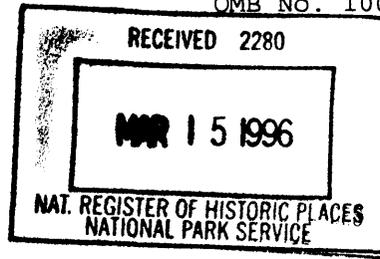


**United States Department of Interior  
National Park Service**



**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A).

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Cadiz Township Joint District No. 2 School

other names/site number Browntown State-Graded School

**2. Location**

street & number 214 School Street N/A not for publication

city or town Village of Browntown N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Green code 045 zip code 53522

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination    request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets    does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally    statewide x locally. (   See continuation sheet.)

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official/Title

3/8/96  
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer-Wisconsin

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

Cadiz Township J.D. No. 2 School  
Name of Property

Green County, Wisconsin  
County and State

**4. National Park Service Certification**

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register.  
— See continuation sheet.
  - determined eligible for the National Register.  
— See continuation sheet.
  - determined not eligible for the National Register.  
— See continuation sheet.
  - removed from the National Register.
  - other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Edson H. Beal Date of Action 4.12.90  
Entered in the National Register

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as apply)  
 private  
 public-local  
 public-state  
 public-federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)  
 building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

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

		Contributing	Noncontributing	
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: School

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
foundation CONCRETE  
walls BRICK  
roof ASPHALT  
other WOOD  
CONCRETE

**Narrative Description**

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

Cadiz Township J.D. No. 2 School  
Name of Property

Green County, Wisconsin  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

A Property is associated with events  
that have made a significant  
contribution to the broad patterns of  
our history.

B Property is associated with the lives  
of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive  
characteristics of a type, period, or  
method of construction or represents  
the work of a master, or possesses  
high artistic values, or represents a  
significant and distinguishable entity  
whose components lack individual  
distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to  
yield, information important in  
prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

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

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

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or  
structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age achieved  
significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from  
instructions)

Education

**Period of Significance**

1921-1945

**Significant Dates**

1921

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

Cadiz Township J.D. No. 2 School  
Name of Property

Green County, Wisconsin  
County and State

Previous Documentation on File (NPS):  
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:  
 State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State Agency  
 Federal Agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Name of repository:  
WI Inventory of Historic Places

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property two acres

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

1	<u>1/6</u>	<u>2/7/1/0/1/0</u>	<u>4/7/1/7/3/2/0</u>	3	<u>/</u>									
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting		Northing						
2	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting		Northing						
														<u>see continuation sheet</u>

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

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

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth L. Miller, Consultant (608-233-5942) for  
organization Joanne and Jim Upmann date 04-26-1995  
street & number 214 School Street telephone 608-966-1848  
city or town Browntown state WI zip code 53522

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 1

Cadiz Township Joint District No. 2 School  
Village of Browntown, Green County, WI

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INTRODUCTION

The Cadiz Township Joint District No. 2 School (Cadiz School) is located on the east side of School Street, between South and Dale Streets in the Village of Browntown, Green County, Wisconsin. The school is a one-story brick building with a raised poured concrete basement, and a hip-with-deck roof. Built in 1921, Cadiz School shows the influence of the Craftsman style. On the interior, the original plan consisted of central front and rear vestibules, separated by closets; and a large classroom on either side of this central section. Although both classrooms have been partitioned to create living space, Cadiz School retains very good integrity.

DESCRIPTION

Cadiz School is located on a hill in Browntown's residential area, just east of the village's small commercial district. The houses are set on large lots, and range from less than 50 to more than 100 years old.

Cadiz School was built in 1921.<sup>1</sup> It measures 61 feet (north-south) by 45 feet, and is rectangular in plan. It is a one-story structure of load-bearing wire-cut vitreous brick in common bond, on a raised basement. The roof is clad with asphalt shingles. A broad brick chimney, through which the furnace vents, rises near the center of the roof. The school retains its original windows, which are wood double hung sash in a 6/6 configuration. Those on the first floor are surmounted by 6-pane transoms, and set in a brick header surround with concrete corner blocks and a concrete sill. The basement story is surmounted by a concrete water table.

