

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



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

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

1. Name

historic Cooksville Multiple Resource Area (Partial Inventory)
and/or common Historical Resources of Cooksville - Partial Listing

2. Location

street & number Route 1 ___ not for publication
city, town Evansville X vicinity of _____ congressional district First
state Wisconsin code 55 county Rock code 105

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership

street & number _____

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Rock County Courthouse

street & number 51 South Main Street

city, town Janesville state Wisconsin 53545

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Rock County Historic Survey has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date 1975 ___ federal ___ state X county ___ local

depository for survey records Rock County Historical Society

city, town Janesville state Wisconsin 53545

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Introduction

The 19th century development of the community of Cooksville is the theme of this nomination. The area's architecture and environs, including several archeological sites, reflect this developmental theme, and the historical resources of the community are clear evidence of its 19th century social, economic, and architectural history. The architectural theme is reflected in the Greek and Gothic Revival styles brought to Wisconsin by the Yankee settlers, and construction of many of the village residences and surrounding farmhouses, built of locally-made, vermilion-colored brick, reflects the craftsmanship of the local builders and self-taught architects. The social and economic history of the Cooksville area is reflected in the relationship between the village, as the hub of activity, with the outlying farmsteads, mill sites, and cheese factory--all of which, taken together, illustrate the interdependent economic and cultural relationships of this early Wisconsin settlement.

The Cooksville Historic District

Cooksville is a relatively unspoiled southern Wisconsin village of about 35 dwellings, a store, an active church, and several outbuildings. Less than one-fourth are of 20th century construction. Situated on the south side of Badfish Creek, a tributary of the Yahara and Rock Rivers, it is surrounded by farmland. Its environs are rural, although it is only 25 miles south of the state capital, Madison, and 19 miles northeast of the county seat, Janesville.

What is now the unincorporated village of Cooksville consists of two adjacent plats, divided by Main Street (HWY 138) on the north-south center line of Section 6, Town of Porter.¹ That to the east was platted in 1846 as Waucoma, while that to the west was platted in 1842 as Cooksville.² Although the name of Waucoma still exists on property records of Rock County, the entire settlement is known now as Cooksville.³ The historic district includes most of the three blocks of the original plat of Cooksville and all or portions of nine of the original 14 blocks of Waucoma, or those on which a concentration of historic buildings still stands. The northeasternmost portions of Waucoma were never settled and remain farmland and lowland to this day.

The most consistent concentration of historic houses lies around the village square, or common, whose south boundary is Rock Street or Wis. Hwy 59. The square is Block 8 of the original plat of Waucoma. This may be considered the heart of the district; in fact, the square with the houses which surround it, as well as a corridor which extends from the south side of the square on Rock Street as far as the southwest corner of Rock and Main Streets, was designated as a historic district in 1973 (NRHP 10/25/73). However the original district did not include the plat of Cooksville and that portion of Waucoma which flanks Main Street north of Rock Street and across the street from original Cooksville. This portion, with its 19th century general store and Greek Revival houses, is an integral part of the village. It should be included in the historic district, although in general these 19th century houses have suffered severer alterations than those around the square, and here there are also a limited number of intrusive ranch houses, which at least are not incompatible in size and in use with the historic buildings on Main Street. While the majority of houses around the square are of brick, the 19th century houses on Main Street, with one exception, were built of frame.

While a variety of building materials characterizes the nomination as a whole, with Cooksville as its core, the flavor of the community is probably best described by Perrin, who stated:

What might be termed a community of brick houses is Cooksville in Rock County. Cooksville is one of the most charming communities

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) association with well known historic personages
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1842, 1846

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Benjamin Hoxie (1827-1901)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cooksville thematic resources are significant on both architectural and historical grounds. Cooksville is significant historically as a well-preserved, relatively unspoiled midwestern 19th century community, settled by Yankees and platted around a village green like a New England village. It is primarily of architectural importance for the quality of its architecture, especially for the vermilion brick houses built in Cooksville-Waucoma and environs in the 1840s and 1850s, in simplified Greek Revival and Gothic Revival styles.¹ Today these are for the most part well preserved and inhabited by people who are interested in keeping the community looking much as it did more than a century ago. Each of these brick houses would be eligible for inclusion in the National Register on its own merits; the collection of them takes on an even greater meaning as a preservation of part of our patrimony.

The village was laid out in an "oak opening" near the Badfish Creek, a damnable stream which provided power for saw- and gristmills. It was surrounded by tall grass prairie that later was to give way to wheat, then to dairy farming and to tobacco growing. Cooksville is still nestled in a rural setting, with open fields and small woodlots of oak and hickory as integral parts of the community, and active farms at the edges of the district. For this reason a significant number of historic structures long associated with the community remain within about a 1.75-mile radius of the village. Several of these are architecturally significant as fine examples of mid-19th century construction in vernacular or modified Greek Revival and Gothic Revival styles, in Cooksville vermilion brick, limestone, and grout. The ruins of two mills and a brickyard are significant for technology and as part of the economic history of the community, and have potential for historic archeology. An early 20th century steel bridge, which incorporates part of one of the dams, is part of the area's history of transportation technology. Other reminders of Cooksville's 19th century economic and social life remain in an active general store; a 19th century school building now used as a community meeting place; two church buildings, one of which is still in active use by its congregation; and a house which was once a cheese factory.

The name of the founder of Cooksville, John Cook, is of local significance. He platted the three blocks of Cooksville in 1842, and eventually moved west. Waucoma, the portion of present-day Cooksville that was platted east of Highway 138*, is of wider historical importance for its association with the prominent American statesman, Daniel Webster. Webster (1782-1852), national political leader, administrator, and diplomat, was also a land speculator. He bought, through his agent and for his friends, the east half of Section 6 and the west half of Section 5 of what is now the Town of Porter, as well as land in Dane County, on March 29, 1837, paying \$1.25 an acre for it.² The statesman disposed of his Rock County property in 1842 to his friend Dr. John Porter, of Charlton, Massachusetts. In 1846 Dr. Porter visited his Wisconsin holdings and during his visit had Alanson E. Vaughan, of the neighboring Town of Union, plat a village to be called Waucoma.³ The name was based on an Indian word meaning "clear water."⁴

* and Tolles Road

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Guernsey and Willard, History of Rock County, Transactions of the Rock County Agricultural Society, Janesville, 1856, pp. 116-117.

Map of Rock County, 1858.

Combination Atlas of Rock County, Chicago, 1873, pp. 57, 58, 91.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA ⁶²

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. ²⁴ ~~50~~ (Cooksville Hist. Dist. c. ³⁸ acres) (Other c. ²⁴ total)
changes made per corrections rec'd 9/16/80 - KO'C

QUADRANGLE NAME Cooksville, Wis. & Evansville, Wis. QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A 1,6	3 1,7 3,0,0	4,7 4,4 9,1,0	B 1,6	3 1,7 3,0,0	4,7 4,4 6,8,0
C 1,6	3 1,7 2,2,0	4,7 4,4 3,5,0	D 1,6	3 1,6 8,5,0	4,7 4,4 3,6,0
E 1,6	3 1,6 8,0,0	4,7 4,4 6,9,0	F 1,6	3 1,6 8,1,0	4,7 4,4 9,5,0
G 1,6	3 1,6 8,6,5	4,7 4,4 9,9,0	H 1,6	3 1,6 9,5,0	4,7 4,4 9,9,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See under Description. *Surveyed area includes a circle with a 2-mile radius whose centerpoint is the center of the Cooksville Common (UTM ref: 16/317130/4744770 - correction rec'd 9/16/80 - KO'C*

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Wisconsin	55	Dane	025
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Nancy Belle Douglas, National Register Officer

ORGANIZATION

Rock County Historical Society

DATE

September 4, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 896

TELEPHONE

608/756-4509

CITY OR TOWN

Janesville

STATE

Wisconsin 53545

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

Richard Kewey

TITLE Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

12/17/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Ray Luce
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9/17/80

ATTEST: *Kristin J. O'Connell*
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

9/17/80

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

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



Historical Resources of Cooksville - Partial Listing

Continuation sheet - Corrections

Item number s 1 and 4

Page

Item 1 Name : Change to read, "Historical Resources of Cooksville - Partial Listing."

Item 4, Page 4 Owner of Property : Delete property name/owner/address of numbers 36 and 37.

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DATE ENTERED

SEP 17 1980

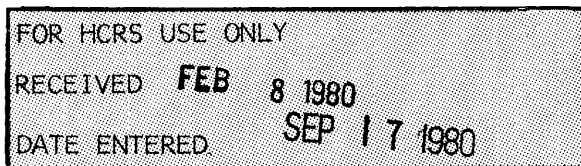
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Thematic Resources of the Cooksville Area

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 1

<u>Property</u>	<u>Owner Name & Mailing Address</u>
1 <u>Lovejoy-Duncan House</u> Cooksville Historic District	Chester Holway Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
2 <u>Backenstoe-Howard House</u> Cooksville Historic District	E. Marvin Raney Route 1, Evansville, WI 53536
3 <u>Benjamin S. Hoxie House</u> Cooksville Historic District	Helen N. Toigo Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
4 <u>Cure-Van Vleck House</u> Cooksville Historic District	George & Eunice Mattakat Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
5 <u>Isaac Porter House</u> Cooksville Historic District	Carl M. Larsen, Jr. Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
6 <u>Chambers-Porter House</u> Cooksville Historic District	William R. Brunsell Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536'
7 <u>Cooksville School</u> Cooksville Historic District	Michael Saternus, Secretary Cooksville Community Center Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
8 <u>Public Square or Commons</u> Cooksville Historic District	Richard Towns, Chairman Town of Porter Route 4 Janesville, WI 53545
9. <u>Morgan House</u> Cooksville Historic District	Helen N. Toigo Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
10 <u>Frank Seaver House</u> Cooksville Historic District	Philip & Lynn Bednarek Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Thematic Resources of the Cooksville Area

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 2

<u>Property</u>	<u>Owner Name & Mailing Address</u>
11 <u>John Seaver House</u> Cooksville Historic District	Dorothy T. Richardson Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
12 <u>Longbourne House</u> Cooksville Historic District	Maurice Gras Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
	A. H. Bova Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
13 <u>Blackman-Woodbury House</u> Cooksville Historic District	A. P. Hamacher Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
14 <u>Blackman-Graves Building</u> Cooksville Historic District	A. P. Hamacher Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
15 <u>Parker-Newell House</u> Cooksville Historic District	Lawrence J. McDonnell Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
16 <u>Gunn-Breckenridge House</u> Cooksville Historic District	Stephen & Karen Smay Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
17 <u>Fisher-Van Buren House</u> Cooksville Historic District	Michael Saternus & Larry Reed Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
18 <u>Ranch House</u> , Lots 1 & 2, Block 2 and	Carroll D. Wall
19 <u>Isaac Hoxie House</u> , Lot 4; plus Lots 3, 5 & 6, Waucoma plat, Cooksville Historic District	Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
20 <u>Ranch House</u> , Lot 7, Block 2, Waucoma plat Cooksville Historic District	James McCarthy, Jr. Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Thematic Resources of the Cooksville Area

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ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 3

