<sup>15</sup>

*History of the Northern Casket Company and its Fond du Lac Factory*

The Northern Casket Company was first established as the Nehrbass Casket Company in the small town of Hartford, Wisconsin in 1872 by Tobias Nehrbass. By 1905, the company relocated 30 miles north to Fond du Lac with plans to employ 45 people in the former Fond du Lac Canning Company plant at the corner of Lewis and Brooke streets.<sup>16</sup> According to the July 5, 1905 *Daily Reporter*: "The factory will have admirable shipping facilities here, being located between the North Western and Wisconsin Central tracks. Probably no better location could be found in the city."<sup>17</sup> The move, largely structured around the desire to be near better shipping facilities, was also the result of negotiations with key community figures such as local entrepreneur, William Mauthe.

Mauthe (1873-1942) was born in Appleton in 1873. After beginning his early career as an athletic instructor and professional gymnast, Mauthe eventually settled in Fond du Lac where he established his furniture store on the southwest corner of Main and Division streets in 1900. He quickly became one of the most prominent figures in local business circles and identified with a number of important enterprises. Mauthe took on several local business ventures in addition to the Northern Casket Company including the Sanitary Refrigerator Company and the Demountable Typewriter Company.

In 1905, Mauthe was named president and general manager of the Nehrbass Casket Company, which by 1909 was renamed the Northern Casket Company by the corporation's newly appointed officers. The first year Mauthe took over, the company was reported to have employed 100 people in the manufacture of its output, with annual sales of \$150,000.<sup>18</sup> By 1911, the Northern Casket Company became a leader in businesses operating under the workman's compensation law. Mauthe is quoted in the *Daily Commonwealth* as saying, "The law is just and the company believes the workmen are

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<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> L.J. Niedfeldt, "Historic Northern Casket Company alive in minds of its former employees." *Action Sunday*, Jan. 17, 1993. The original building was constructed in 1892 and used as a willow ware factory until the company vacated in 1898. The building stood vacant for a number of years until the Fond du Lac Canning Company moved in. They were replaced by the Casket Company in 1905, which began significant improvements.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Maurice McKenna, ed., *Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin: Past and Present*, (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1912), 325.



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entitled to a fair and reasonable compensation when they are injured while engaged in work for the company.”<sup>19</sup>

Northern Casket quickly flourished under the direction of Mauthe, with capital stock increasing from \$50,000 in 1905 to \$600,000 by 1918. A narrow three-story addition to the east, fronting on Brooke Street, was completed in 1910, and plans to double the company’s capacity by 1919 were already underway. It was reported that \$75,000 was to be spent on enlarging the facilities to accommodate nearly 200 employees with payroll doubling to \$200,000. In 1919, a 100- by 200-foot, three-story addition was designed by architect J. E. Hennen and engineer E. E. Dillon was hired to design a new power plant to be built on the west side of the addition. This power plant also included a small machine shop. The planned additions were constructed a year later in 1920 following a drop in demand. The building’s expansion included a large three-story brick-faced addition used for storage and added manufacturing space. This included the proper facilities for metal working where they produced their recently developed non-corrosive sheet steel, in addition to statuary bronze, copper, solid mahogany, walnut, and solid oak burial caskets.

Under Mauthe’s direction, the new additions in 1920 were “well-equipped and graciously furnished,” according to an article published in 1921.<sup>20</sup> The main office was “handsomely furnished with golden oak” and “battleship linoleum,” while the directors’ room was “paneled in American walnut... [and] carpeted and furnished with excellent taste.” The first floor also included the mill room, shipping facilities, and display room, which was both sound proof and dust proof. The second floor of the new addition housed the trimming room where caskets were lined and covered and the sewing room where burial garments were made. A club room, “handsomely furnished with tapestry upholstered fiber furniture,” was also located on the second floor, in addition to washrooms and a full kitchen for employees. On the third floor was a men’s smoking room furnished with leather furniture, and restrooms.<sup>21</sup> None of these finished spaces survive as described in this account, but Addition B does retain remnants of plaster detailing and wood trim on the first and second floors.

The company also expanded their marketing, with branches located in Denver, Colorado, and Sioux City, Iowa. In 1910, 45 express, passenger, and mail trains made stops in Fond du Lac daily with multiple lines equipped to handle express shipments to a number of locations across the nation.<sup>22</sup> An article in 1913 from the *Green Bay Press-Gazette* praises the company as the first company in Wisconsin to send a coffin by parcel post. It notes that the casket, which was made for an infant, was

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<sup>19</sup> Niedfeldt, “Historic Northern Casket Company alive in minds of its former employees.”

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> “Thirty-Eight Years of Casket Building, 1872-1910.” Northern Casket Co., Fond du Lac, Wis.

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mailed to an undertaker in Cedarburg for a total of 46 cents.<sup>23</sup> By the 1920s, the Fond du Lac plant was selling products directly to undertakers in every state and Canada in part due to the plant's ideal location directly on the Chicago and NorthWestern Railroad (Soo Line).<sup>24</sup> An article titled, "Public Inspects Modern Factory; Best in Midwest," from June 20, 1921, highlights the anticipated success of the "wonderful plant which reflected perfection and harmony in management and operation."<sup>25</sup> An open house of the new factory attracted hundreds of visitors.

The Northern Casket Company was headed by Mauthe until 1932, when he stepped down as president and general manager. Mauthe's son, Armin, took over for a short period until his younger son, Carlton, also stepped into a leadership role as vice president. The company was eventually sold to Aetna Industrial Corporation of New York City in 1962, who promised increased production in the declining business. After only a year under new management, the company closed and the entire operation was moved to Chicago to merge with the F.H. Hill Company. The Wells Manufacturing Company, manufacturer of automotive ignitions, replacement parts, and fuel pumps with headquarters to the south at 2-26 S. Brooke Street, purchased the building in 1963 and renamed it "Plant 3." The company utilized sections of the building until 1992. The Wire and Cable Assembly also occupied space in the building in the mid-1980s. Interior renovations were made to accommodate the new occupants. More recently, the building has served as an antique mall, which it continues to function as today.