The main (west) facade is seven bays wide, and is symmetrical about the central enclosed entry porch. The entry porch is flat roofed, with a pedimented parapet. A shallow flight of concrete steps leads up to the entrance. The entrance is composed of a pair of wood multipane doors, with multipane sidelights and transom. Above the doorway is a concrete panel which had raised letters reading:

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<sup>1</sup>Date panel on building.

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Section 7 Page 2

Cadiz Township Joint District No. 2 School  
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"Joint Dist No 2." This was stuccoed over when the School was converted to a residence in 1984, but is a minor alteration which does not affect the integrity of the building. On either side of the door there is a black metal wall-mounted Colonial-type coach lamp, also dating from 1984. Originally, there was a fixture with an opaque glass globe on either side of the door. These were removed prior to 1980.<sup>2</sup> Above each light are concrete ornaments in rectangular and diamond shapes, reminiscent of the column elaboration designs of the Prairie School style. The parapet is ornamented with a concrete belt course, a concrete panel which reads "1921," and a concrete coping. On either side of the entry porch, there is a single window at the basement and first-story levels of each bay. On each of the north and south faces of the entry porch there is a small, boarded-up window opening.

The north facade is four bays wide. At the basement level there are single or paired windows in each bay. At the first story, there are no windows in the westernmost bay, and paired or tripled windows in the remaining bays. The south facade is similar, except that all the basement windows are paired. There is a blind window with a concrete sill, corner blocks and brick header surround in the westernmost bay as well.

In the center of first story on the east (rear) facade, there is a single door giving access to the rear vestibule. There is a window on either side of the door. Concrete steps lead up to this door. Just north of the door is a small flat-roofed enclosed entry porch with a single door leading down to the basement. This entrance was constructed in 1963, when the south room in the basement was converted into a classroom. North of this, the hill has been excavated and two openings for garage doors have been cut into the basement. This alteration dates from the 1984 conversion of the school into residential use. Because these alterations are on the rear of the building, they do not affect the school's integrity.

On the interior, the original first floor plan consisted of central, back-to-back front and rear vestibules, separated by walk-

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<sup>2</sup>C.1920s and 1980 photos, on display in the Browntown Museum.

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Section 7 Page 3

Cadiz Township Joint District No. 2 School  
Village of Browntown, Green County, WI

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in closets; and a large classroom on either side of this central section. At the west end of each classroom is a coat room. In 1984, both classrooms were remodeled to create living space. Drop ceilings were installed, and partition walls erected to the height of the new ceiling. These alterations do not compromise the overall integrity of Cadiz School, as the original walls, transom windows and ceiling were left intact. The current owners have removed some of the partitions.

In the front vestibule, a wide round arch frames the wood double dog-leg staircase. The staircase has simple Craftsman balustrades, handrails and newel posts. Interior finishes include oak floors (carpeted in some areas), and plastered walls with simple dark wood chair rail and baseboards. There is wall paper below the chair rail, and fiberboard tiles on the ceiling, in the front vestibule. The original five-panel wood doors with plain metal hardware, and Craftsman wood door and window surrounds, have been retained. There are also Craftsman built-in wood cabinets in each of the former classrooms. In the front vestibule there are operable transoms above the classroom and coat room doors. The lighting in Cadiz School consists of suspended fluorescents and ceiling-mounted incandescents, none of them original. The attic is unfinished.

In the basement, there was a central corridor with a furnace room, flanked on either side by a bathroom on the west end, and an unfinished room. Originally, both of these rooms were used as gymnasium space, one for each classroom. The basement has poured concrete floors and unfinished brick walls, except in the south "gymnasium." This room was converted into classroom for first and second graders in 1963. At that time, asphalt tile flooring was installed. The room was converted into an apartment in 1984. The north "gymnasium" was converted into a garage in 1984. Except for the garage doors on the east wall, the interior of this room is unchanged.