<u>Property</u>	<u>Owner Name & Mailing Address</u>
21 Ranch house & concrete block building, Lot 2 & west 1/2 of Lot 1, Block 3, Waucoma plat Cooksville Historic District	Edwin Julseth Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
22 Ranch house, E 1/2 of Lot 1, Block 3, Waucoma plat Cooksville Historic District	Donald & Gloria Martin Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
23 <u>Lovejoy and Chambers House</u> Cooksville Historic District	Gordon Page Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
24 <u>John Collins House</u> Cooksville Historic District	Edward E. Ortman Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
25 <u>Houfe-Sturtevant House</u> Cooksville Historic District	Gordon A. Starks Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
26 <u>Betsey Curtiss House</u> Cooksville Historic District	Mrs. Frances Norby Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
27 <u>Cooksville General Store</u> Cooksville Historic District	Waucoma Hall c/o Wayne Buss Route 5, Box 562 Stoughton, WI 53589
28 <u>Blacksmith Shop</u> Cooksville Historic District	Francis H. Hatch Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
29 <u>Smith-Galt House</u> Cooksville Historic District	George & Eunice Mattakat Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
30 <u>John Cook House</u> Cooksville Historic District	George & Eunice Mattakat Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Thematic Resources of the Cooksville Area

CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	PAGE
<u>Property</u>		<u>Owner Name & Mailing Address</u>
31 <u>William Porter Farmhouse</u> Cooksville Historic District	4	Sidney Anderson, Jr. Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
32 <u>Cooksville Congregational Church Bldg.</u> Cooksville Historic District	4	Michael Saturnus Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
33 Frame House, Lot 7, Block 9, Waucoma plat Cooksville Historic District		Keith & Ilene Axford Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
34 <u>Cooksville Cemetery</u> Cooksville Historic District		Cooksville Cemetery Association c/o Marvin Raney Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
35 <u>Norwegian Lutheran Church</u> Cooksville Historic District		Cooksville Lutheran Church Omar Haakenson, Council President Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
36 <u>Billings House, Lot 10, Blk 4 Waucoma plat</u> Cooksville		John Ellur Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
37 <u>"Searle Barn," Lot 2, Blk 4, Waucoma plat</u> Cooksville		Art Hanson Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
38 <u>Cooksville Mill & Pond Site (RO 221)</u> Cooksville vicinity		Carl & Jennifer Gutknecht Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536 Mary Anderson Estate, Mrs. Earl Anderson Estate c/o Lavern Anderson 109 Jefferson Street Janesville, WI 53545 Karl Wolter Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536

*deleted - see
continuation sheet
received 9/16/80
with corrections*

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DATE ENTERED

SEP 17 1980

Thematic Resources of the Cooksville Area

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 5

<u>Property</u>	<u>Owner Name & Mailing Address</u>
39 <u>Savage House</u> Cooksville vicinity (Dane County)	Mrs. Earl Anderson Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
40 <u>Leedle Mill Site & Truss Bridge</u> Cooksville vicinity	Town of Union Wayne Disch, Chairman Croft Road Evansville, WI 53536
	Dr. Adolf & Allison Lunde U 188, Leedle Mill Road Route 3 Stoughton, WI 53589
41 <u>Cooksville Cheese Factory</u> Cooksville vicinity	Norman & Laura Jean Hatlen Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
42 <u>John T. Dow House</u> Cooksville vicinity	Norman & Laura Jean Hatlen Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
43 <u>Cooper-Gillies House</u> Cooksville vicinity	James D. & Thomas N. Hatlen Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
44 <u>Miller House</u> Cooksville vicinity	Carl Liedholm Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
45 <u>Champney Brickyard & House Site</u> Cooksville Historic District	Sidney Anderson Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
46 <u>Joseph K. P. Porter Farmstead</u> Cooksville vicinity	Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Tait Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
47 <u>Harrison Stebbins House ("Windermere")</u> Cooksville vicinity	Earl & Lavon Keehn Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
48 <u>Richardson Grout House</u> Cooksville vicinity	Harold Porter 6641 Gettysburg Drive Madison, WI 53705

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Thematic Resources of the Cooksville Area, Evansville, Wis., vicinity

See

ITEM NUMBER below PAGE 1

CONTINUATION SHEET

5. Dane County Register of Deeds
City-County Building
210 Monona Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53709

6. Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places
1973, 1975

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Madison

State

Wisconsin 53706

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

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

Historical Resources of Cooksville - Partial Listing
Continuation sheet - Corrections

Item number 7

Page various

all changes made - KDC (9/16/80)

- Item 7, Page 12 Description : Change wording of Inventory Description Number 19 from "...property is not part of..." to read "...property does not contribute to..."
- Item 7, Page 15 Description : Change wording of Inventory Description Number 31 from "...are not part of it." to read "...are not contributing elements."
- Item 7, Page 18 Description : Add to Inventory Description Number 41, "Acreage less than 1 acre."
- Item 7, Page 19 Description : Add to Inventory Description Number 42, "Acreage less than 1 acre."
- Item 7, Page 19 Description : Change wording of Inventory Description Number 42 from "...are not part of the nomination." to read "...do not contribute to the nomination."
- Item 7, Page 19 Description : Add to Inventory Description Number 43, "Acreage less than 1 acre."
- Item 7, Page 19 Description : Change wording of Inventory Description Number 43 from "...are not considered part of..." and "...part of the nomination." to read, "...does not contribute to..." and "...contributing elements," respectively.
- Item 7, Page 21 Description : Add to Inventory Description Number 47, "Acreage less than 1 acre."
- Item 7, Page 22 Description : Add to Inventory Description Number 48, "Acreage less than 1 acre."

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Thematic Resources of the Cooksville Area, Evansville, Wis., vicinity

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

in Wisconsin, although, in a way, a ghost town in that its potential was never realized because the railroad bypassed the village in 1857....

The houses in Cooksville were built of a locally made brick of excellent vermilion color. The houses were built around a square block set aside in the center of the village and reserved for the use of the inhabitants of the village as a common in the traditional New England manner. The Duncan house is an excellent square house in the Greek Revival Style, but with strong indications of New England lineage. The Isaac Porter, Hoxie and Backenstoe-Howard houses are in modified Gothic Revival Style, but treated with domestic feeling, individuality and simplicity not always evident in this period. Cooksville is the sort of unspoiled community that would lend itself admirably to a historic preservation project....⁴

As a matter of fact the people of Cooksville have maintained their houses well and have carried on an informal preservation project on their own initiative for several decades. Since the core of the district was listed on the National Register in 1973, further restoration projects have been initiated on several brick or frame buildings, sometimes with the aid of federal funding. The few contemporary intrusions are houses which are similar in size if not in proportion to the historic buildings. Enlargement of the district to include the major boundaries of historic building in the village would give added protection to the community.

Waucoma Plat

The area around the square is intact, with no intrusions. Seven of the houses around it are of mid-19th century vermilion brick, while four are 19th century frame. Of the brick dwellings, the Duncan, Backenstoe-Howard, Isaac Porter, and Longbourne houses are the best known, but the other buildings are also of merit and contribute to the district.

The Thomas Morgan house on the southeast corner was built of frame, ca. 1848; the builders may have been Benjamin and Isaac Hoxie, as Morgan was their brother-in-law.⁵ It is an excellent small Greek Revival style house and contributes to Cooksville's architectural character on its own merit. The Cure-Van Vleck house, ca. 1851, is also of frame, but is now covered with wood shingles. The two other frame houses and another brick house on the south side of the square show later 19th century additions. There is also a 19th century frame and yellow-pink brick building now used as a garage. One house to the southwest of the square presently exhibits 20th century stucco and a dormer window, though the basic proportions of this house are intact. A small 19th century frame house was moved a block west from its original location on the south side

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Thematic Resources of the Cooksville Area, Evansville, Wis., vicinity

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

of the square and restored and enlarged attractively with compatible contemporary brick.

The frame schoolhouse was a replacement in 1886 of the original brick schoolhouse. The school has always been the only building on the east side of the square. The square is open green on all but the north side, where a significant grove of virgin bur oaks with heavy, undisturbed undergrowth obscures the street on the north side of the square (a portion of Dane Street), quite effectively isolating the two Gothic Revival houses on that block. The smaller of these, to the east, has rather unfortunate modern additions, but the body of the house is still there.

The east side of Main Street in Waucama includes some intrusive ranch houses and a cement block building; however, four Greek Revival houses remain there. On the southeast corner of Hys. 59 and 138 is a frame house of fine proportions which is being restored by its owner, who is also the restorer of the Congregational Church. The two houses in the middle of each of the two blocks to the north of this house are also of merit, although each has noticeable 20th century additions. The frame Greek Revival house of Isaac Hoxie (built 1848-61) in the first block retains its returned cornice but was enlarged with wings and a broad porch across the front. The Collins house (ca. 1850) on the next block is a pivotal building near the north edge of the district. It is a fine vermilion brick Greek Revival house, with however a 20th century carport to its south. It is flanked with a simple Greek Revival house to the south and a 19th century frame house to the north.

Cooksville Plat

The original plat of Cooksville consists of three blocks on the west side of Main Street (Hy 138) and north of Rock Street (Hy 59). The Congregational Church, a pivotal building, is located at the southwest corner of Main and Rock Streets, just south of the Cooksville plat. Between the church and the north edge of the district are a 19th century farmhouse, and two vernacular frame houses of the period of early settlement, a new Blacksmith Shop, a country store, and a simple Greek Revival house. The vernacular-Late Picturesque character of the farm house is now partly obscured by aluminum siding, but the house retains historic significance because of its association with William Porter, an early settler of Porter Township. The two small vernacular frame houses to the north of the William Porter house were built in the 1840's; they are relatively little altered. A dark frame shop to their north is a 1978 replacement of a former blacksmith shop on the site. This shop blends to a certain extent with the significant buildings, yet it is a new building.

The Cooksville General Store, to its north, is of primary historic significance. It is a two-story gabled vernacular building in good condition with a one-story porch. Though its core dates from ca. 1847, its present appearance dates largely from 1864, when Benjamin Hoxie enlarged it. The large six-paned front store windows date from 1882.⁶ Of the few country stores left in Rock County, this is one which has retained its architectural integrity and is still in use for its original purpose.⁷

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Historical Resources of Cooksville - Partial Listing

Continuation sheet

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The aluminum sided Greek Revival house to its north is of some historic interest for its association with early Cooksville; it is also a visual buffer at the north side of the district.

Cooksville Historic District - Outside Original Plats

In the immediate environs of Cooksville but outside the original plats are several sites which are part of the integral history of the village. The Congregational Church, already mentioned as just south of the plat of Cooksville, is included in the historic district as a pivotal building at the jogged southwest corner of the district. This handsome building is undergoing restoration, and its belfry, spires, and 19th century color scheme have been restored.

Two sites which are adjacent on the south side of the original plat of Waucoma may also be considered as part of the district. They are the Cooksville cemetery and the Norwegian Lutheran Church. The cemetery, with its stately trees, is the resting place of many of the early settlers of the village and so is considered part of the Yankee heritage of the village. It occupies the southeast leg of the district. The Lutheran church on its west boundary is more recent than the cemetery. It is associated with the Norwegian immigration to the nearby Stoughton area through the latter part of the 19th century. The church was established in 1892 but the present structure was rebuilt after a fire in 1896. A small southwest leg of the district contains a historical archeological site where an early brickyard and associated house stood more than a century ago.

On the east side of Tolles Rd., between the Miller house and Church Street, is the site of the Champney brickyard (R0222).¹⁰ It occupied two acres at the southwest corner of the southeast quarter of Section 6 in the Town of Porter. It is located on the southwest corner of a field which is just south of the district. It furnished much of the vermilion brick for the Cooksville houses. Burnt brick sherds may still be seen on the surface of the field which has occupied the site for over one hundred years. They indicate the location of the brickyard; it is corroborated by abstracts. Brick sherds, as well as pieces of pottery and glass, lie on the surface about 300 feet to the northeast of the brickyard, this was the site of the Champney house, which is included as part of the same archeological site.