*Architect Joseph E. Hennen*

Joseph E. Hennen was born December 19, 1869 in the town of Forest, Wisconsin, to parents Mathias J. and Elizabeth Walgenbach Hennen. He began his early career as a cheesemaker before transitioning into the field of carpentry by trade and subsequently architecture. Hennen designed a number of landmark buildings in Fond du Lac and became a widely known architect within his field. Hennen was responsible for the 1920 expansion of the Northern Casket Company Building in Fond du Lac, including the 100' x 100' three-story brick and concrete addition.<sup>26</sup>

In addition to a number of residential designs, Hennen was also responsible for commercial, industrial, and institutional buildings including the old Citizens bank, the old Gruenbeck store, Ahern's store, the W.T. Grant structure, Armory E, St. Joseph's church, St. Louis church rectory and many churches and schools in surrounding communities, although preliminary research produced little information on Hennen's role in these designs.<sup>27</sup> As a member of St. Joseph's church, he served as parish treasurer

<sup>23</sup> "First Coffin Sent by Parcel Post," *Green Bay Press-Gazette*, Feb. 12, 1913.

<sup>24</sup> Niedfeldt, "Historic Northern Casket Company alive in minds of its former employees."

<sup>25</sup> Niedfeldt, "Historic Northern Casket Company alive in minds of its former employees."

<sup>26</sup> *Milwaukee Daily Reporter*, Nov. 12, 1919.

<sup>27</sup> Obituary for J. E. Hennen, *Fond du Lac Daily Reporter*, Jan. 14, 1960.

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and consultant for 35 years. He was a member of the Holy Name Society, the Knights of Columbus, and Catholic Order of Foresters. Mr. Hennen was a former supervisor from the Fourteenth Ward and a director of the Mt. Calvary State bank.

**Comparable Buildings**

The Northern Casket Company Building is the only twentieth century building in Fond du Lac devoted entirely to the production of caskets. Wright's Fond du Lac County Directory from 1915 lists the Northern Casket Company as the only casket manufacturer in the county.<sup>28</sup> As such, the Northern Casket Company Building has no close comparable buildings in the history of Fond du Lac. Below is a list of related businesses in Fond du Lac during the early twentieth century, including funeral directors and furniture manufactures.

Robert Candlish, a cabinetmaker who established a local funeral business in 1892 (160 S. Main St.; no longer extant), was most likely producing caskets for Fond du Lac during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Although his business is listed in the Wright's Fond du Lac County Directory from 1905-06, it does not appear in the 1915 directory. The directory for 1915 lists only two funeral directors: Hardgrove & Gordon and L.G. Zacherl & Son, neither of which appear to have manufactured caskets.

A list of furniture manufacturers was compiled using Wright's Fond du Lac County Directory from 1905-06 and 1915. The 1905-06 directory includes Bowen Manufacturing Co. (refrigerators and folding tables), Fond du Lac Table Manufacturing Co., Gurney Refrigerator Co., and Winnebago Furniture Manufacturing Co. (full line of furniture). Furniture manufacturers listed in 1915 include of Fond du Lac Church Furniture Co., Fond du Lac Table Manufacturing Co., and Winnebago Furniture Manufacturing Co. Based on preliminary research, it does not appear that any of the local furniture manufacturers were producing caskets in addition to their primary product lines.

According to the Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory, only a few large scale casket manufacturing buildings are still extant across the state including the Milwaukee Casket Company Buildings (1418 W. St. Paul Ave. and 422 N. 15th St., Milwaukee), Unity Casket Company Building (919 E. Garfield Ave., Milwaukee), Laun-Erbe Casket Warehouse (2100 Broadway; an extension of the Laun-Erbe Furniture Company Building at 2105 Main St., New Holstein), Buckstaff Plant (1102 S. Main St., Oshkosh), Sheboygan Casket Company Building (1214 N. 9th St., Sheboygan), and Edwards-Ihrg Co. Building (36 Broad St., Oshkosh).

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<sup>28</sup> *Wright's Directory of Fond du Lac County*, 1915.

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**Conclusion**

The Northern Casket Company Building is locally significant under National Register Criterion A for Industry for its association with the Northern Casket Company; a prominent local casket manufacturer. The building at 16 N. Brooke St. as it stands today, represents the evolution of the growing company as they expanded to become one of the leading concerns of its kind in the country during their time in Fond du Lac from 1905 to 1962. The building is a local example of late nineteenth and early twentieth century industrial loft design, in this case, for a building which was devoted entirely to the production of caskets. This building, and its association with the Northern Casket Company, represents the broad patterns of industrial history in Fond du Lac. The period of significance spans from 1905, the year the company moved into the building, through 1962, the year the Northern Casket Company left the building.

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**Verbal Boundary Description:**

The Northern Casket Company Building is located at 16 North Brooke Street in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. It is six blocks west of Main Street and the central commercial district in an area with light industrial and some residential. The building is centered on a block, covering approximately 1.5 acres, and is bounded by Brooke Street on the east, Lewis Street on the north, Moore Street on the west, and Taylor Street on the south. The building set back on the east, south and west sides, but meets the sidewalk along the north side.

The legal description is:

DARLING MOORE & WALKERS SUBDIVISION OF BLOCK 2:

LOTS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12

**Boundary Justification:**

The nomination boundaries encompass the parcel of land historically associated with the Northern Casket Company Building in Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin.