Cadiz School retains very good integrity. Exterior alterations are confined to the rear facade, where there is a 1963 enclosed entry porch and two 1984 garage doors. Because these are on the rear of the building, their impact is minimal. On the interior, the classrooms have been partitioned to create living space, but

NPS Form 10-900-a  
(Rev. 8-86)  
Wisconsin Word Processing Format  
(Approved 3/87)

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Cadiz Township Joint District No. 2 School  
Village of Browntown, Green County, WI

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original walls and finishes remain, and the current owners have removed some partitions. In addition, the front vestibule, which is the space with the most detail, is intact.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 1

Cadiz Township Joint District No. 2 School  
Village of Browntown, Green County, WI

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**SUMMARY**

The Cadiz Township Joint District No. 2 School (Cadiz School), built in 1921, is significant at the local level under Criterion A in Education. It is a fine example of a Second Class State Graded school. State Graded schools were created in small communities and rural areas throughout Wisconsin between about 1905 and 1955. As such, Cadiz School reflects the evolution of public education in the state during the early twentieth century. Its significance is enhanced by the fact that there were only two State Graded schools in Green County prior to 1950. Cadiz School retains very good integrity.

**HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

The first settlers in Green County were drawn by the lead mining boom, underway in the southwestern Wisconsin (now Grant, Lafayette and Iowa Counties) in the late 1820s. The few lead deposits found in Green County were soon exhausted, but a number of prospectors stayed on to farm. The majority of these pioneers came from either Illinois, Indiana, Virginia or Pennsylvania.<sup>3</sup> The earliest settlers in Cadiz Township were George Lot (1834), Stephen and Nicholas Hale, Bennett Nolan and William Boyles (1835).<sup>4</sup> Boyles chose the name for Green County in 1836, naming it after the Pennsylvania county in which he was born.<sup>5</sup>

In 1846-47, William Brown, Henson Irion and John Wood built a dam on Skinner Creek (just north of Browntown) to provide water power for a saw mill they were constructing. Brown also built two dwellings, creating a very small village that was known as Brown, Irion and Wood's Mill. Irion opened the first store in the little

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<sup>3</sup>Helen M. Bingham, History of Green County, Wisconsin, (Milwaukee: Burdick & Armitage, Printers, 1877), pp. 15-16.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., p. 150.

<sup>5</sup>Ruth Pintar, editor, Our Part of America: Browntown, Cadiz, Jordan, 1890-1990, (Monroe: New Life Press, 1990), p. 2.

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Section 8 Page 2

Cadiz Township Joint District No. 2 School  
Village of Browntown, Green County, WI

community in 1856. In 1859, Brown and Irion left for California. The sawmill closed in 1861 and the village was nearly abandoned. In 1875, a grist mill was built, and the community came back to life.<sup>6</sup> By 1877, the village was called Browntown, in honor of William Brown. At that time, it had no more than 10 buildings, including a flour-mill, store, blacksmithy and a few houses.<sup>7</sup> In 1881, the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad built an extension from Monroe to Mineral Point, with a stop at Browntown. This spurred growth in the community. In 1882, James Dale platted the Village of Browntown (north of the Cadiz School site).<sup>8</sup> Sullivan's Addition was laid out the same year, just west of the original plat. By 1884, Browntown was prospering, and boasted a general store; a grocery and drugstore; a grocery, hardware and shoe store; a blacksmith shop; a sawmill; a grist mill; a hotel; and a billiard hall.<sup>9</sup>

Browntown incorporated as a village in 1890. In 1900, the population was 246.<sup>10</sup> This figure has remained fairly steady throughout Browntown's history. Browntown has always been an agricultural-support community for the surrounding farms. Farming dominated Green County's economy as early as 1850. At that time, more than one-third of the land in the county was under cultivation. Between 1880 and 1945, farms grew to encompass nearly 100 percent of the land in the county. Until about 1870, wheat was the principal crop in Green County, as it was throughout the state. Wheat cultivation quickly depleted the soil, however, forcing wheat farming westward. The farmers that remained in Wisconsin had to

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<sup>6</sup>History of Green County, Wisconsin, (Springfield, Illinois: Union Publishing Company, 1884), p. 749.