Cooksville District Boundaries

The boundaries (see sketch map) encompass the significant portions of the original plats of Cooksville and Waucoma which contain historic buildings and related open land which is integral to the rural character of the community. Beginning at the southwest corner of the Congregational Church property (#32), the district line runs east to the east side of Tolles Road, thence south to the south section line of Section 6, T-4-N, R-11-E, thence east along said section line 350 feet, thence due north to the south side of Church Street, thence east to the west lot line of the Lutheran Church (#35), thence south 132.9 feet, thence east 115.5 feet to the eastern boundary of the cemetery, thence south 415 feet, thence east 244 feet, thence north 547.5 feet to the south side of Church Street, thence continuing along the southern and eastern sides of Church Street northward to the intersection with the south boundary of Lots 13 & 14, Block 10, thence east to the eastern boundary of said lots, thence north along said boundary and continuing to the north side of Rock Street (Hwy. 59), thence eastward to the east boundary of the school property (#7), thence north to a point 198 feet

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north of an eastward extension of the north side of Dane Street, thence west to the west side of the alley at the southeast corner of Lot 24, Block 3, thence northward to the north line of Lot 25, Block 3, thence west to the east side of Main Street, thence south to a point east of the north edge of Lots 2 and 5, Block 1, platted village of Cooksville, thence west to the northwest corner of said Lot 5, Block 1, Cooksville plat, thence south along the western limit of the platted village to its intersection with the north side of Rock Street (Hwy. 59), thence easterly approximately 120 feet to a point north of the west property line of the Congregational Church, thence south across Rock Street to the point of beginning.

Cooksville District Intrusions

The few 20th century buildings in Cooksville generally blend in scale and use with the historic buildings of the district. However, there are five buildings in the plat of Waucoma and one in the plat of Cooksville which may be listed as intrusions within the district: a brick ranch house (#18, Block 2, Lots 1 and 2) built diagonally on the northeast corner of Rock and Main Streets (hwys. 59 and 138); a ranch house at the southeast corner of Main and Dane Streets (#20, Lot 7, Block 2); a concrete block shed at the northeast corner of Main and Dane Streets (#21, W 1/2 Lot 1, Block 3), and a ranch house east of the concrete building (#22, E1/2 Lot 1, Block 3); and finally, a c. 1940 frame house (lot 2, Block 3) north of the concrete block building, all of the above being located in the platted village of Waucoma. The Cooksville Blacksmith Shop, so-called, (#28, on Block 2, part of Lot 2), located in the platted village of Cooksville, blends in scale and material as a one-story frame building with the historic buildings, but since it was built in 1978 near the old shop site, it does not qualify as a historic building.

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Resources Outside of Historic District

The Cooksville Mill, once of great importance to the economy of the village, was located about 500 feet northwest of the general store. Its footings remain at the base of a knoll facing northwest. It is now a separate archeological site. (SHSW: R0221).⁸

A ridge indicates the former location of part of the dam, and the Badfish Creek winds through farmland and lowland which was formerly the mill pond. The full 11 acres, which included the pond, should be included in the nomination, for as boggy lowland it has been relatively undisturbed since the dam was abandoned in 1897, and has archeological potential.

Less than a mile to the north of Cooksville is the birthplace of the Cooksville area's most famous citizen, John L. Savage. He was the engineer who designed such nationally known monuments as the Hoover and Grand Coulee dams. The Savage house was built of frame in the mid-19th century and is located just north of the Rock County border in Dane County.

An engineering site of local significance and the ruin of an outlying mill of significance to Cooksville lie together within a mile radius to the northwest of the village, in Union Township. The Leedle Mill truss bridge was built about 1916. It incorporated part of the dam and spillway for the Leedle Mill in its foundations. Although the mill is partially destroyed, it may be considered as an archeological site (R0-223).⁹

The Cooksville area group also includes three separate historic buildings within a mile to the west of Cooksville. These three houses are all located on the north side of Hwy. 59. Closest to Cooksville is a frame tenant house which once housed the Cooksville cheese factory. The business was established by the builder of the Congregational Church. Further west are two handsome Greek Revival houses built of Cooksville vermilion brick; the furthest west is in Union Township. The brick for these

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houses came from either the Champney brickyard or more likely from a second, small brickyard which was located just north of the cheese factory. This latter brickyard, however, is too disturbed by later plowing, planting, and its proximity to newer residential outbuildings to be included in the nomination.

Another fine Greek Revival vermilion brick house, the Miller house, lies about a half mile south of the district on the east side of Tolles Road. It resembles the first of the two brick houses to the west of the district and is probably the product of the same builder, who once owned both sites.

The other sites of the area group are located within about two miles to the east or southeast of Cooksville. Included are three mid-19th century houses which vary in appearance because differing materials were used in their construction. The J.K.P. Porter farmstead was built of frame, the Stebbins house was constructed of limestone block, and the Richardson house was built of monolithic grout. Yet the owners of all were closely connected with the 19th century history of Cooksville. J.K.P. Porter acted as agent for his uncle, Dr. John Porter, the founder of Cooksville. Harrison Stebbins represented his district in the State legislature and socialized in Cooksville. He opened his house for local dances. Alexander Richardson, Like the others, was a farmer in the vicinity.

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1. The Town of Porter was named after Dr. John Porter. It was first named "Oak." It was separated from the Town of Union in 1847, after the platting of Cooksville and Waucoma. (Ag., 1856, p. 116; Porter, Biog., 1889, pp. 1019-1020)
 2. History of Rock County, 1879, p. 693.
 3. In the 1891 Atlas of Rock County, the entire village was mapped as Cooksville, as it has been since. In the maps of 1858 and 1873, the entire village was called Waucoma.

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Footnotes (continued)

4. Perrin, Historic Wisconsin Buildings, Milwaukee Public Museum, 1962, p. 56.
5. Marvin Raney, research files and notes.
6. Ibid.
7. The Tiffany general store is an example, though it is more severely remodeled; it has even retained its small post office. The Emerald Grove store, a vernacular Italianate building, is little altered, but it has been turned into an antique store. The Footville Hardware store, a Greek Revival frame building, is still in use. It just received a new wing in 1978-79, which blends quite well with the building.
8. Inspection by Bill Green and Kim Peters, SHSW archeologists, May 9, 1979.
9. Ibid.
10. Ibid.

INVENTORY: COOKSVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

W: Waucoma plat
C: Cooksville plat

Addresses: Route 1, Evansville, WI 53536
(R 1 EV) unless otherwise indicated

Houses 1-4 form a continuous street-face opposite the square that, as an entity, symbolize the Cooksville character.

1. Lovejoy-Duncan house 1846-48 Pivotal
W: Bl 2, Lots 13, 14
Owner: Chester Holway, R 1 Ev

A square two-story local vermilion brick house with a hipped roof, this house is of pivotal architectural significance as one of the finest and certainly the best known of the Cooksville houses. It was built ca. 1846-48 in the Greek Revival style with Federal influences, for Daniel Lovejoy, local merchant and entrepreneur. (The partnership of Lovejoy and Chambers built many of the brick houses in and near Cooksville.) It was owned and lived in from 1852-75 by Henry Duncan, who was listed as a "private gentleman" in the tax rolls. He added the one-story frame wing. Hubbard Champney, the brickmaker, owned it a short time afterward.

The house was long associated with Ralph Warner, an antiquarian and collector, who designed and created the gardens and owned and lived in the house from 1911 to 1941, meanwhile retaining its archaic character. While such amenities as plumbing and electricity have been added since, the house still retains its integrity and may be considered in fine condition.

The house has been owned since 1941 by Chester Holway, the dean of the Cooksville preservation-oriented community, who occupied the house as a second home until his retirement to Cooksville in recent years. The sensitive modernization of the structure has been under the direction of E. Marvin Raney, who has been a tenant in the house for over 30 years. Raney is well-known as the recognized authority on numerous aspects of Rock County history including especially that of Cooksville.

The horse barn to the west of the house was built in 1846; it was restored and embellished in the 1960's by E. Marvin Raney, who based the design on an outbuilding in Lovejoy's home county in Vermont. A window for the restoration was salvaged from the Van Vleck corn planter factory building (Bl 3, Lot 14). The barn is contributory to the nomination.

(House Beautiful, Jan. 1923; Raney, Cooksville Walking Tour, 1953; Holway, Our Village..., Philadelphia Town Journal, Aug. 1954, pp. 20-21; B. K. White, Wisconsin Heritage, 1954, pp. 274-84; Perrin, Historic Wisconsin Buildings, 1962, pp. 56-57; Perrin, The Architecture of Wisconsin, 1967, pp. 65-66; Douglas and Hartung, Rock County Historic Sites and Buildings, 1976, illus. p. 27, pl 8c, pp. 140-41.)

2. Backenstoe-Howard house ca. 1847, ca. 1862 Pivotal
W: Bl 2, Lots 11, 12
Owner: E. Marvin Raney, R 1 Ev

Of primary architectural significance, this two-story vermilion brick house with a long one-story portion shows Gothic Revival cottage influences in its steep gables. The lintels however are straight, and there were never any decorated bargeboards, according to the present owner, who has conducted extensive research on Cooksville. The one-story part was built first, ca. 1847, as a double house for two brothers-in-law, whose wives were Hoxie sisters. Howard was a barn builder and Backenstoe was a plasterer.

The more imposing 1½ story part was added ca. 1862. Susan M. Porter, a daughter of early settler William Porter, obtained the house in 1910, and it was occupied as a permanent and second home by locally well-known members of the Porter family until acquired by the present owner.

(Raney, Tour, 1953; Perrin, Historic Wisconsin Buildings, 1962, illus. p. 57; RCHSB, pp. 140-41.)

3. Benjamin S. Hoxie house 1852 Pivotal
 W: Bl 2, Lots 9, 10
 Owner: Helen N. Toigo, R 1 Ev

This vermilion brick Gothic Revival cottage is also of primary architectural interest, for its connection with a well-known local architect and builder. Benjamin Hoxie, a carpenter and self-taught architect, came to Cooksville in 1846 from Maine and built the house in 1852. It is 1½ stories high with two intersecting steep-gabled brick blocks. Lintels are straight. There is an elongated two-story window in the east front elevation; the main entrance is on the south side of this block, nestled near the intersection of the two blocks. A 1½ story frame wing with a back entrance and simple mansard roof was added to the rear by the same builder before 1873. A south bay has been added since to this addition, but it does not detract from the house. Hoxie designed the Cooksville Congregational Church and enlarged the Cooksville store and built houses in Albany and Evansville. He was also an avid horticulturist and an officer of the State Horticultural Society. The workshop to the north of the house was razed some time ago. The garage is not part of the nomination.

(Atlas, 1873, illus. p. 54; Raney, Tour; Perrin, Historic Wisconsin Buildings, illus. cover, p. 58; RCHSB, pp. 140-41.)

4. Cure-Van Vleck house 1851 Pivotal
 W: Bl 2, Lot 8
 Owner: George and Eunice Mattakat, R 1 Ev

Though Cure was a mason, he could have built this simple 1½ story frame Greek Revival house, which was constructed ca. 1851. He lived there 12 years, before selling to the Van Vleck family, which owned the house until 1935. Van Vleck patented a swinging farm gate; the Van Vleck corn planter and wagon factory was once located just north (Bl 3, Lot 14). The 1½ story frame horse barn is one of the two original ones remaining on property built around the square. It is contributory to the nomination.

(Interviews with Mattakat and Raney, Oct. 1978.)