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**Photo Log**

<b>Name of Property:</b>	<u>Northern Casket Company Building</u>		
<b>City or Vicinity:</b>	<u>Fond du Lac</u>		
<b>County:</b>	<u>Fond du Lac</u>	<b>State:</b>	<u>Wisconsin</u>
<b>Photographer:</b>	<u>Michael Bridgeman</u>		
<b>Date Photographed:</b>	<u>December 2016</u>		
<b>Location of Original Digital Files:</b>	<u>State Historic Preservation Office, Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI</u>		

**Photo 1 of 15:** East elevation - looking southwest.

**Photo 2 of 15:** North elevation - looking southeast.

**Photo 3 of 15:** North and west elevations - looking southeast.

**Photo 4 of 15:** South and west elevations - looking east.

**Photo 5 of 15:** Boiler house north and west elevations - looking southeast.

**Photo 6 of 15:** South elevation - looking northwest.

**Photo 7 of 15:** South and east elevations of 1920 addition - looking northwest.

**Photo 8 of 15:** First Floor of 1920 addition - looking east.

**Photo 9 of 15:** First Floor of 1920 addition - looking south.

**Photo 10 of 15:** First Floor of 1920 addition - looking west.

**Photo 11 of 15:** First Floor of 1910 addition - looking south.

**Photo 12 of 15:** Second Floor of 1920 addition - looking north.

**Photo 13 of 15:** Second Floor of 1910 addition - looking southwest.

**Photo 14 of 15:** Second Floor of 1950 addition - looking southeast.

**Photo 15 of 15:** Third Floor of 1920 original building - looking southwest.



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**Figure 1:** Site plan showing chronology

**Figure 2:** Exterior photo key

**Figure 3:** First floor plan

**Figure 4:** Second floor plan

**Figure 5:** Third floor plan

**Figure 6:** Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1950.

**Figure 7:** Sanborn

**Figure 8:** Historic image of the Northern Casket Company Building, looking south  
(Date unknown; Fond du Lac County Historical Society).

**Figure 9:** Historic image of the east elevation of the 1910 addition to the Northern Casket Company Building, looking west  
(July, 1920; Fond du Lac County Historical Society).

**Figure 10:** Historic image of the south and east elevations of the Northern Casket Company Building, looking northwest at the 1920 addition under construction  
(October, 1920; Fond du Lac County Historical Society).

**Figure 11:** Display room, c. 1910.

**Figure 12:** Hauling express and freight shipments, c. 1910.

**Figure 13:** Main office, c. 1910.

**Figure 14:** Reception room, c. 1910.

**Figure 15:** Map showing the territory of the Northern Casket Co. via railroad, c. 1910.

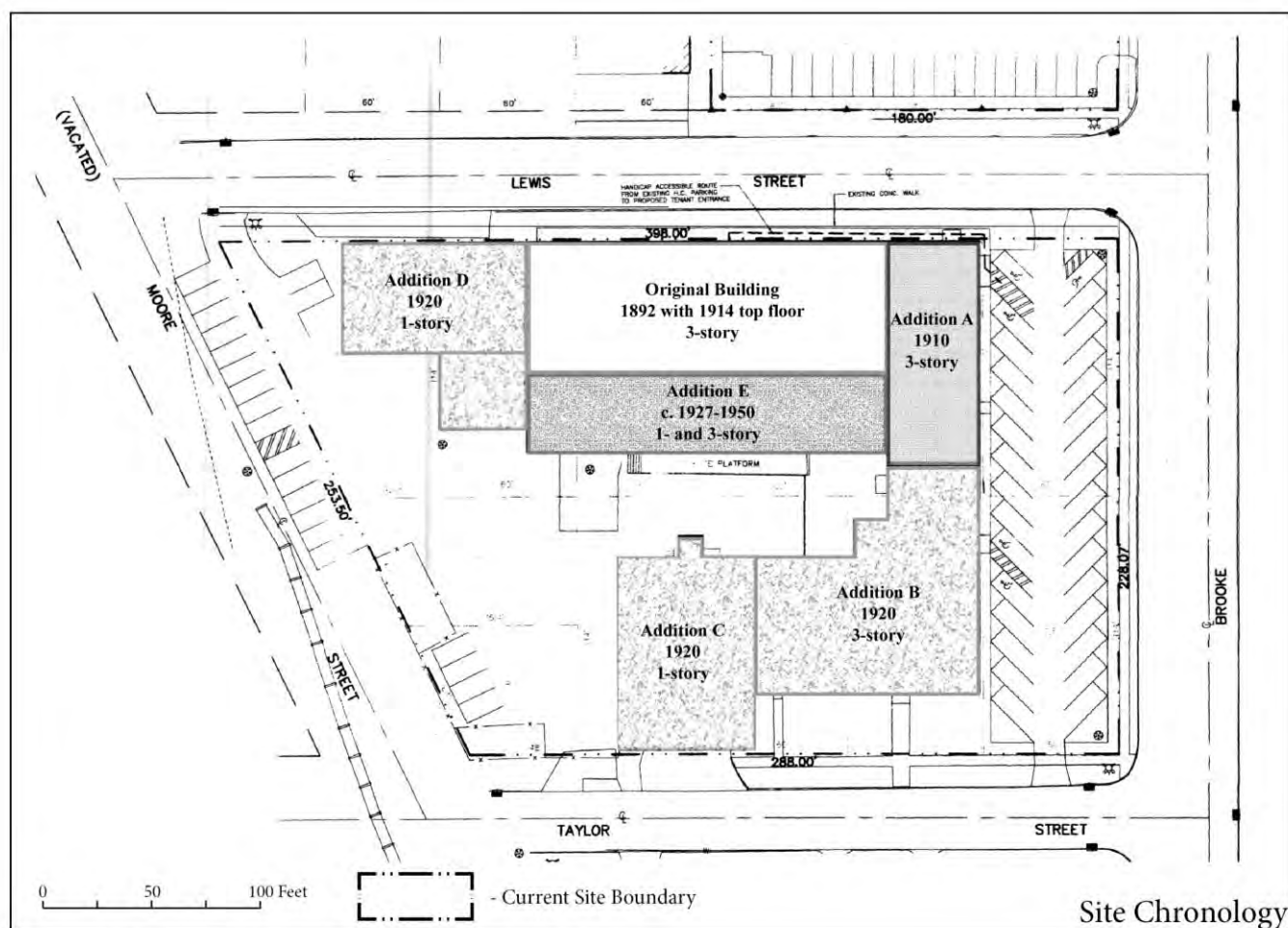
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**Figure 1:** Site plan showing chronology