<sup>7</sup>Bingham, p. 15.

<sup>8</sup>History of Green County, Wisconsin, p. 748.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid., p. 749.

<sup>10</sup>Halford Erickson, compiler, The Blue Book of the State of Wisconsin, (Milwaukee: Northwestern Lithography Company, 1903).

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Cadiz Township Joint District No. 2 School  
Village of Browntown, Green County, WI

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shift to other types of agriculture. In Green County, dairying had been introduced by Swiss immigrants in the 1840s. Many of the American-born farmers in the area may have also been influenced by New York state's successful transition from wheat to dairying, which some had witnessed first-hand. By the 1880s, Green County's economy was centered on dairying, especially cheese-making. Today, cheese production is still a very important factor in the local economy.<sup>11</sup>

By 1884, Cadiz Township School District No. 2 had been created. The first school house was a small frame structure located just outside of Browntown on what is now State Highway 11. Although it was known as the Browntown School, it also served the community of Skinner. In 1884, 84 students attended this school. Of the 12 schools in Cadiz Township, Browntown had the highest enrollment.<sup>12</sup> In 1886, a new school was built in Browntown.<sup>13</sup> It was located on lots 8 & 9 in Sullivan's Addition on Main Street, northwest of the current site.<sup>14</sup> The new school was a simple frame vernacular building, clad with weatherboard, on a stone foundation.<sup>15</sup>

In 1909, the legislature passed a law giving State School Inspectors the power to order improvements to any school buildings

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<sup>11</sup>Mary E. Taylor, "An Intensive Architectural and Historical Survey of Green County," report prepared for the Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, December 5, 1980, pp. 8-10; and Robert C. Nesbit, Wisconsin: A History, (Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press, 1973), p. 235.

<sup>12</sup>History of Green County, Wisconsin, p. 746.

<sup>13</sup>Pintar, p. 134.

<sup>14</sup>Standard Atlas of Green County, Wisconsin, (Chicago: George A. Ogle and Company, 1918), p. 17.

<sup>15</sup>C.1910 photo, on file, Sound and Visual Archives, State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

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Cadiz Township Joint District No. 2 School  
Village of Browntown, Green County, WI

they found to be unsanitary or unsafe.<sup>16</sup> Browntown's 1886 school must have been inspected and condemned under this law in 1920. The Cadiz Township School Board (Board) discussed the situation at its annual meeting on July 6, 1920. The Board directed the Clerk to ask the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for permission to hold classes in the school that fall. Permission must have been given, probably provided that the Board agree to build a new school. At a special meeting held August 6, 1920, the Board was authorized to borrow \$18,000 from the State Trust Fund. This amount was to cover both the purchase of a site and the construction of the new school. A building committee was appointed to oversee construction. The site was purchased from Richard Stuart on January 6, 1921. Another special meeting held February 11, 1921 authorized the Board to borrow additional \$4500.<sup>17</sup> The new school was finished in the fall, and opened in January, 1922.<sup>18</sup>

At the time Cadiz School was built, Browntown was a lively community with 3 grocery stores, a railroad depot, hardware store, lumber yard, barber shop, hotel, feed mill, drug store, telephone company, livery, bank, post office, movie theater, powdered milk plant, cheese processing plant, blacksmith shop, restaurant, garage, and an opera house and dance hall.<sup>19</sup>

From its opening through the 1950s, enrollment at Cadiz School was just over 100 students, drawn from Browntown and the surrounding farms. The school was a focal point for the community. Everyone

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<sup>16</sup>William T. Anderson, "The Development of the Common Schools," in Wisconsin Blue Book: 1923, (Madison: State Printing Board, 1923), pp. 114-119.