5. Isaac Porter house ca. 1855 Pivotal
 W: Bl 7 (vacated); NE corner of Dane and Webster
 Owner: Carl M. Larsen, Jr., R 1 Ev

This two-story vermilion brick house with four gables is the largest Gothic Revival house in the village. It was probably built for John Chambers (partner of Lovejoy), who bought the land from Dr. John Porter in 1855. Isaac Porter, who bought it in 1867, was the youngest of the three brothers, nephews of Dr. John Porter, who settled in Cooksville. The farm buildings north of the house are not part of the nomination.

(Portrait and Biographical Album of Rock County, 1889, p. 409; Perrin, Historic Wisconsin Buildings, 1962, illus. p. 57.)

6. Chambers-Porter cottage ca. 1855 Pivotal
 W: Bl 7 (vacated), east of No. 5
 Owner: William Brunsell, R 1 Ev

This small two-story Gothic cottage of local vermilion brick may have been built by John

Chambers ca. 1855 as a "dower house" for his widowed mother. It was later part of the Isaac Porter homestead. The one-story addition of shingled garage and living space with an unfortunate decorative metal porch obscures the basic house, which is very handsome.

(Raney interview, Oct. 1978)

7. Cooksville School 1886 Contributing
W: Bl 11, Lot 1
Owner: Cooksville, Inc., R 1 Ev

This vernacular frame schoolhouse, facing the common, is topped with a bracketed bell tower. The present building was built in 1886 on the site of a previous brick school. It was raised on new concrete foundations in the 1930's, and may now be entered at a rear wing. This building served as the community school over three-quarters of a century, and remains in use as a community center.

(Raney interview, Oct. 1978)

8. Public Common 1846 (plat) Pivotal
W: Bl 8
Owner: "Residents of Waucoma" (i.e. Town of Porter)

Block 8 of Waucoma was set aside in perpetuity by Dr. John Porter for the use of the residents of the village. It is a virtual New England village green located in the midwest. The fine virgin bur oak grove on its north quarter is a remnant of the "oak openings" which interspersed Rock County's prairies.

(Abstracts; Raney interview, Oct. 1978)

9. Morgan house 1848-50 Pivotal
W: Bl 10, Lots 13,14
Owner: Helen N. Toigo, R 1 Ev

This 1½ story frame Greek Revival house with vermilion brick nogging between the studs was built 1848-50 by or for Thomas Morgan, a "jack carpenter", who married a Hoxie. Her brothers, Benjamin and Isaac, both carpenters, may have contributed to the building of the house. Morgan lived there until his death in 1905. The house has been restored by its present owner.

(Raney, Tour, 1953.)

10. Frank Seaver house ca. 1850 Pivotal
W: Bl 9, Lot 8
Owner: Philip and Lynn Bednarek, R 1 Ev

This 1½ story Greek Revival house of local vermilion brick was built ca. 1850 on a corner lot. Lintels are slightly curved. In 1946 a front porch was enclosed and a wing was added to the rear. A recent preservation grant has enabled some restoration, including a wood shingled roof and 6-over-6 windows.

(Saternus interview, June 1979)

11. John Seaver house ca. 1849 Contributing
W: Bl 9, Lot 11
Owner: Dorothy T. Richardson R 1 Ev

John W. Fisher, a carpenter and a relative of the owner, may have built this 1½ story frame Greek Revival house for John D. Seaver, the father of Frank Seaver, who built on the corner. The Seavers came from Chautauqua County, New York. The house is presently

sided with aluminum.

(Raney interview, Oct. 1978)

12. Longbourne house ca. 1854 Pivotal
 W: Bl 9, Lot 12
 Owner: Maurice Gras and A. H. Bova, R 1 Ev

This charming 1½ story Gothic Revival vermilion brick cottage with decorated bargeboards was probably built by John Fisher for Thomas W. Longbourne, an Englishman, who operated the local flour mill. Longbourne sold the house in 1866 to Charles Woodbury, who operated the Cooksville store; from 1870-1900 it belonged to John Robertson, a farmer and storekeeper. A contemporary wing to the rear, designed by Michael Saternus in 1974, enhances the livability and does not detract from the integrity of the house. The former rear wing has been moved to the south and converted to a garage. It is still sympathetic to the house.

(Raney, Tour, 1953; RCHSB, pp. 35, pl. 11c; 140-41.)

13. Blackman-Woodbury house ca. 1853, 1870's-1910 Contributing
 W: Bl 9, Lot 13
 Owner: A. P. Hamacher, R 1 Ev

This vernacular Gothic, steep-gabled frame house with Late Picturesque additions and trim grew in stages. The core was built for Dr. William M. Blackman by 1853. It was rented in the late 1850's to Philarmon P. Livermore, the school teacher, who later became the principal of Milton Academy. From the 1870's through the 1890's, it belonged to Charles Woodbury, Cooksville grocer and postmaster, who had sold Lot 12. He enlarged the house and added the one-story porch.

(Raney interview, Oct. 1978)

14. Blackman-Graves building ca. 1850, ca. 1870's Contributing
 W: Bl 9, Lot 14
 Owner: A. P. Hamacher, R 1 Ev

Now a garage, in poor condition, it was built in two stages as a one-story house in simplified Greek Revival style, with returned cornices. The older, frame wing was built ca. 1850, and owned by Dr. Blackman. It was sold to William Graves, a blacksmith, in 1865. He presumably added the wing, a new room of cream-pink, but non-Cooksville brick, in 1886 after the local brickyard had closed.

(Raney notes)

15. Parker-Newell house ca. 1848 Pivotal
 W: Bl 1, E ½ Lots 8-10 (and west ½ vacated Webster St.)
 Owner: Lawrence J. McDonnell, R 1 Ev

A pleasant 1½ story frame Greek Revival house, entered on the broad side by a door with lights, was built for Nahum Parker ca. 1848. The Newell family owned the house about a century, from 1857 to 1958. They had it "pebble-dashed" (stuccoed) in the 1930's and added a front dormer, the latter which the current owners intend to remove. A skylight and an attractive addition to the rear, designed by Michael Saternus, do not detract from the integrity of the house.

(Interview with McDonnell, June 9, 1979.)

16. Gunn-Breckenridge ("Breckhurst") 1852; 1952 Contributing
 W: Bl 1, W $\frac{1}{2}$ Lots 8 & 9 (house)
 Owner: Stephen and Karen Smay, R 1 Ev

This attractive, rambling, one-story house is built around a small, 14' x 21' gabled frame house built of oak ca. 1852. In poor condition and threatened with demolition, it was moved to its present site from a block west in the 1940's. Elton Breckenridge, then an interior designer who was on the faculty of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, designed the enlargement ca. 1952 and constructed it of russet Chicago brick, which blends well with the native brick of Cooksville. He used the residence as a second home for more than 20 years. He also laid out formal gardens with attractive planting and eclectic objects which interact well with the site.

(Janesville Gazette, Aug. 13, 1968; Ev. Review, Oct. 9, 1975.)

17. Fisher-Van Buren house 1848 Pivotal
 W: Bl 1, Lot 7; N $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot 8
 Owners: Michael Saternus and Larry Reed, R 1 Ev

This $1\frac{1}{2}$ story frame Greek Revival house was probably built for his own use by John Willis Fisher, Jr., a carpenter, in 1848 and sold in the 1850's to Dr. Roswell Van Buren, a physician. Post and beam construction with some brick nogging was revealed during restoration by its present owner, an architect who has done much work in Cooksville. The horse barn on the site is contributing.

(Interview with Saternus, June 9, 1979; Raney notes)

18. Ranch house 1970's Intrusive
 W: Bl.2, Lots 1-2
 Owner: Carroll D. Wall, R 1 Ev (owns Lots 1-3)

This ranch house is built of a subdued red brick which blends well with the village houses, but it is set at an angle to the corner and is considered intrusive in an historic district. It occupies the approximate site of the long-gone Cooksville hotel. Its owners presently manage the general store.

19. Isaac Hoxie house ca. 1850 Contributing
 W: Bl 2, Lot 4
 Owner: Carroll D. Wall, R 1 Ev (owns Lots 4-6)

This $1\frac{1}{2}$ story frame Greek Revival house is of historic interest for its connection with Isaac Hoxie. It was probably built for Seaver by John Fisher, his brother-in-law, ca. 1850, and bought by I.A. Hoxie in 1856. He, a carpenter like his brother, had a sash and door factory in Cooksville (1848-1861) and undoubtedly did work in the village. He also established the Evansville Review in 1866.

The house was enlarged with wings on either side, and a simple porch was added all across the front, probably in the early 20th century. It is presently rental property.

A shed to the north of the property ~~is not part of~~ ^{does not contribute to} the nomination. (No'C - see correction sheet rec'd 9/16/80)

(Port. & Biog. Album of Rock County, 1889, p. 390; Raney interview, Oct. 1978)

The following buildings, although by definition intrusive in the historic district; do not visually detract significantly from the overall character of the community:

20. Ranch house Intrusive
W: Bl 2, Lot 7
Owner: James McCarthy, Jr. R 1 Ev
- One story white ranch house.
21. Ranch house and concrete block one-story building ca. 1940's Intrusive
W: Bl 3, Lot 2 and W ½ Lot 1
Owner: Edwin Julseth, R 1 Ev
22. Ranch house Intrusive
W: Bl 3, E ½ Lot 1
Owner: Donald and Gloria Martin, R 1 Ev
23. Lovejoy and Chambers "speculation" house 1851-4 Contributing
W: Bl 3, Lot 3
Owner: Gordon Page, R 1 Ev

This 1½ story frame Greek Revival house is now covered with false brick asbestos siding. It was probably built by Lovejoy and Chambers, who bought this lot, as well as Lots 4-7, in 1851. It was sold in 1854 for \$500.00. It is believed that it was used as a store by Newman and Woodbury after 1858.

(Raney interview, Oct. 1978)

24. John Collins house ca. 1850 Pivotal
W: Bl 3, Lot 4
Owner: Edward E. Ortman, R 1 Ev

This handsome 1½ story vermilion brick Greek Revival house is of architectural significance for its construction. It was built ca. 1850-54, with a simple gable roof, straight lintels, and six-over-six windows. It also was probably built as a speculation property of Lovejoy and Chambers. English born John Collins, storekeeper and early postmaster, owned the house from 1854 through the 1870's.

It is now fronted with a "Doric" porch of ca. 1965, which blends well with the front door with side lights. The carport adjacent to the south, however, is less compatible.

(Raney notes.)

25. Houfe-Sturtevant house ca. 1851-54 Contributing
W: Bl 3, Lot 5
Owner: Gordon A. Starks, R 1 Ev

This two-story vernacular frame house visually terminates the north edge of the historic district. The entrance is on the long side. It is fronted with a small Late Picturesque porch, on concrete foundations. It is now covered with brown shingled siding. Lovejoy and Chambers bought the lot in 1851; they or Houfe may have built the house for speculation. Richard Houfe, known as a brickmason, sold it in 1854 for \$500. From 1862-88 it belonged to the Sturtevant family who were farmers.

(Raney Correspondence, Nov. 1978.)

26. Betsey Curtiss house ca. 1845-46 Contributing
C: Bl 1, Lot 3
Owner: Mrs. Frances Norby (owns Lot 2-5), R 1 Ev

This simple frame Greek Revival house, although now covered with aluminum siding and remodeled with a picture window, is of historic significance for its association with

early settlers. On land owned by Betsey Curtiss, a widow, it was probably built ca. 1845-46 for her and her family. She was at various times owner of the Cooksville and the Leedle mill properties; John Curtiss, her son, is credited with building the first half of the Leedle Mill in 1861. Mrs. Curtiss also owned the Champney brickyard in the 1850's. Lovejoy and Chambers owned the house from 1847 to 1851; they probably made improvements on it before they sold it for \$650. In the meantime they may have utilized this building for their store and post office.