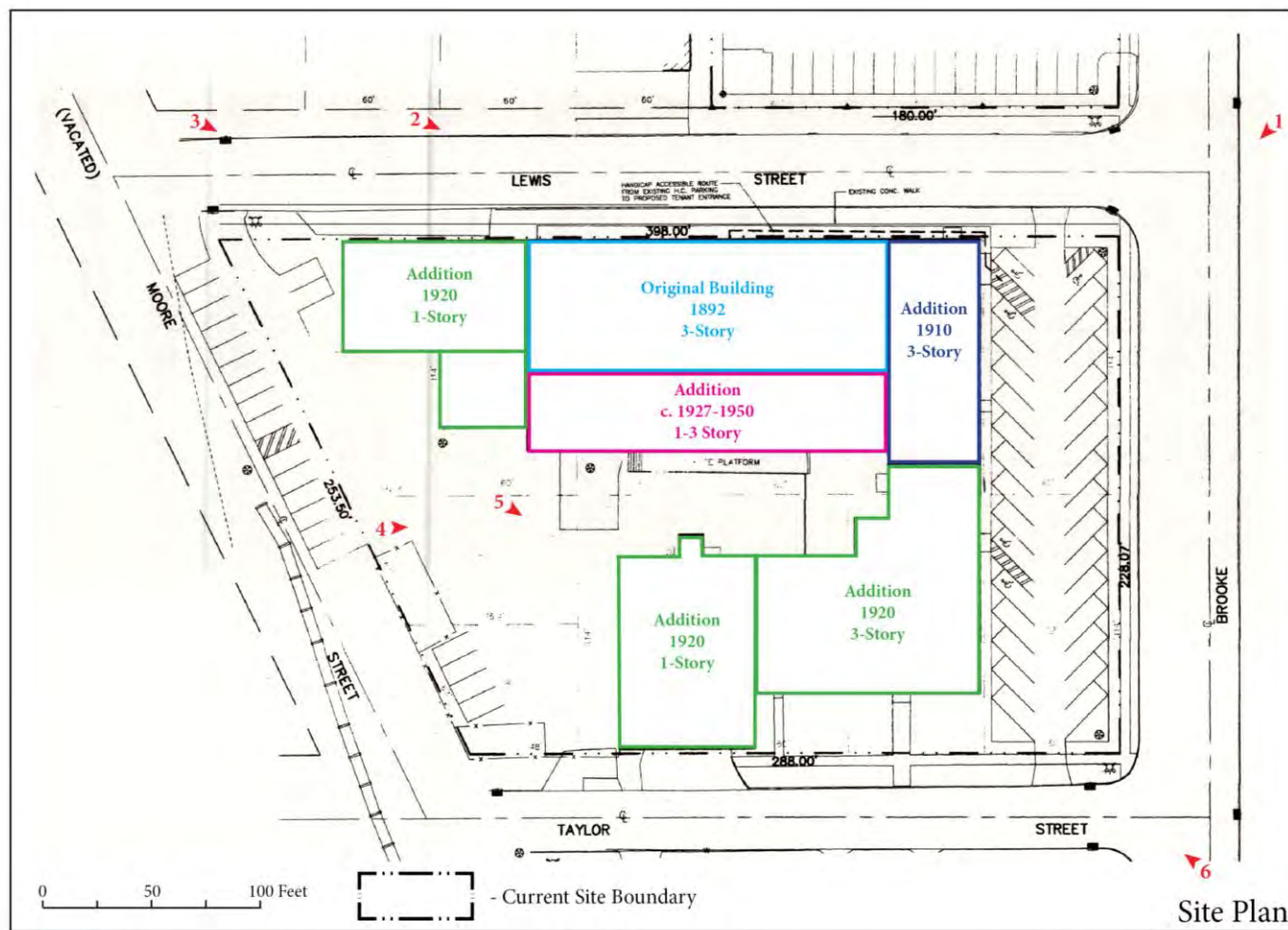
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**Figure 2:** Exterior photo key



Northern Casket Company Building  
16 North Brooke Street  
Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin

National Park Service  
NR Photo Key



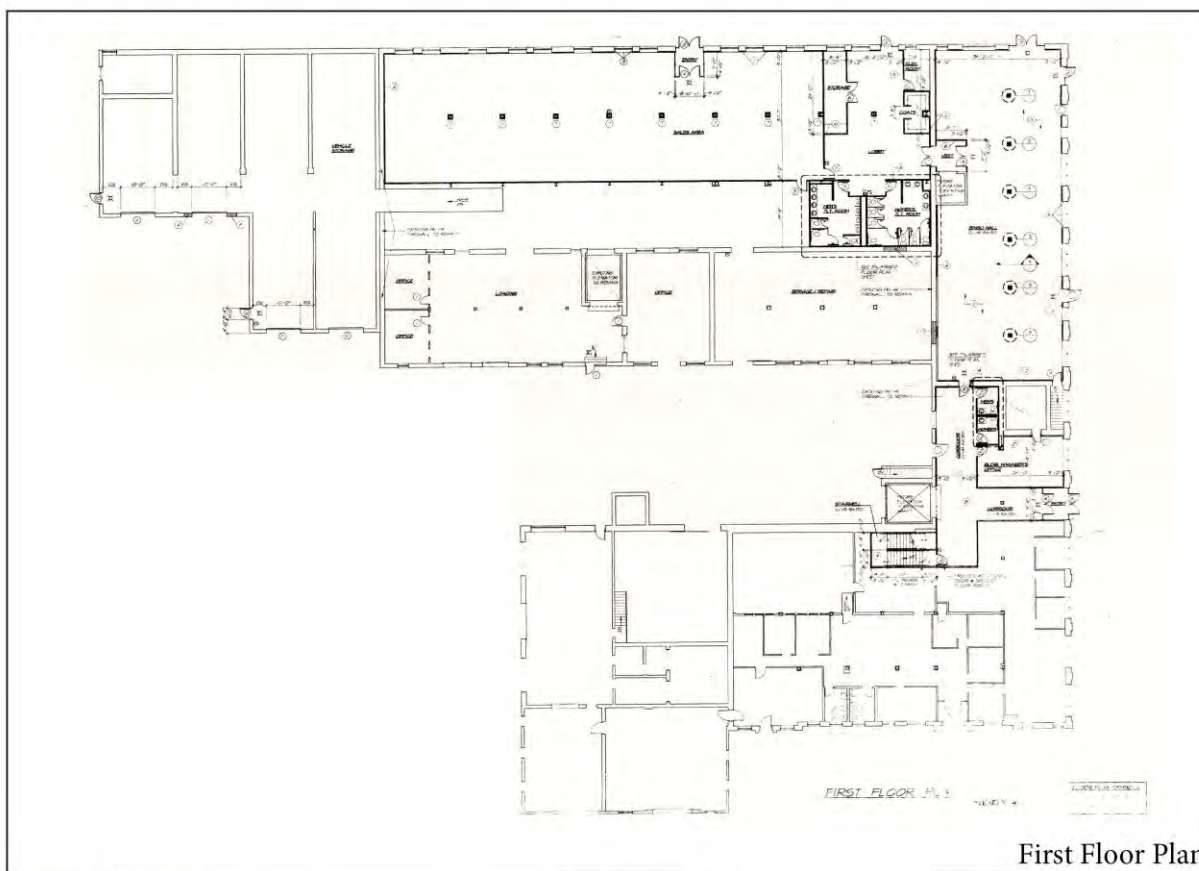
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**Figure 3:** First floor plan



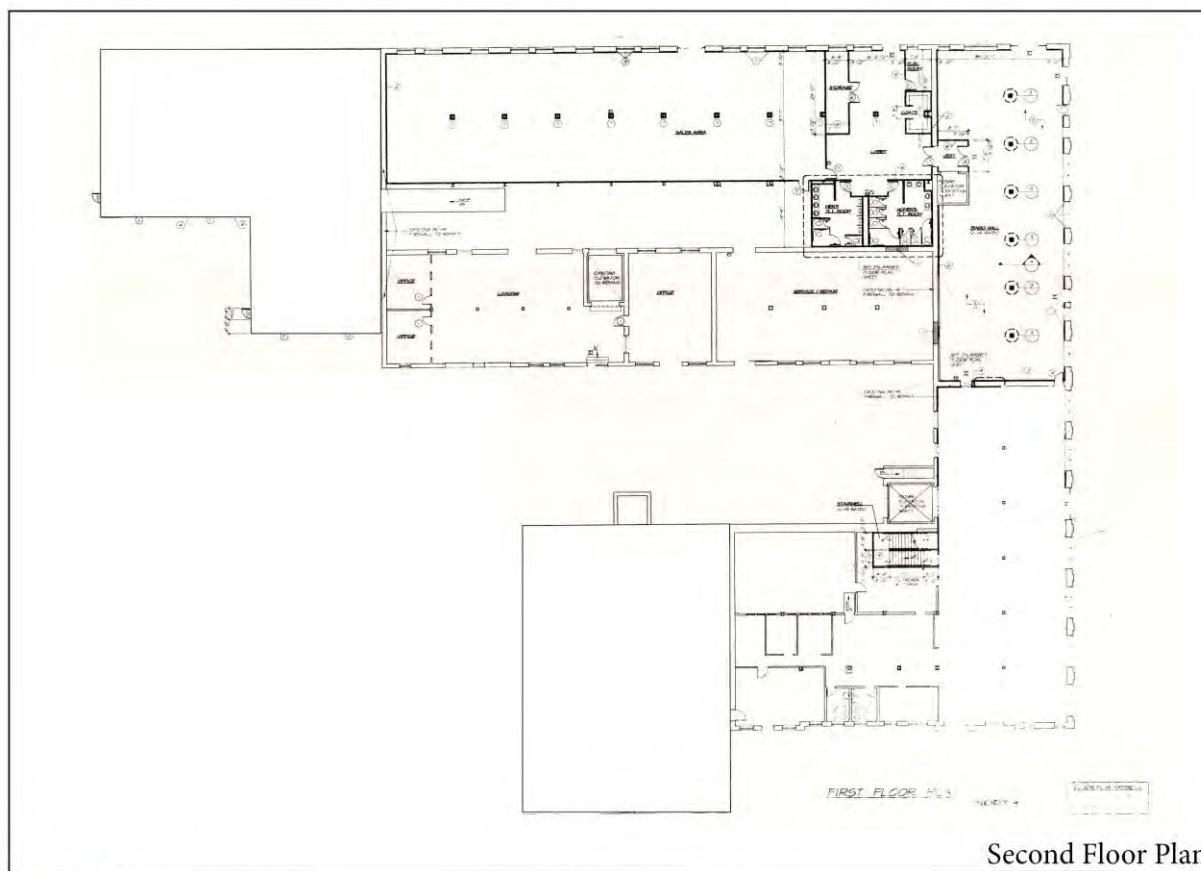
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**Figure 4:** Second floor plan





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**Figure 5:** Third floor plan



Third Floor Plan



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Figure 6: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1950.