<sup>17</sup>Pintar, p. 134; and Abstract of Title.

<sup>18</sup>Pintar, p. 72.

<sup>19</sup>Ibid., p. 72; and Polk's Wisconsin State Gazetteer: 1921-22, (Detroit: R.L. Polk and Company, 1921).

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Cadiz Township Joint District No. 2 School  
Village of Browntown, Green County, WI

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in Browntown was invited to attend the once-a-month card parties, the Christmas program, and the annual end-of-the-year picnic.<sup>20</sup>

In 1961, the movement to consolidate small school districts reached Browntown, and Cadiz School became a part of the Monroe School District. Interestingly, the immediate effect of consolidation on the Browntown school was to increase enrollment, despite the fact that the seventh and eighth graders were being bussed to Monroe to attend junior high. This was because many rural schools had been closed, and the school in Browntown was then serving a larger area. As a result, the south gymnasium was converted into a classroom for first and second graders in 1963. As the last of the "baby-boom" generation reached high school during the late 1970s and early 1980s, enrollments dropped. Cadiz School closed in 1983.<sup>21</sup> In 1984, Sandra and John Gobeli bought the School and converted it into a residence. Joanne and Jim Upmann bought the property in 1992.<sup>22</sup>

**SIGNIFICANCE: EDUCATION**

In the early twentieth century, the state legislature passed a series of laws aimed at improving the quality of education in Wisconsin, particularly in rural areas. Educators recommended creating "State Graded" schools in small villages and in rural districts. In State Graded schools, classes would be taught for no less than nine months out of the year and each school would have to meet certain standards in teaching, buildings and equipment, as certified by the state.<sup>23</sup> This would ensure that children in rural

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<sup>20</sup>Pintar, p. 134; and Frieda Swiggum, former student and long-time teacher at Cadiz School, interview, August 17, 1994.

<sup>21</sup>Pintar, p. 134; and Swiggum.

<sup>22</sup>Abstract of Title; and Joanne and Jim Upmann to Wisconsin Division of Historic Preservation, letter, May, 1994.

<sup>23</sup>Department of Public Instruction, Education in Wisconsin: Biennial Report, 1922-24, (Madison: Department of Public

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areas would be taught by well-trained professional teachers in sanitary, well-equipped buildings, in effect providing an urban structure to rural schools.

In 1901, the legislature enacted a law establishing State Graded schools and providing special financial aid to such schools. The first requirement for certification as a State Graded school was that a school have more than one classroom. Educators firmly believed that children should be divided up into "grades" by age and that teachers would do a better job, and students get more attention, if fewer grades were taught together. Schools with two classrooms could qualify as Second Class State Graded schools. Those with three or more classrooms could qualify as First Class State Graded schools. The teachers and principals of all State Graded schools had to have graduated from a teachers college. The State Graded school also had to submit to an annual state inspection to make sure that there were no unsanitary conditions in the school and that the school had the equipment for manual training (for boys), domestic science (for girls) and a small library (usually placed in a corner of the classroom).<sup>24</sup>

In 1922, John Callahan, then State Superintendent of Schools, touted the success of State Graded schools:

[State Graded schools] have affected [education in Wisconsin] in two ways. First, special state aid and state supervision have encouraged the establishment of graded schools of two or more departments in small places throughout the state. . . . In the second place, the same incentives have caused the establishment of two room

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Instruction, 1924), pp. 4-5.

<sup>24</sup>William T. Anderson, "The Development of the Common Schools," in Wisconsin Blue Book: 1923, (Madison: State Printing Board, 1923), pp. 114-119; and Ferne M. Bridge, The School Bell Rings, (Juda, Wisconsin: Ferne M. Bridge, 1974), p. 5.

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Cadiz Township Joint District No. 2 School  
Village of Browntown, Green County, WI

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schools. . .created from overly large one room schools or  
by consolidating two or more districts.<sup>25</sup>

Despite this report, statistics suggest that the State Graded school was not taking hold. In 1921, the year Cadiz School was built, there were 6,708 one-room schools in the state, and 618 State Graded schools. In the twenty years since the establishment of State Graded schools, only nine percent of rural and village schools had earned State Graded status. Across the state, most counties had only a handful of State Graded schools. In southcentral Wisconsin, Dane County had the largest number with 21. Rock County had seven State Graded schools, while Lafayette and Iowa Counties each had four. In Green County, there were 136 school districts. Five of them were categorized as "city" districts: Albany, Brodhead, Monroe, Monticello and New Glarus. Only two of the remaining 131 districts had State Graded schools, both of the Second Class. Cadiz School was one; Juda School, in Jefferson Township, was the other.<sup>26</sup> Juda School was first certified as a State Graded school in 1908. In 1923, a new brick school building was built in Juda. This structure became Juda High School in 1963, when a new elementary school was erected. The 1923 building was demolished in 1991.<sup>27</sup>

State Graded schools appear to have made little progress between 1921 and 1941. In 1938, there were 6,481 one-room schools in the state, and 700 State Graded schools. Thus only 11 percent of all

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<sup>25</sup>Department of Public Instruction, Education in Wisconsin: Biennial Report, 1920-22, (Madison: Department of Public Instruction, 1922), p. 25.

<sup>26</sup>Department of Public Instruction, Wisconsin Official School Directory: 1921-22, (Eau Claire: Eau Claire Book and Stationery Company, 1921).

<sup>27</sup>Ferne M. Bridge, Juda Facts and Photos, (Juda: Ferne M. Bridge, 1976), pp. 25-26.

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Cadiz Township Joint District No. 2 School  
Village of Browntown, Green County, WI

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rural schools were State Graded.<sup>28</sup> The figures for southcentral Wisconsin counties testify to this lack of progress. In 1940, Dane County had 29 State Graded schools, Rock County had eight, Iowa County three, and Lafayette County four. Green County still had only two: Cadiz and Juda.<sup>29</sup>

The model plans for school buildings prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction during the 1930s provide further evidence that State Graded schools were not catching on. Of the 72 model plans prepared between 1932 and 1939, only 11 (15 percent) were for two-room schools. All the rest were for one-room schools. There are a number of plans for converting existing one-room schools into two or more classrooms. Most of these, however, date from the 1940s.<sup>30</sup>

Perhaps because of the slow development of State Graded schools, educators began recommending consolidating school districts. The idea behind school consolidation was to provide rural and small-town students with all the advantages of a big-city school, by creating a tax base large enough to buy the most up-to-date facilities and equipment. This movement was launched in 1939, when the state legislature gave the State Superintendent of Public Instruction the power to eliminate districts with assessed property valuations of less than \$100,000.<sup>31</sup> School consolidation progressed

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<sup>28</sup>Department of Public Instruction, The Twenty-Eighth Biennial Report for the Years 1936-38, (Madison: Department of Public Instruction, 1938), p. 19.

<sup>29</sup>Department of Public Instruction, Wisconsin Official School Directory: 1940-41, (Eau Claire: Eau Claire Book and Stationery Company, 1940).

<sup>30</sup>State Historical Society of Wisconsin Archives, Record Series 690, Department of Public Instruction, Architects Plans for School Buildings, 1930-64.

<sup>31</sup>Barbara L. Wyatt, editor, Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, vol. 3, sec. 2, pp. 9-10.