(Abstracts; Raney notes and correspondence, Nov. 1978.)

27. Cooksville General Store ca. 1847, 1864 Pivotal
C: Part of Bl 2, Lot 1
Owner: Waucoma Hall, c/o Wayne Buss, R 5, Box 562, Stoughton, WI

The Cooksville General Store is of primary historic importance for its long association with the economic-commercial life of Cooksville. It is also of architectural interest for its association with Benjamin Hoxie, self-taught Cooksville architect. John Cook, the founder of Cooksville, may have erected a building on the site when he platted it in 1842, but the front portion of the first story of the present building may date from 1847, presumably built by Charles Smith or his brother-in-law, John W. Fisher. It was a store through the 1850's, operated by Woodbury and Seaver. In these years it was also used by the Masons of Waucoma Lodge, who bought the building in 1864. In that year it was enlarged by Benjamin Hoxie to two stories, with a simple gable roof. The Waucoma Lodge Hall is upstairs.

The present windows date from 1882; a wing to the rear was added ca. 1890. The store is fronted with an old one-story porch on concrete foundations. Little altered since the turn of the century, it remains in use as a general store, the longest in operation in the community. Cooksville has had at least one store continuously since 1845.

(Evansville Post, July 12, 1973; Raney interview, Oct. 1978.)

28. Blacksmith Shop Intrusive
C: Bl 2, Lot 2 (part)
Owner: Francis H. Hatch, R 1 Ev

This one-story dark frame building, constructed of old lumber in 1978 on the general site of the 19th century blacksmith shop, blends well with the historic buildings but is not one of them.

29. Smith-Galt house ca. 1848-49 Contributing
C: Bl 2, Lot 3
Owner: George and Eunice Mattakat

This simple 1½ story frame salt box, with its entrance on the long side, is of architectural interest for its almost unaltered simple vernacular construction. It may have been built by John Willis Fisher, Jr., the brother-in-law of Charles Smith, who owned the building by 1848. It belonged to John Galt from 1864 to 1880. It is presently unoccupied and in need of restoration.

(Raney notes, Oct. 1978.)

30. John Cook house ca. 1842 Pivotal
C: Bl 2, Lot 4
Owner: George and Eunice Mattakat, R 1 Ev

This 1½ story vernacular frame house of post and beam construction is of primary historic importance, for it was built by John Cook, village founder. Until 1888 it belonged to John Willis Fisher, Sr., a millwright, whose son may have added the one-story

wing on its north. It has been an antique shop, the Red Door, since 1958.

(Janesville Gazette, Aug. 12, 1968; interviews with Raney and Mattakat, Oct. 1978.)

31. William Porter farmhouse ca. 1855 etc. Contributing
C: B1 3
Owner: Sidney Anderson, Jr. R 1 Ev

Though the land was first owned and platted by John Cook, village founder, and a Mr. Gideon Newman lived there by 1858, the house is historically significant for its long connection with William Porter (1818-93), the oldest of the three brothers who were early settlers. After going west during the California Gold Rush (1850-52), Porter "improved" the two-story frame vernacular farmhouse, which is now obscured by aluminum siding except for a Late Picturesque porch and east bay. The barn on limestone foundations, located south of the house, contributes to the nomination; the other farm buildings on the site are not ~~part of it~~ contributing elements. (KOC - see corrections rec'd 9/16/80)

(Portrait and Biographical Album of Rock County, 1889, pp. 409-410)

32. Cooksville Congregational Church 1879 Pivotal
SW corner Rock and Main Streets, NE SW S. 6; 140.25' EW x 115.5' NS
Owner: Michael Saternus, R 1 Ev

The Cooksville Congregational Church of 1879 is of architectural significance as the work of a local architect, Benjamin Hoxie. It is also of historic interest for its connection with the life of the villagers, who were transplanted New Englanders of the first, second and third generations. Benjamin Hoxie designed the church and did the carpentry and painting; a Mr. Kelley of nearby Oregon was the mason for the limestone foundations. It was constructed of frame in a mixed style, with elements of the Italianate: tall, round-arched windows and a plastered, barrel-vaulted ceiling, and of Gothic Revival: steep gabled roof and vertical spires. Supposedly Jenkin Lloyd Jones, the famous Unitarian minister, who had preached previously in the old schoolhouse, spoke at the dedication of the church. It was first used as a church and in later years served as the town hall.

The building has been under restoration by the present owner since 1971. An early 20th century bell is now workable in the belfry, with the use of long ropes. The spires and belfry have been restored, and the building has been repainted with its 19th century color scheme of tan with brown trim.

(Rock County, 1879, p. 698; Janesville Daily Recorder, March 12, 1879; Porter, Choice Seed, p. 189; RCHSB, pp. 140-41; interview with Saternus, June 1979.)

33. Two story frame house 1941 Intrusive
W: B1 9, Lot 7
Owner: Keith & Ilene Axford, R 1 Ev

This two-story vernacular frame house on concrete foundations faces east on Church Street, south of the Frank Seaver house, on the block between the square and the cemetery. Though built in 1941, it blends in proportion and materials with the historic houses of the village. However, it is not one of them.

34. Cooksville Cemetery Pivotal
2.52 A, 244' x 415', south of Church St.
Owner: Cooksville Cemetery Assn. c/o E. Marvin Raney, R 1 Ev

Established in 1861, this site is important historically and visually as an integral part of the community. Many early settlers' remains are buried here, including those of Dr. Isaac Porter, father of founding Porter brothers, who died of cholera almost immediately after his arrival in the village in 1854. Bodies and stones were moved

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to this site early in the 1860s from the first cemetery, which was located between the store and the mill. Also of significance are the handsome trees on the site, including two "state champion" trees, unusually large Scotch pines (*P. sylvestris*).

(Portrait and Biographical Album, 1889, p. 409; Evansville Review, June 10, 1976)

35. Norwegian Lutheran Church 1896 Contributing
(now Cooksville Lutheran Church)
0.32 acres, 115.5' E-W x 132' N-S, just west of the cemetery on Church Street
Owner: Cooksville Lutheran Church, Route 1, Evansville

Of historic importance for its association with the late 19th century immigration of Norwegians into the area, the building dates from 1896, when it was built after the loss by fire of the first sanctuary of 1892. William Porter had sold the plot of land to the Trustees of the Norwegian Lutheran Church for \$100 in 1891. A late vernacular Gothic Revival building of frame, on textured concrete foundations, it was recently covered with vinyl siding. (Abstracts; Becker, Know Rock County, 38; Raney notes).

45. Champney brickyard and house site 1840's-60's
SHSW Archeological Site No. R0-222 (Included in Cooksville Historic District)
SW SE S. 6 (ca. 547' N-S, south of Church Street x ca. 450' E-W, E. of Tolles Road, ca. 6 A.)
Owner: Sidney Anderson, R 1 Ev

This site is significant as the best preserved of two brickyards which provided the vermilion brick for Cooksville's houses; it has archeological potential. (The second site, once owned by Lovejoy and Chambers, though equally significant, disappeared with years of plowing and present residential use and is not included in the nomination. It is now residential property owned by Carl Wolter, NE SW S. 6.) Sherds still lie on the surface of the flat field of the Champney site, although it has been farmland for over a century. The brickyard was active from the 1840's through the 1860's and was operated the longest by Hubbard Champney. The brickyard itself occupied two acres on the southwest corner of the site (330' N-S x 264' E-W, commencing four rods east of the north-south center line and south line of S. 6.) The house was located in the north-east portion of the six acres; its site reveals sherds of glass and pottery as well as brick.

First owned by Dr. John Porter and operated by Champney, the brickyard was sold to the latter for \$75.00 in Dec. 1853; however, he turned the ownership of the land over almost immediately to Betsey Curtiss for \$500.00 (in Jan. 1854). The yard was also owned by William Johnson (1861) and Jeanette Campbell (1866); it was sold back to the Porter family (William and Isaac) in 1875 and operated as farmland since. Champney moved just east of Leedle's Mill in the 1870's and continued to make some brick there.

(Abstracts; Raney notes; interview with Bill Green and Kim Peters, SHSW, May 9, 1979.)

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INVENTORY: RESOURCES OUTSIDE HISTORIC DISTRICT

38. Cooksville Mill and Mill pond site (c. 1842-1905)
SHSW Archeological Site No. R0-221 UTM Reference: (s) 16/316755/4745110
c. 10 acres: Part of NE SW, Sec. 6, Town of Porter, Begin 170' W of a point
512' S of NE corner of NE SW, Sec. 6, T4N, R11E, thence W 790', thence N 512',
thence E 960' to NE corner of said 1/4 Sec., thence S c. 54' on center line
(excluding west 1/2 Hwy. 138 right-of-way, which is 45.5' wide west of center
line), thence SW from center (including race within boundary; traditional
boundary follows the race but does not specify its angle) c. 275' to a point
170' west of E edge of 1/4 section, thence S c. 280' to point of beginning.

Owners: Carl and Jennifer Gutknecht, Route 1, Evansville, Wis. 53536
 Mary Anderson Estate: Mrs. Earl Anderson, Estate c/o Lavern Anderson,
 109 Jefferson Street, Janesville, Wis. 53545
 Karl Wolter, Route 1, Evansville, Wis. 53536

Foundations and wood pilings remain near the foot of a hillock c. 250' west of Main Street (Hwy 138), approximately as far north as Webster Street. These are the visible remains of Cooksville's gristmill, which was derelict by the 1890s and burned in October, 1905. The dam was abandoned by 1897. An earth embankment still runs northwest to Badfish Creek, which meanders through the former millpond.

The site is significant for its long association with Cooksville's economic life, and for its archeological potential. The first sawmill was built by John Cook c. 1842; the site with tailrace and millpond was sold by Betsey Curtiss to John Shepard in 1845. He (or Chambers and Lovejoy) built the gristmill by 1847; it was owned and operated by T. W. Longbourne in the 1850s and through 1866. Rice and Barber (also Rice and Nesbitt) owned it by the 1870s. Though the area is currently unused, it is possible that the pond and/or mill could be restored.

(Ag. 1856, p. 116; Atlas, 1873, p. 57; Rock County, 1879, p. 693; Port., 1889, p. 1020; Abstracts, Raney notes; interview with Green and Peters, May 9, 1979.)

39. Savage House c. 1848, c. 1880

Dane County

SW SE S. 1, T5N, R11E (less than 1 acre at SW SE corner) UTM Ref: (p) 16/316940/4745970

Owner: Mrs. Earl Anderson, Route 1, Evansville, Wis. 53536

This vernacular Gothic Revival frame house with Late Picturesque trim is significant for its long connection with the Savage family, who were extremely active and popular in Cooksville's social and cultural life in the 19th century and into the 20th. John Waite Savage (1808-1884) moved to Wisconsin from Vermont in 1842; he purchased 374' of lath for the house in 1848 from the Cooksville sawmill and moved into the house with his wife and five children, one of whom subsequently married a Stebbins. The house was later remodeled with Late Picturesque dormers, shingles, and barge board trim. It is currently vacant and boarded up.