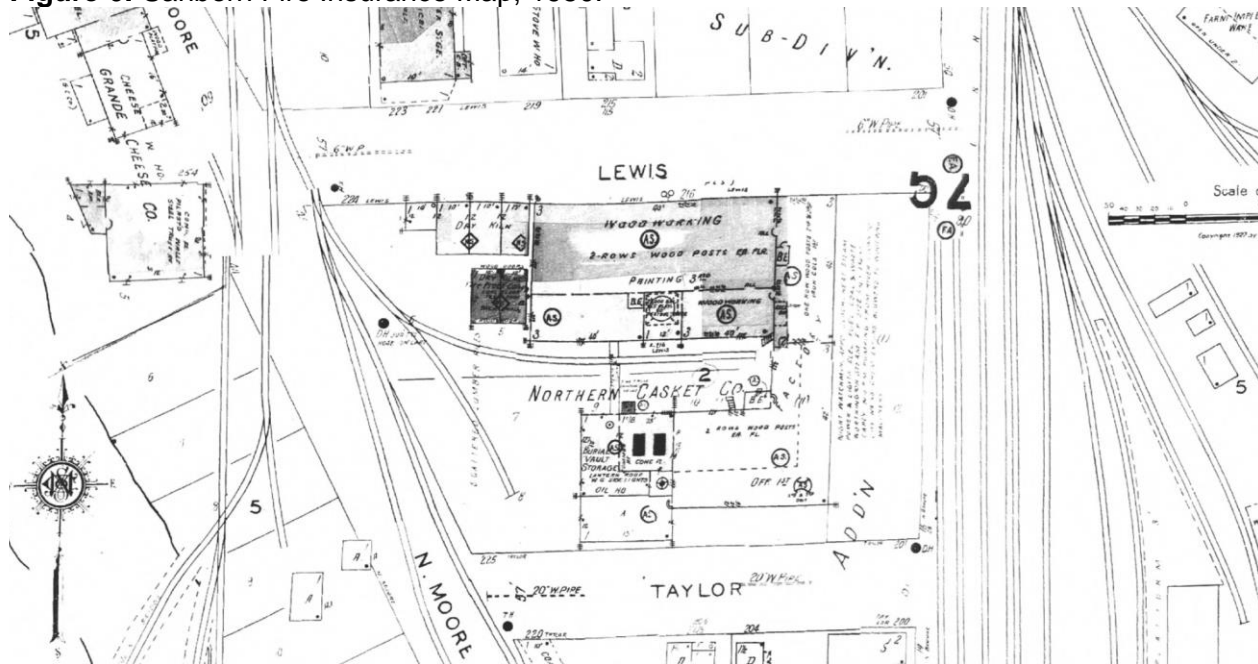


Figure 7: South and east elevations looking northwest  
(date unknown, Fond du Lac County Historical Society).





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**Figure 8:** Historic image of the Northern Casket Company Building, looking south  
(Date unknown; Fond du Lac County Historical Society).



**Figure 9:** Historic image of the east elevation of the 1910 addition to the Northern Casket Company Building, looking west  
(July, 1920; Fond du Lac County Historical Society).





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**Figure 10:** Historic image of the south and east elevations of the Northern Casket Company Building, looking northwest at the 1920 addition under construction (October, 1920; Fond du Lac County Historical Society).



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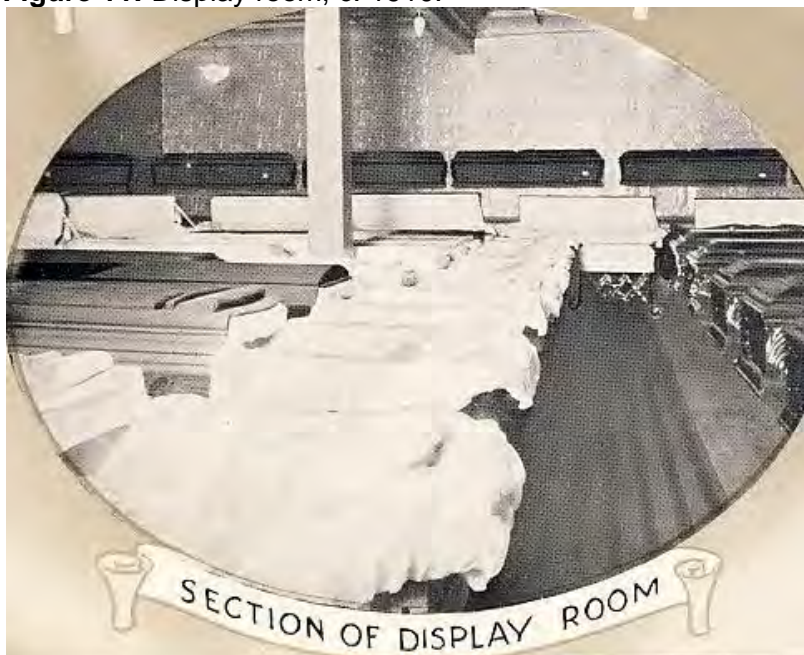
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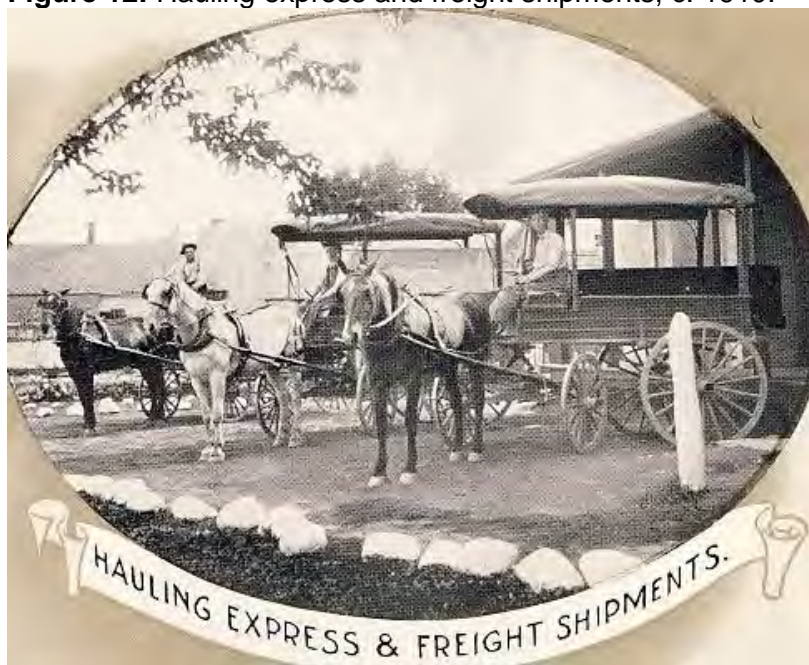
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**Figure 11:** Display room, c. 1910.