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slowly at first. The number of school districts peaked in 1938 at 7,777. This figure dropped 14 percent to 6,637 by 1945, and fell an additional 13 percent by 1950.<sup>32</sup> In comparison, Green County still had 124 school districts in 1948, a drop of only eight percent over the ten-year period.<sup>33</sup> Cadiz and Juda remained the only State Graded schools in the county.

State and federal programs providing financial incentives for consolidation brought the movement to a climax in Wisconsin in the 1950s and 1960s. The number of school districts in the state dropped 23 percent between 1950 and 1955, and an additional 45 percent between 1955 and 1960. In 1961, the year Cadiz School was absorbed into the Monroe School District, there were 2,371 school districts in the state.<sup>34</sup> The immediate effect was one of higher enrollments for Cadiz School. However, by 1984, school district consolidation had brought about the closure and sale of Cadiz School.

In conclusion, the Cadiz School is significant as one of only two State Graded schools in Green County during the historic period. The other, Juda School in Jefferson Township, has been demolished. Cadiz School represents a phase in the evolution of elementary education in the state, and perhaps, a failed experiment in rural education.

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<sup>32</sup>Department of Public Instruction, One Hundred Twenty Years of Public School Statistics of Wisconsin: 1848-1968, (Madison: Department of Public Instruction, 1968), p.7.

<sup>33</sup>Plat Book of Green County, Wisconsin, (Milwaukee: Marathon Map Service, 1948).

<sup>34</sup>Department of Public Instruction, One Hundred Twenty Years of Public School Statistics in Wisconsin: 1848-1968, op. cit.

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Cadiz Township J.D. No. 2 School

Green County, Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

**Property Owner**

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

name Joanne and Jim Upmann

street & number 214 School Street telephone 608-966-1848

city or town Browntown state WI zip code 53522

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

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

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The Cadiz Township Joint District No. 2 School is located on part of the South half of the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 9, Township 1 North, Range 6 East, in the Village of Browntown, Green County, Wisconsin, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at a point 114 feet East of the Northeast corner of the Rhoades Addition to the Village of Browntown, thence East 230 feet, thence South 1 degree 35 minutes West 336.2 feet to an iron stake and North line of the highway, thence continuing South on the same line to the center of the highway, thence Westerly along said highway to a point directly South of the place of beginning, thence Northerly along the East line of the highway to the place of the beginning, and encompassing 1.77 acres.

**VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

This property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Cadiz Township Joint District No. 2 School.

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Photo 1 of 14  
Cadiz Township Joint District No. 2 School  
Browntown, Green County, WI  
Photo by Joanne Upmann, August, 1994  
Negative on file in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin  
West (front) and north facades

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

Photo 2 of 14  
West (front) and north facades

Photo 3 of 14  
West (front) facade

Photo 4 of 14  
West and south facades

Photo 5 of 14  
North facade

Photo 6 of 14  
South facade

Photo 7 of 14  
South and east (rear) facades

Photo 8 of 14  
East (rear) and north facades

Photo 9 of 14  
Closeup of decorative column elaboration, front entry porch

Photo 10 of 14  
Closeup of front entrance

Photo 11 of 14  
View of front vestibule, looking east

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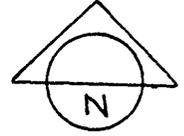
Photo 12 of 14  
View of front vestibule, looking southwest

Photo 13 of 14  
View of south coatroom, looking south

Photo 14 of 14  
View of old sink unit in rear vestibule

Cadiz Township Joint District No. 2 School  
Village of Browntown, Green County, WI

Not to Scale  
☒ Contributing



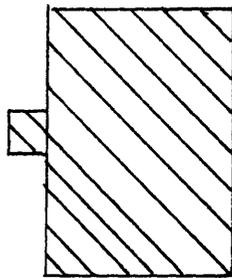
SOUTH STREET

230'

PROPERTY LINE

336.2'

SCHOOL STREET



DALE STREET

Cadiz Township Joint District No. 2 School  
Village of Browntown, Green County, WI

Scale: 1" = 8'

----- 1984 partition wall