The Cooksville area's most famous native, John Lucian Savage (1879-1967), was born and grew up in the house. As chief design engineer for the Federal Bureau of Reclamation from 1924 until his retirement in 1945, he was known worldwide as the principal designer and engineer of some of the world's biggest power and irrigation dam projects. His works included the Hoover Dam, Imperial Dam, Grand Coulee Dam, Shasta Dam, American Falls Dam, TVA's Norris Dam, and about 50 other U.S. dams. In addition, as a consulting engineer, he designed water projects in at least 19 other nations, including the Yangtze River Gorge project in China. His awards included an honorary D. Sc. from the University of Wisconsin, from which he had graduated in 1903, the Colorado Engineering Council's Gold Medal (1937), China's National Resources Commission Gold Medal (1945), the Washington Award of the Joint American Society of Engineers (1949), and the Interior Department's Gold Medal Award for Distinguished Service (1950). Etc. from the media included: "More people are indebted to John Savage and will be for generations to come than any other engineer...the demand for his talents has been worldwide." (Look); "Savage was the greatest dam builder of an age in which hydroelectric power changed the face of the earth." (Newsweek); "Savage has been the chief engineer of more big dams than any other man in history." (Colliers); he was considered "the best dam man in the business" (Colorado Wonderland).

(Correspondence with M. Saternus, 4/19/1979; Condit, American Building Art - The Twentieth Century, New York: Oxford, 1961, pp. 261, 372)

40. Leedle Mill Truss Bridge (DOT No. P-53-0066) c. 1916, and
 Leedle Mill Site 1861; c. 1880-1882

SHSW Archeological Site No. RO-223

NE NE Sec. 1, Town of Union (T4N R10E), c. 1 acre. UTM Reference: (r) 16/315940/4745690

Owner: Leedle Mill Bridge - Town of Union, Wayne Disch, Chairman, Croft Road, Evansville, Wis. 53536

Leedle Mill Site - Town of Union, q.v., supra, and Dr. Adolf & Allison Lunde, U188, Leedle Mill Road, Route 3, Stoughton, Wis. 53589

The Leedle Mill site is significant for transportation and industry in the Cooksville environs. Curtiss, Davenport and Leedle, mill builders, all had roots in or were connected with nearby Cooksville. This mill, as well as the Cooksville Mill, was considered as a part of Cooksville's economy. Because of their intertwined location, the mill and the bridge may be considered as one site. The present bridge was built during the latter years of the mill's operation. The bridge has continued in use for local traffic, while the mill is no more.

The Leedle Mill bridge is a metal Pratt through truss, constructed of steel c. 1916 (DOT estimate) with five vertical lacing bars on each side. A metal plate on the railing is inscribed "E. C. Sherwin & Son, Brandon, Wis." This company was active in bridge construction from 1901-1918. Located just north-northeast of the site of the destroyed Leedle Mill, it incorporates part of the water regulation mechanism in its construction. It is a two-span bridge, 120.2' long, of which the northwest or truss portion, 89.6' long and 18.2' wide, spans the Badfish Creek. The southwest portion, with a low metal railing, probably spans the former headrace. The three abutments are concrete. Vertical notches for the penstock of the spillway are visible on the northwest side of the southwest abutment. The bridge bed is blacktopped for the town road that traverses it. A filled-in arch (probably for intake from the former pond) is visible on the northwest side of the roadbank c. 50' southwest of the bridge. This arch may have been filled in during further road construction.

An earlier bridge spanned the stream on pilings southeast of the present bridge; it was mapped in 1873 as southeast of the mill. The roadbed was changed between then and 1891, when a road, now closed, was extended from just west of the mill southeast and south along the town line to Hwy 59. (Two simple concrete culverts in poor condition which still exist on private land of the Dow-Hatlen farm are not part of the nomination.) The frame mill, c. 40' x 50', stood through the late 1950s but was taken down, with most of the foundation carted away or bulldozed, with another change of the roadbed.

There are few visible remains of the mill. Two limestone arches about 35 feet south of the road, near the creek, probably indicate where the turbine was located. A cylindrical stone base and part of a concrete foundation up the bank to the west of the arches are now overgrown with trees and underbrush.

John and Betsey Curtiss built the first mill here in the 1840s and sold it to Noah Davenport in 1850. He named it the Davenport Mill. He built the first half of the present ruinous gristmill, which he then called Rock County Mills, in 1861. He subsequently died there in a mill accident. William Leedle and his son bought the mill in 1878 and enlarged it to grind 30 bushels of grain per hour. John T. Dow (see No. 42) hauled foundation stone to add to the dam, in 1880. The dam, by now four runs high, ran out in 1882 and was repaired, and this was repeated in 1914. It went out permanently in 1918. The mill was used for storage before it was torn down.

(Atlas, 1858, 1873, 1891; Rock County, 1879, p. 870; Port. 1889, p. 1020; J. Gazette, n.d.; RCHSB, p. 74, pl. 28d, p. 77; Danko, The Development of the Truss Bridge, Madison, WI (1976), p. 67; interviews with Green, Peters and Raney, May 9, 1979; with Pat Zeraski, Barrientos & Assoc., July 3, 1979.)

41. Cooksville Cheese Factory 1875
SE SW S. 6, Porter (T4N, R11E) UTM Reference: (k) 16/316660/4744710
Owner: Norman & Laura Jean Hatlen, Route 1, Evansville, Wis., 53536

Acres: less
than 1 acre.
(NO'c - correction
rec'd 9/16/80)

This unassuming two-story gabled frame building with returned cornice is important as the former Cooksville Cheese Factory, a cooperative established by Benjamin Hoxie in 1875. The patrons owned the business and elected officers; Hoxie was proprietor. The factory had a capacity for the milk of 600 cows. The equipment was sold in 1884, so none remains in the limestone basement. As a factory it was part of the community's social and commercial life. Farmers and perhaps the Good Templars gathered there. By 1894 it was used for housing tenant farmers, and it is still rental property. It was recently sided with vinyl.

(Rock County, 1879, p. 280; Raney notes.)

42. John T. Dow house ca. 1850-54 Acreage: less than 1 acre
 SW SW S. 6, Porter UTM Reference: (1) 16/316360/4744690 (KO'C - corrections
 Owner: Norman and Laura Jean Hatlen R 1 Ev rec'd 9/16/80)

This handsome two-story Greek Revival house of Cooksville vermilion brick is significant architecturally as typifying a style or type of building and historically for its connection with a locally well-known person. Its brick portion closely resembles the Miller house (No. 44), with its three-bay front with straight wooden lintels, elliptical attic fanlight, and door with lights, placed asymmetrically on the right of the facade. It was illustrated in 1873 with a 1½ story frame wing on its right side (the Miller house retains its 1½ story frame wing on the right). This has been replaced by a late 19th century two-story frame wing on limestone foundations, with simple turned veranda, on its left side, which also does not detract from the brick core of the house. A new redwood back entrance and a concrete block chimney, also on the rear of the house, are placed so as to detract minimally from the historic integrity of the building.

The house was probably built, like the Miller house (No. 44), by Chambers and Lovejoy. Lovejoy bought the land in 1850 and sold it to John T. Dow in 1854, with the basic house on the site. Dow was a state legislator as well as a farmer. He served in the 1870's and was known among other things for his early espousal of women's rights. Dow owned the house and farm until 1891, when it was bought by Charles Miller, who expanded his holdings from Section 7. The Dow diaries, which have been preserved in Cooksville, give insight into the history of the village. The metal farm buildings on the site are not part of the nomination.

(Abstracts; Atlas, 1873, illus., p. 58; Raney notes.)

43. Cooper-Gillies house ca. 1850-53 Acreage: less than
 SE SE S. 1 Union UTM Reference: (q) 16/315720/4744640 1 acre
 Owner: James D. and Thomas N. Hatlen, R 1 Ev (KO'C - corrections
 rec'd 9/16/80)

Located about 3/4 of a mile west of Cooksville on a low ridge overlooking the village, this two-story vermilion brick house is significant architecturally as an example of the use of Cooksville brick, just outside the village. It is also significant as a well-preserved example of construction in local Greek Revival style with some Federal characteristics. The house, a "four-bay" house with straight wooden lintels, is entered on the long side; the door, with simple pilastered Greek Revival enframing, is second from the left. Cornice returns are on the short side.

When the land was sold by John Adams to Mathew (sic) Cooper in 1853, the brick core of the house may have been in place, on limestone foundations. A 1½ story frame wing, with small "eyebrow" windows under the frieze board, was added to the rear, flush with the west side, before the house was sold to David Gillies in 1862. Gillies, born in Scotland in 1818, farmed and lived in the house until his death in 1878.

In the early 20th century, most of the window panes were changed to three-over-one or one-over-one. The frame portion was sided with asbestos. Its west facade was recently re-covered with new vinyl siding. New metal supports have replaced the simple pillars of the concrete based veranda.

A small frame buggy shed about 25' to the west of the house and a large 19th century sheep barn, about 100' northeast of the house, are of some historic interest but ~~are not~~ ~~considered part of~~ the nomination. The metal farm buildings on the site are not ~~part~~ ~~of the nomination.~~ *contributing elements. (KO'C - corrections rec'd 9/16/80)*

(Raney notes.)

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44. Miller house ca. 1845
 SW NE S. 7, Town of Porter UTM Reference: (m) 16/316880/4743920
 Owner: Carl Liedholm, R 1 Ev (Less than 1 acre)

This well-preserved vermilion brick house, built ca. 1845, is significant on architectural grounds for its fine quality as typifying a style or type of construction. It was cited by Perrin (Historic Wisconsin Buildings, p. 55) as one of two "very typical examples" of "expressions in brick building following the more conventional Greek Revival lines," with "wood cornices with typically Greek moldings." Notable also are an elliptical fanlight in the attic, a front door with lights, an arched entrance to the root cellar on the south wing of the house. A frame addition to the 1-1/2 story brick wing harmonizes with the rest of the house. The interior was well restored with relatively little alteration.

The house was probably built by Chambers and Lovejoy; the floor plan of its main block is identical to those of the Lovejoy-Duncan, Collins, and Dow houses(Nos. 1, 24 and 42). It was associated with two unrelated Miller families. Lovejoy sold it to James Pratt Miller in 1856; then Charles Miller, a Pennsylvania-born farmer who moved to Wisconsin in 1844, bought it in 1867. It remained in the latter Miller family until 1947.

(Rock County, 1879, p. 871; Perrin, Historic Wisconsin Buildings, 1962, p. 55, illus.; RCHSB, pp. 138-39; Raney notes.)

46. J.K.P. Porter farmstead
 Farmhouse: NWSW S. 5, Porter 1847 ff UTM Reference: (t) 16/318050/4744790
 Granary: " " 1870's (About 14 acres)
 Lyell Porter house (W) NE SW 5 ca. 1935
 John Porter house (E) " " ca. 1860, moved 1920's
 Owner: Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Tait, R 1 Ev

The Joseph K. P. Porter farmstead is of primary historic importance not only to Cooksville but also to the Town of Porter, for its association for over 120 years (1847-1968)

with the founding family of the area. J.K.P. Porter (1819-1907), from Charlton, Mass., acted as agent for his uncle, Dr. John Porter, who acquired the east half of Section 6, including the Waucoma land, and the west half of Section 5 from famed United State Senator Daniel Webster in 1842. Joseph came with his bride, Ann Eliza Bacon Porter (1821-1890), to manage the property. He built the core of the house in 1847. By mid-1860's, it was a two-story four-bay frame Greek Revival house with returned cornices and a 1½ story wing to its rear. It was then similar in proportion to the brick Cooper-Gillies house in Union. As the children married, wings were added so that the families could return to visit in the summer. These wings were also two-storied and gabled with returned cornices, to match the rest of the house. One wing houses a stairhall which was added on the south front side, and is centered in front of the original house. Floors are oak, sawed in the sawmill which was located on the farm. This sawmill had furnished lumber for other Waucoma houses after the Cooksville mill was completely converted to a flouring mill. The big farmhouse eventually became a tenant house. The tenants included some of the Norwegians who had moved to the area to work on the farms in the late 19th century, when tobacco was added to the dairy and forage production of the region.

In the 1920's, one of the two-storied wings, now with simple gables, was moved about 1/8th of a mile northeast along the Badfish Creek by John B. Porter, who was then in ill health, to become the family home. The doorway was centered on the long side of the house. It was embellished with a flat, decorated Eclectic Georgian Revival lintel and engaged pilasters. The first story windows were remodeled into pairs on either side of the door, and a porch was added on the left rear, overlooking the creek. This building is contributory on historic grounds only, as part of the long occupation of the site by the family.

About 1935 Lyell Porter, among the last of the descendents to own the farm, constructed a compatible two-story frame house just west of the moved one. It also overlooks the creek. Fitzhugh Scott of Milwaukee contributed to the design of this Eclectic Revival house. There is a nice broken-pedimented entrance, a six-over-six paned window on either side of the door, and three square three-over-three paned windows on the second story. The facade is better proportioned than its mate. There is also a small cornice return on the sides. Similar in scale and material to its companion and directly associated with the family, it is also contributory to the nomination.

A rustic two-story horse barn of about 1870 was converted to a granary about 1920. It sits on a concrete slab ca. 75 feet north of the big farmhouse, and is topped with a gabled cupola. It was converted to an antique shop in the 1970's but is now vacant. It is contributory as the only one of the numerous farmbuildings which were once in existence on the site.

The sawmill on the farm has left too few traces to be part of the nomination. Some of its record books, however, are extant. The earthworks were visible not far from the two houses as late as the 1940's.

The metallic buildings which were added in the 1970's to the west of the farmhouse and granary are incompatible to the nomination.

(Rock County, 1879, p. 871; L.R. Porter, Choice Seed in the Wilderness, 1964; Edgerton Reporter, May 1965; Milwaukee Journal, July 2, 1967; Raney notes.)

47. Harrison Stebbins house ("Windermere") 1850
SE NE S. 8, Porter UTM Reference: (n) 16/318910/4743730
Owner: Earl and Lavon Keehn, R 1 Ev

Acreage: less than 1 acre
(KOC-corrections
rec'd 9/16/80)

One of the finest 19th century residences in Rock County, this "large and commodious" 2½ story limestone house was praised soon after it was erected in 1850 as "one of the most desirable situations in the county" (Ag. 1856, p. 116). Its primary significance is architectural, as embodying with exceptional quality the distinctive characteristics of a period and type of construction, limestone Greek Revival with Federal characteristics.

Built of locally quarried limestone block, it is a "five-bay" house, with stright lintels and a central door with lights. The gable ends are raised above the roof line, creating a parapet wall with coping. The stepped gable rises to a pair of chimneys at each end. (The front chimney on the right side has been removed.) Bullseye louvers fronted the attic story. Dances and dancing classes were held upstairs; they contributed to the social life of Cooksville.

A decorative front porch with cresting (still intact) was in place by 1873; back porches were added as well. By 1873 there was also a long frame two-story wing, lower than the main house. Its far end, however, has been removed and replaced with a one story garage, which is not part of the nomination. Other than this the exterior of the house is relatively little altered. The stone needs pointing and the roof needs repairs. An avenue of trees along the two-fifths mile-long entrance from the west was almost obliterated during severe windstorms in 1965 and a few years later.

The Stebbins house is secondarily significant for its association with an early settler who became a locally prominent person. Harrison Stebbins (1820-82), born in Vermont, came to Janesville as one of its first school teachers in 1841. He was county surveyor until 1844, when he purchased his first 240 acres in Porter. He was a commissioner for the location of Territorial Road, Rock County Superintendent of Schools, a member of the state legislature in 1852, a "progressive farmer" and the builder of a gristmill in Stebbinsville on the Yahara River. (The most notable sites which remain in Stebbinsville are the dam and the Gilley-Tof'sland octagonal barn (NRHP). The latter was built by a son-in-law of Stebbins.)

(Ag. 1856, pp. 115-116; Atlas, 1873, illus. p. 58; Rock County, 1879, p. 871; Biog., 1889, pp. 715-716; L.R. Porter, Choice Seed, pp. 161-163; Douglas and Hartung, RCHSB, illus. p. 31, pl. 10d, pp. 33, 138.)

48. Richardson Grout house ca. 1848-50
SE SE 8, Porter UTM Reference: (o) 16/319220/4742810
Owner: Harold Porter, 6641 Gettysburg Drive, Madison 53705

Acreeage: less than 1 acre.
(KO'C - corrections
rec'd 9/16/80)

This 1½ story vernacular cottage is significant architecturally as an example of grout construction in Rock County, a type of construction of which at least 16 examples are known to survive. Nine are concentrated in Milton, about 13 miles to the east (NRHP: Milton Grout Thematic), and there are two in the Town of Fulton, six and seven miles east. This is the only grout house surveyed in the Town of Porter.

It is a simple gabled cottage, entered at the long side, with a frame porch across the front and a frame saltbox to the rear. Fenestration is simple. There is only one, tall, window on the south side which opens out of the core, and a window on each side of the front door. A central chimney separates the two main rooms.

Scottish-born Alexander Richardson is credited with the construction of the house. The land was deeded from Jonathon Roby to Robert Richardson in December 1849. Supposedly coming from Milwaukee to Cooksville to establish a store, Alexander was said to be enthralled with the view from the ridge and settled to farm here until his death while hauling lumber to nearby Edgerton. The house was eventually passed to members of the Porter family.

(Abstracts; Porter, Choice Seed, P. 191; RCHSB, pp. 10, 139; Raney notes.)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Thematic Resources of the Cooksville Area, Evansville, Wis., vicinity

CONTINUATION SHEET

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The original plat of Waucoma consisted of 14 square blocks, from north of the present Lutheran Church five blocks to the Badfish Creek, and from the eastern limit of the original village of Cooksville (Hy 138) three blocks east. In plan, the village is significant because the community was platted with a public square in the traditional New England manner. The public square, donated by Dr. John Porter, was to be reserved forever for the use of the inhabitants of the village as a common. By 1847, lots were being sold by the proprietor's nephew and agent, Joseph K.P. Porter, and homes were being erected around the common. Cooksville-Waucoma amounts to a transplant in Wisconsin of a typical New England village of earlier vintage and is uncommon in this state. The square has always been used as a common, and to this day title appears to reside directly in the "residents of Waucoma" and only indirectly in the Township. In general the little community has remained unspoiled, little changed, retaining a unique charm and attractiveness difficult to be found elsewhere in Wisconsin.

About one third of the early settlers were people from New York state, second generation pioneers whose fathers or grandfathers had left New England for northern New York early in the 19th century. About another third of the first settlers came directly from New England - Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. The rest were from Pennsylvania, and from England, Scotland and Ireland. In 1850 three family groups - the Hoxies (including Howards, Backenstoos, Morgans and Woodburys), the Loves (including Fishers and Seavers), and Wellses (including Millers)--comprised half the population of the village.⁵ Benjamin Hoxie became well known locally as a self-taught architect, and built the local Congregational church. Several of the brick houses and a few of the frame ones were evidently constructed by the partnership of John Chambers and Daniel Lovejoy, who bought various lots and land in the village and environs and sold them, with buildings, at a profit.⁶

Cooksville has been preserved because it was bypassed by the railroad. Although at least one railroad may have been planned to go very near Cooksville, none was ever actually constructed through the community. The closest railroad line, the Chicago and Northwestern Beloit-Madison line, was constructed through Evansville about 1864; daily stages ran the seven miles to Evansville as late as the 1890's.

The village had a full commercial and social life until the end of the 19th century. By the time the census taker arrived in 1850, there were about 175 people living in the village. It has never had many more; its present population is c. 75. In 1850 Waucoma had a hotel and two doctors, six merchants, a potter, a tailor, a miller, two brickmakers, a blacksmith, three carpenters, and a wagon-maker.⁷ In the 1870's and 1880's several families moved west to Iowa, the Dakotas, and Minnesota, but others arrived to take their places. Toward the end of the century, more people retired to the neighboring larger villages, and by 1890 the cultural influence of the Norwegian immigrants coming into the village environs was beginning to be evident.

Another evidence of its New England origins is revealed in the cultural activities of Cooksville. Cooksville has always enjoyed the reputation among its larger neighbors

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of having an almost exaggerated interest in a full cultural life. In the very earliest days there were debates and lyceum programs and improving lectures, including a series on spiritualism, in the schoolhouse. Mrs. J.K.P. Porter ordered a piano in 1847 when she left Boston for her new home in Wisconsin, and its arrival was an event in the raw western village. Townspeople organized singing schools, had dancing classes at the Stebbins stone house east of the village, and at one time attended a series of art classes. The Masons (who met at the General Store), the Congregational Church, the Unity Society, the Good Templars, the Public Library Association, the Grange, and the dramatic club were large and active groups.⁸

The village managed to hold its own until after the advent of the combustion engine. Some original houses that are now missing were pulled down or moved after the arrival of the automobile, but most of the brick houses remain, largely because they were sturdily built and relatively difficult to move.

In the first decades of the 20th century, restoration was begun on the Duncan house, near the southwest corner of the square, by Ralph Warner, who preserved the 19th century character of the house intact (hiding any evidence of modern conveniences). Around his home Warner planted a rich and nostalgia-evoking garden. The house attracted many visitors and gained attention in nationally circulated magazines. Numerous guests were enthralled by the romantic setting and by the well-prepared meals served by their host.⁹

Other houses remained vacant or served as habitable but rather prosaic shelter through the depression years and World War II. Slowly, following the war, the village attracted a number of professional and retired inhabitants who, like some of the longtime residents, conducted further restoration. Strong local sentiment and recent Town zoning ordinance enacted with the cooperation of the Rock County Planning Department have emphasized historic preservation of the area. Residents of the community have now requested a redefinition and expansion of the Cooksville Historic District's boundaries and properties to include a number of significant remainders of the original settlement that were omitted from the 1973 nomination. In addition, they wanted the district incorporated into a more comprehensive area resource nomination that would recognize significant properties closely associated with the history of the Cooksville-Waucoma settlement. They hope that this will encourage further restoration and discourage further intrusions such as ranch houses and incompatible industrial or commercial structures.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the historical resources of Cooksville is formed by a circle whose center is the Cooksville public square or village common (UTM Reference: CC. 16/31/130/4744770), in the heart of the community, and whose radius is two miles. This area, about 12 square miles, contains the rolling farmlands, stands of oak forests, and a 3-1/2 mile stretch of the Badfish Creek, typical of the area--all of which were physical properties conducive of the early settlement of this land. The boundary encompasses the area of settlement whose principal cultural and economic focus was Cooksville, whereas beyond this boundary, the cities of Evansville, Stoughton and Edgerton, all about six miles from Cooksville, became the centers of activity for their areas.

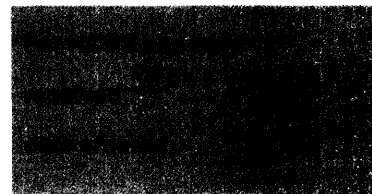
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Footnotes

1. Richard Perrin, Historic Wisconsin Buildings, Milwaukee, 1962, pp. 55-58.
2. Bureau of Land Management, Washington, D.C., quoted in Janesville Gazette.
3. Marvin Raney, Cooksville Tour, 1953.
4. L. R. Porter, Choice Seed in the Wilderness, Rockland: Low, 1664, p. 46.
5. Raney, op. cit.
6. Abstracts; Raney notes.
7. U.S. Census; tax records; Raney, Op. cit.
8. Raney, Op. cit.
9. Whyte, B.K., Wisconsin Heritage, 1954, pp. 274-284.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Thematic Resources of the Cooksville Area, Evansville, Wis., vicinity

See

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER below PAGE 1

9. Major Bibliographical References

History of Rock County, Chicago, 1879, pp. 693-694, 870-871.

Portrait and Biographical Album of Rock County, Chicago, 1889, pp. 409-410.

Foote and Henion, Plat Book of Rock County, 1891, pp. 40, 44, 48.

Raney, E. Marvin, Cooksville Tour, 1953.

Whyte, B.K., Wisconsin Heritage, Newton: Branford, 1954, pp. 274-284.

Perrin, Richard, Historic Wisconsin Buildings, Milwaukee, 1962, pp. 55-58.

Perrin, R., The Architecture of Wisconsin, Madison: SHSW, 1967, pp. 65-66.

Porter, Lillian Russell, Choice Seed in the Wilderness, Rockland: Low, 1964.

Douglas and Hartung, Rock County Historic Sites and Buildings, Janesville, 1976, pp. 27, pl. 8c; 31, pl. 10c-d; 33; 35, pl. 11c; 43, pl. 14a; 77, pl. 28d; 138-143.

Interviews and correspondence with E. Marvin Raney and Michael Saturnus, Sept. 1978-Aug. 1979.

RCBS files.

10. UTM References, continued:

I. 16 / 316900 / 4745070
J. 16 / 317040 / 4745040
K. 16 / 316660 / 4744710
L. 16 / 316360 / 4744690
M. 16 / 316880 / 4743920
N. 16 / 318910 / 4743730
O. 16 / 319220 / 4742810
P. 16 / 316940 / 4745970
Q. 16 / 315720 / 4744640
R. 16 / 315940 / 4745690
S. 16 / 316755 / 4745110
T. 16 / 318050 / 4744790

cc. 16/317130

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Continuation sheet - Corrections

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- 80
- ✓ Item 10 Geographical Data : Acreage of Nominated Property : Change to read, "About 62 acres (Cooksville Historic District, about 38 acres; other resources about 24 acres)."
 - ✓ Item 10 Geographical Data : Verbal Boundary Description : Change to read, "Surveyed area includes a circle with a 2-mile radius whose center-point is the center of the Cooksville common (UTM Reference 16/317130/4744770)."
 - ✓ Item 10, Continuation Page 1 Geographical Data : Add to UTM References, continued:
"CC. 16 / 317130 / 4744770"
 - ✓ Cooksville Historic District Sketch Map : Delete from map property/site numbers 36 and 37.
 - ✓ Thematic Resources of the Cooksville Area Sketch Map : Delete from map property/site numbers 36 and 37.

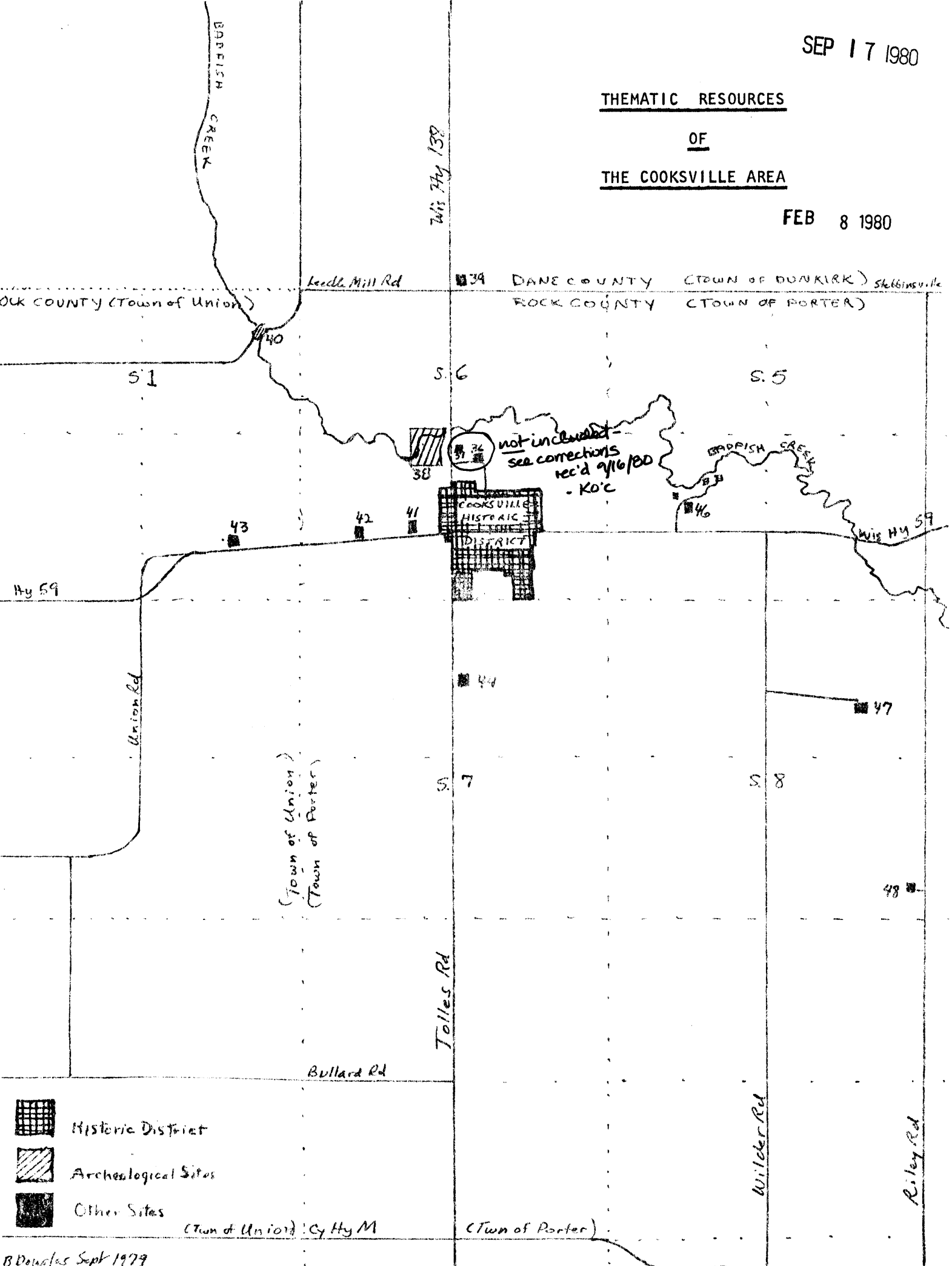
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THEMATIC RESOURCES

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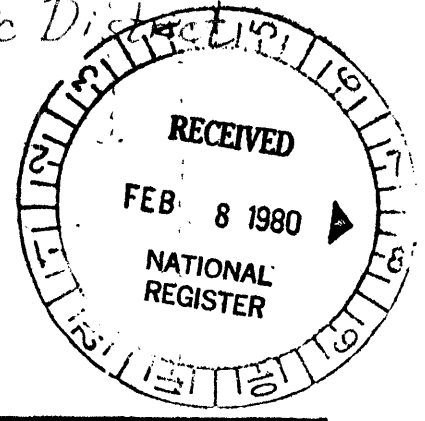
THE COOKSVILLE AREA

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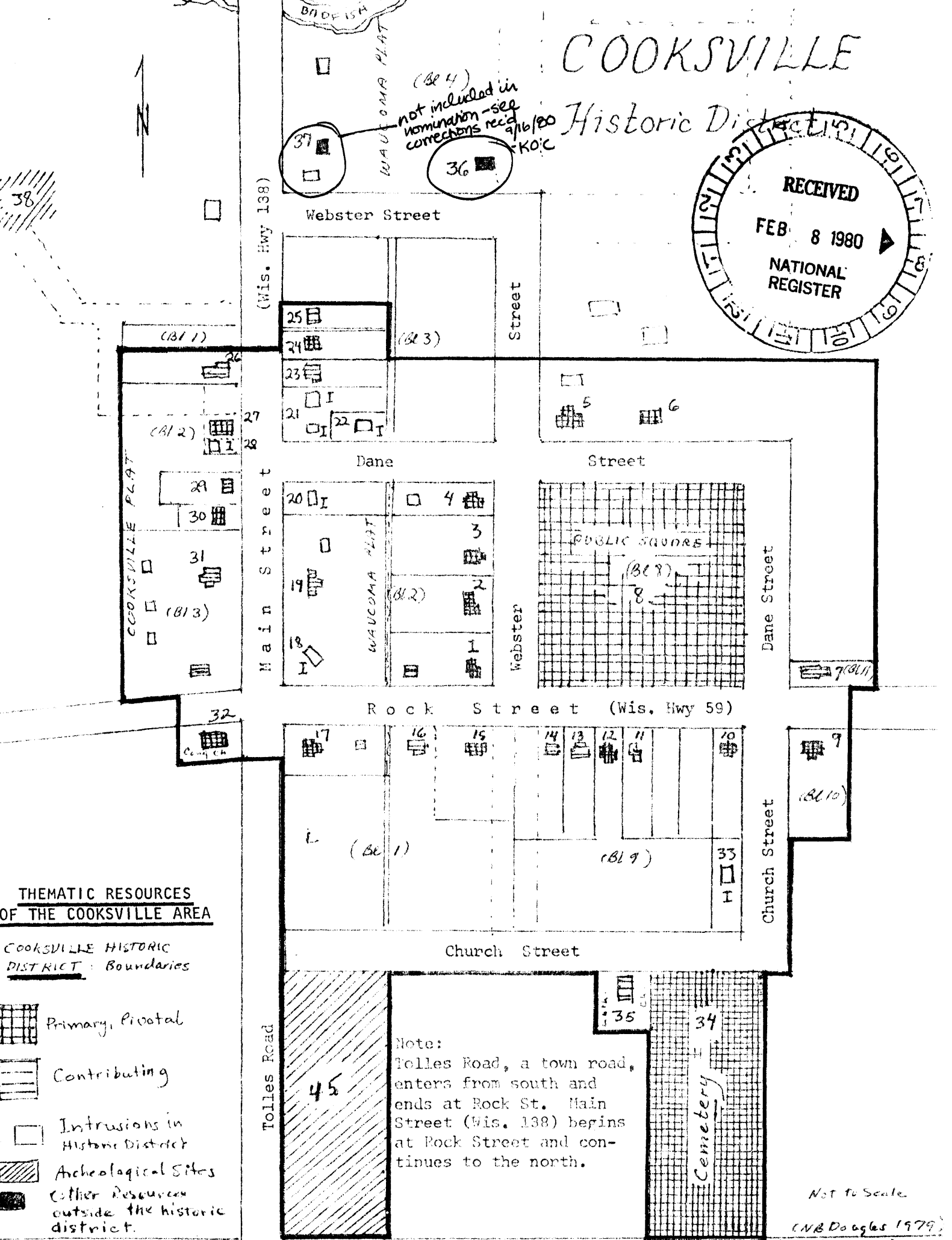
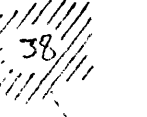


COOKSVILLE

Historic District



(Be 4)
not included in
nomination - see
corrections rec'd
9/16/80
-KOC



THEMATIC RESOURCES OF THE COOKSVILLE AREA

COOKSVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT: Boundaries

- Primary, Pivotal
- Contributing
- Intrusions in Historic District
- Archaeological Sites
- Other Resources outside the historic district.

Note:
Tolles Road, a town road, enters from south and ends at Rock St. Main Street (Wis. 138) begins at Rock Street and continues to the north.

Not to Scale

(NB Douglas 1979)