**Figure 12:** Hauling express and freight shipments, c. 1910.





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**Continuation Sheet**

Section figures Page 11

Northern Casket Company Building  
Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin

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**Figure 13:** Main office, c. 1910.



**Figure 14:** Reception room, c. 1910.



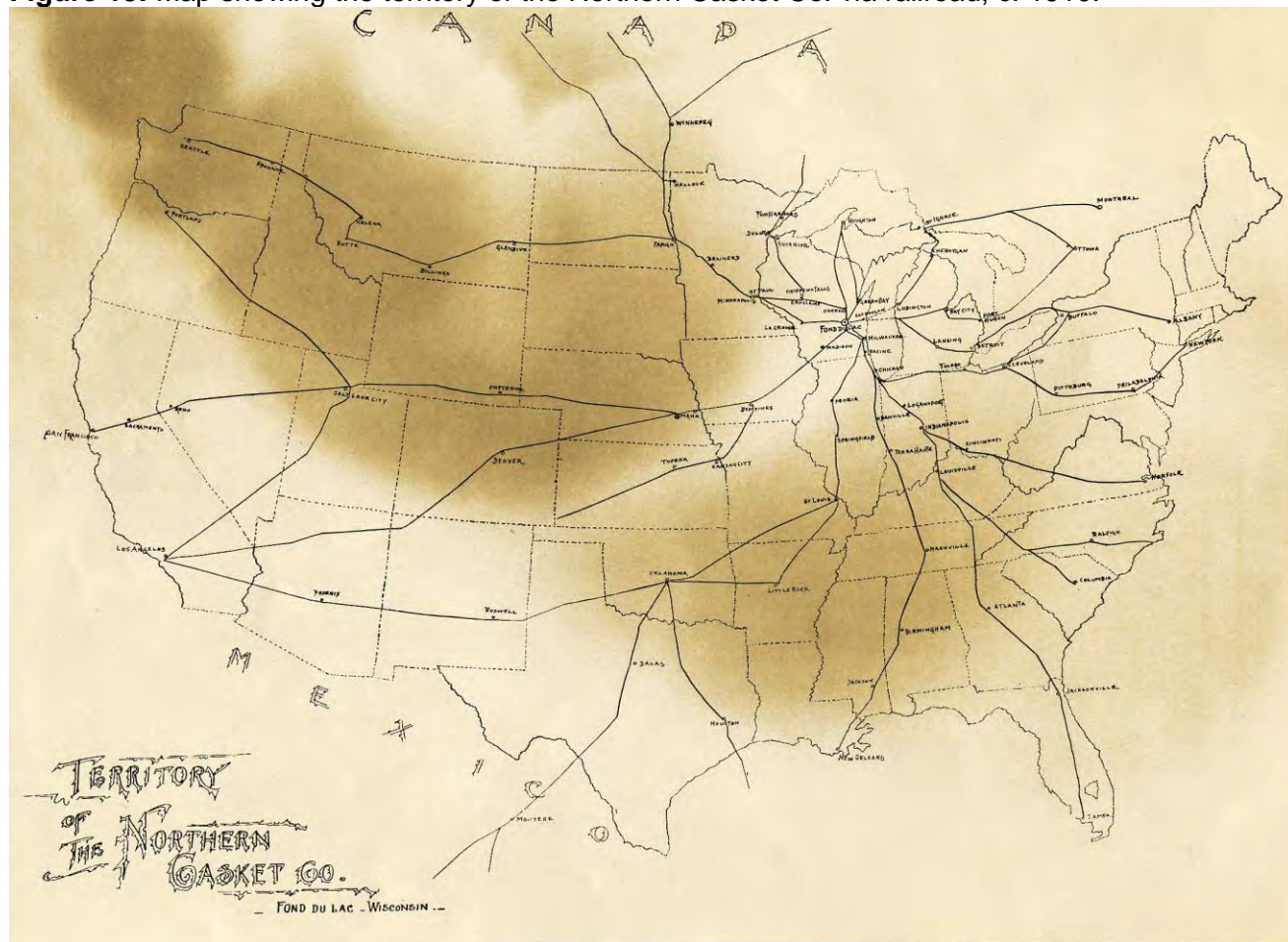
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

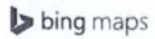
Section figures Page 12

Northern Casket Company Building  
Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin

Figure 15: Map showing the territory of the Northern Casket Co. via railroad, c. 1910.







**16 N Brooke St, Fond du Lac, WI 54935**

**Location:** 43.77989, -88.45513

Northern Casket Company Building  
16 North Brooke Street  
Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County, WI

16 T 382925.88 E, 4848451.27 N

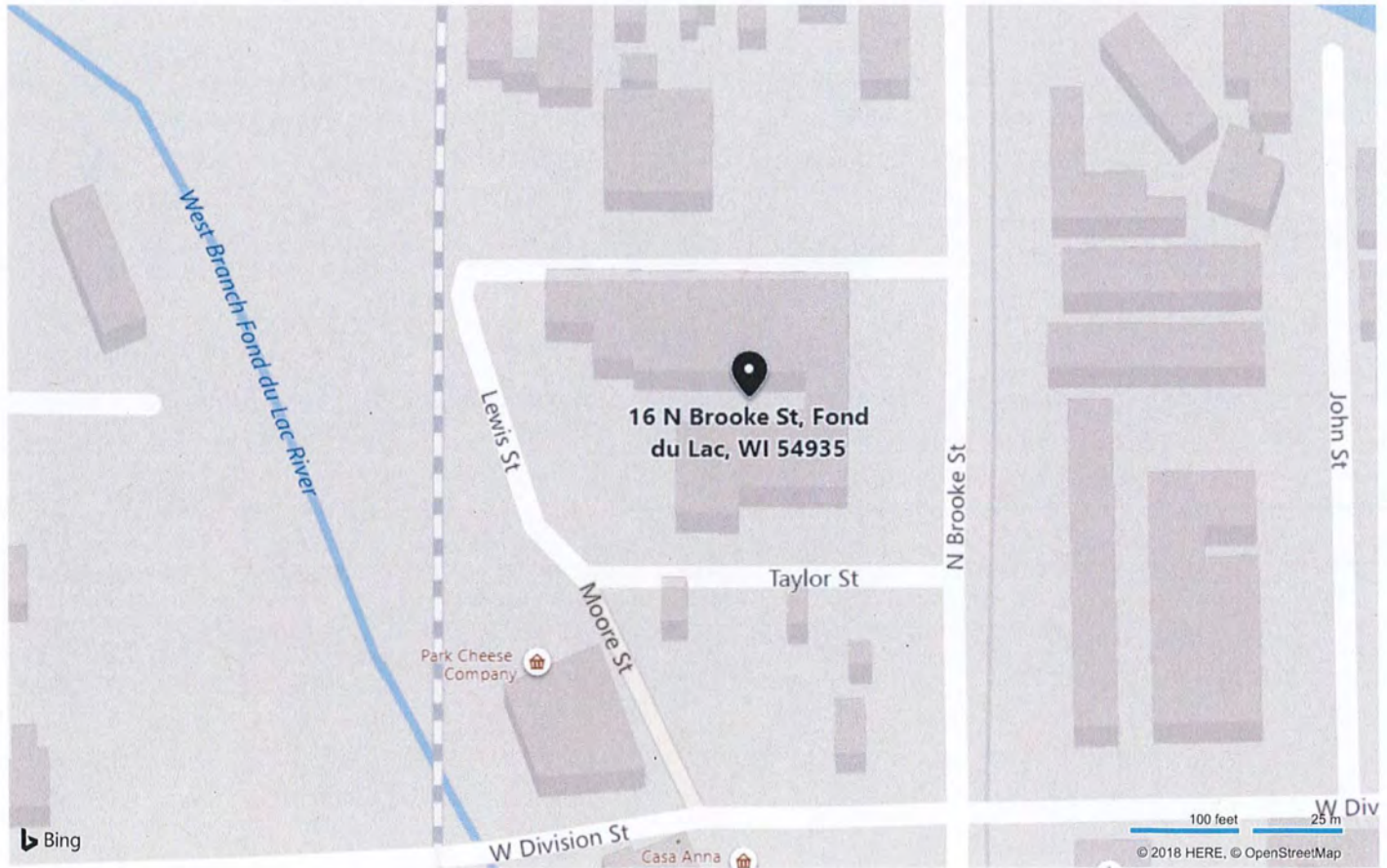






























TABLE  
1-5















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 11/27/2018      Date of Pending List: 12/10/2018      Date of 16th Day: 12/26/2018      Date of 45th Day: 1/11/2019      Date of Weekly List: 2/1/2019

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PDIL	<input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue
<input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo
<input type="checkbox"/> Waiver	<input type="checkbox"/> National	<input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary
<input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource	<input type="checkbox"/> Period
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> TCP	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years
	<input type="checkbox"/> CLG	

☒ Accept      ☐ Return      ☐ Reject      1/11/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Barbara Wyatt      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2252      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:      see attached comments : No      see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



**DAN FEYEN**  
**STATE SENATOR**

18th Senate District  
(608) 266-5300  
Sen.Feyen@legis.wi.gov

PO Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882  
<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/18/feyen>

January 30, 2018

Wisconsin Historical Society  
Peggy Veregin, National Register Coordinator  
State Historic Preservation Office  
816 State Street  
Madison, WI 53706

RE: Northern Casket Company Building

Dear Ms. Veregin:

I am writing in support of the nomination for the National Historic Register of the Northern Casket Company Building, 16 North Brooke Street, Fond du Lac, WI.

This building is historically significant for its association with three metal products companies' active in the twentieth century in Fond du Lac. While these companies were operated in Fond du Lac, they provided significant employment in a community trying to establish an industrial base. There are few factory buildings that are as intact and well preserved as this one. As such, it can provide a historical perspective on factory design and construction in the twentieth century era.

The Northern Casket Company Building retains a very good degree of integrity and stands as a testament of Fond du Lac's industrial past, of which very few buildings remain to represent. It is for these reasons that I strongly support the buildings designation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (608)266-5300.

Best regards,

18<sup>th</sup> Senate District



WISCONSIN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



TO: Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Peggy Veregin  
National Register Coordinator

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this Twenty-sixth day of November 2018, for the nomination of the Northern Casket Company Building to the National Register of Historic Places:

<u>1</u>	Original National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form
<u>1</u>	CD with NRHP Nomination form PDF
	Multiple Property Nomination form
<u>15</u>	Photograph(s)
<u>1</u>	CD with image files
<u>1</u>	Map(s)
<u>15</u>	Sketch map(s)/figures(s)/exhibit(s)
<u>1</u>	Piece(s) of correspondence
<u></u>	Other:

COMMENTS:

<u></u>	Please ensure that this nomination is reviewed
<u>x</u>	This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
<u></u>	The enclosed owner objection(s) do or do not constitute a majority of property owners
<u></u>	Other: