



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

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Baptist Church

other names/site number Brown-Parfitt American Legion Post # 43

2. Location

street & number 133 East Fond du Lac Street

N/A not for publication

city or town Ripon

N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Fond du Lac

code 039 zip code 54971

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

[Handwritten Signature]

February 13, 2007

Signature of certifying official/Title

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 commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Baptist Church
Name of Property

County Fond du Lac
County and State

Wisconsin

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):

Edgar H. Beall

3.29.07

for
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

Private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

building(s)
 district
 structure
 site
 object

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

contributing	noncontributing
1	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
1	0 total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources is previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/Religious Facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/Meeting Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation STONE

walls WEATHERBOARD

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD

Narrative Description

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

Baptist Church
Name of Property

County Fond du Lac
County and State

Wisconsin

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1857

Significant Dates

1857

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Baptist Church
Name of Property

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Wisconsin

9. Major Bibliographic References

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

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

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

1 16 352282 4855990
 Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

See Continuation Sheet

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Carol Lohry Cartwright	date	April 6, 2006
organization	For the Ripon Historic Preservation Commission	telephone	262-473-6820
street & number	W7646 Hackett Rd.	zip code	53190
city or town	Whitewater	state	WI

Baptist Church
Name of Property

County Fond du Lac
County and State

Wisconsin

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

Property Owner

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

name/title		date	April 6, 2006
organization	American Legion Hall	telephone	
street&number	133 East Fond du Lac Street	zip code	54971
city or town	Ripon	state	WI

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

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

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Baptist Church

Section 7 Page 1

Ripon, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin

DESCRIPTION

The old Baptist Church built in 1857, now known as the Brown-Parfitt American Legion Post No. 43, sits on a small rectangular lot at the southeast edge of the downtown commercial district in Ripon, a small city in the northwestern part of Fond du Lac County, a largely rural county in east-central Wisconsin. The building sits along East Fond du Lac Street, about one block west of where the street becomes State Highway 23. It also sits about one block from the point where State Highway 23 intersects with State Highways 44 and 49. State Highways 23, 44, and 49 are main thoroughfares through Ripon toward work and shopping destinations east, northeast, and south of the city. The proximity of this building's location to these highways and their major intersection results in a considerable amount of traffic flowing past the building.

Originally, the building was on the northern edge of a large residential neighborhood, but due to its location at the edge of Ripon's downtown commercial district, and the commercial district's natural expansion to the south, its current neighbors are primarily commercial. In fact, the building shares its almost triangular-shaped block with a large commercial building originally constructed as a supermarket. Just southeast of the building is a large apartment complex, formally the historic Ripon High School. The residential neighborhood sits south of this building.

The building has a small parcel that is not landscaped except for a few small strips of lawn. A concrete sidewalk and terrace runs along the north and east sides of the building. Behind the church building is a very small patch of lawn and a small concrete parking area.

Exterior

The Baptist Church is a tall, one-story, frame building that sits on a raised limestone foundation. Reportedly, this foundation was quarried from the old Ceresco quarry, a quarry founded by the early settlers of Ripon. The main block has a rectangular plan with two small, later-added, ells attached at the rear, or south, elevation. One ell is a shed-roofed, one-car-sized, garage addition; the other is a slightly larger, flat-roofed, ell attached to the west side of the garage ell.

The main block has a low-pitched gable roof with wide overhanging eaves that form a full pediment on the north or main elevation. On the rear elevation the eaves are returned. Under the eaves is a wooden frieze decorated with small scroll brackets. Originally, a steeple topped the church roof and sat on an octagonal base. By the 1880s, this element was no longer extant.

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Baptist Church

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The walls of the building are clad with narrow clapboards and decorated at the corners with wooden pilasters. Very tall window openings are symmetrically placed on each of the building's side elevations and also flank the front entrance. On the side walls, the openings are partially enclosed with wood paneling and modern casements. The two openings that flank the main entrance are fully enclosed with wood paneling. There are no window openings on the rear or south elevation and any entrances have been covered over with the two later-added ells. There are some small openings in the raised foundation. They are enclosed with modern sash and sliding windows.

The main entrance is on the north elevation and is covered with a large square portico, probably a later addition. The portico has a flat roof supported by large round columns and sits on a raised wooden deck with a long, wide, staircase leading up from the sidewalk. The entrance is filled with a large double wooden door featuring recessed wood panels and lights. The door is flanked by narrow sidelights and topped with a tall transom enclosed with period wood panels. At the southeast corner of the main block there is a modern entrance covered with a small pediment overhang supported by knee-brace brackets.

The garage ell sits on a concrete slab foundation and is clad with vertical wood boards. There is a single opening on the east elevation that is covered with a modern metal garage door. The attached flat-roofed ell sits on a concrete block foundation and has wood siding. There are small openings near the roof and a modern utility door on the south elevation.

Interior

Main Floor

The interior of the building has many of its original architectural details. The main entrance leads into a large foyer that is finished with a period narrow wood plank floor, plaster walls and ceiling, and simple wood trim around the doors. On each side of the foyer are six-recessed-panel wood doors, one that leads to a storage room and one that leads to an enclosed staircase to the balcony. The storage room has a later-added, but pre-World War II, ticket window.

A set of large six-recessed-panel doors leads into the old church sanctuary that is now the meeting hall for the American Legion post. Along the rear wall of the meeting hall are two doors that flank the main entrance, each leading into closets. Above the doors on the rear wall are decorative moldings that may have been a part of the original balcony before it was enclosed and the ceiling of the main hall lowered.

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Baptist Church

Section 7 Page 3

Ripon, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin

The meeting hall has a period narrow wood plank floor, plaster walls with wood-paneled wainscoting, and simple trim around doors and windows. The lowered ceiling is covered with acoustical tiles. At the front of the room was the original raised platform used for church services. This area was enclosed for a mid-twentieth century kitchen. A modern wood door leads into the kitchen that includes mid-twentieth century fixtures and modern appliances. At the far left, or southeast, end of the meeting room, there is a staircase that leads to the east elevation entrance and to the finished basement.

Basement

The basement staircase has two runs interrupted by a landing that sits in front of the east elevation entrance. The second run ends at the basement level. The staircase walls and ceiling are covered with painted wainscoting. A balustrade at the top encloses the meeting hall from the staircase opening and there are modern handrails are attached to the walls of both runs.

The basement level has been extensively remodeled with features from the mid to late twentieth century. At the bottom of the stairs is a short hallway with a concrete block wall on the south and modern drywall covering the remaining walls and ceiling. A composite tile floor is found throughout the basement. Off of the north side of the hallway are the men's and women's bathrooms. Both bathrooms have been updated with modern fixtures and also have modern floor, wall, and ceiling finishes, including wall paper, drywall, and tile or vinyl floors.

The hallway ends at the entrance into a large bar room. This room is finished with a combination of horizontal and vertical "knotty-pine" and wood-veneered paneling from the mid-twentieth century. The ceiling is made up of acoustical tiles and the floor is covered with the composite tile found in the hallway. Along the east end of the room is a bar that curves toward the north end of the room. It is covered with wood-veneer paneling and has a modern wood counter. A similar counter sits behind the bar. The room is filled with small square and round tables, metal folding chairs, and tall vinyl-covered bar stools with backs that sit along the bar. Several advertising fixtures hang near the bar.

Balcony

The balcony or "choir loft" of the old church can be reached through the enclosed narrow wooden staircase from the foyer as indicated earlier. In the old balcony are original church details. The original plaster walls and ceiling can be seen above the dropped ceiling of the main hall. Also visible are features of the balcony, such as two large fluted columns. A wood floor and some original benches complete the original features of this section of the building. It is currently used for storage.

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Section 8 Page 1

Baptist Church
Ripon, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin

SIGNIFICANCE

The Baptist Church is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C, for its local architectural significance as a fine example of Greek Revival architecture built during the pioneer era in Ripon. Ripon was settled by Yankee immigrants from the northeastern United States and remained a largely "Yankee" community for much of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Greek Revival style was popular when the earliest Yankee settlers came to Wisconsin in the 1830s and 1840s, but by the 1850s, other styles, particularly the Italianate style, were becoming popular. Because Ripon's pioneer era occurred during the late 1840s and the 1850s, both the Greek Revival and Italianate styles were popular in the physical development of the community. However, most of examples of the Greek Revival style have been lost to demolition or remodeling. Of the few good extant examples of the style in the community, the old Baptist Church is the most important for its size and prominence. Built for an early Yankee congregation, it reflects the tastes and background of these early settlers.

Historical Background

The earliest settlers in Ripon were members of the utopian community known as the Wisconsin Phalanx. These social reformers and advocates of communal living settled on what is now the west side of Ripon in 1844. The group, also known as Fourierites because they followed the ideas of French social scientist Charles Fourier, called their community Ceresco and built a mill and a communal living structure that is still extant today. By 1849, the community was breaking up and individuals began purchasing Ceresco land. In 1858, Ceresco merged with another settlement to the east to form Ripon.¹

The "Ripon" settlement began when John Scott Horner, a Virginian who became an official in both the Michigan Territory (when it included Wisconsin) and the Wisconsin Territory in the 1830s, came to the Ripon area in the late 1830s as a land speculator. Horner purchased a quarter section of land where Ripon's original plat would be drawn, but no activity took place until 1849, when Ceresco was breaking up. Horner joined forces with Yankee David P. Mapes to divide Horner's land between them and create a village that Horner named Ripon, after his family's home in England.²

¹ Carol Lohry Cartwright and George Miller, *City of Ripon, Wisconsin Intensive Survey Report*, Ripon: Ripon Historical Society, 1995, p. 9.

² *Ibid.*, p. 9

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Mapes was an effective town promoter, attracting Yankee pioneers that were pouring into Fond du Lac County. He had a grist mill and a hotel built on his land and in 1851, he established a college (later, Ripon College) to attract settlers. As people, mostly Yankees, came to Ripon, a small commercial district grew up in the center of the new community. Flour milling and commerce formed the basis of Ripon's growing economy in the 1850s and by 1860, Ripon's population had boomed to 1,000 residents.³

The settlers who came to Ripon during the 1850s were primarily Yankees from New England and Yankees continued to dominate the community for much of the nineteenth century. After the Civil War, German and Polish immigrants came to the community and some Yankees left for new opportunities elsewhere, but Yankees continued to dominate the political and business life of the city for decades. It is within this context that the old Baptist Church was built.⁴

The earliest churches in Ripon were established for the primarily Yankee population. The Ceresco settlement held Methodist services in 1844 and, in the Ripon settlement, a Methodist church was organized in 1850. In 1860, these churches combined to form the First Methodist Church. Baptist services were also held in Ceresco in 1844 and the formal Baptist congregation was formed in Ripon in 1853. The Episcopal church in Ripon, St. Peter's Church, was founded as Grace Church in 1860.⁵

In contrast, the German and Polish immigrants to Ripon formed their congregations later. A Catholic church was founded in Ripon in 1858, but its congregation was primarily Irish. It was not until the late nineteenth century that the Polish immigrants formed their own ethnic Catholic church. In 1863, Germans established a Lutheran Church, which later became a branch of the Reformed Church. In 1890, Germans founded their own ethnic Methodist Church, which merged with the Yankee-based Methodist church in the 1930s.⁶

In the late 1840s, the Baptists in Ceresco alternated services with the Congregationalists in the Ceresco Phalanx school (not extant). The groups attended each other's services. Around 1850, the Baptists built a small frame church, and then held services in the Ripon Village Hall until they completed the work on this building. At a meeting in March of 1856, the congregation formally decided to build this

³ *Ibid.*, p. 10.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 11.

⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 48-50; Jack Steinbring, "American Legion Hall Once Home to Baptist Church," *Ripon Commonwealth Press*, 16 October 2003, p. 16.

⁶ Cartwright and Miller, pp. 49-53.

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Baptist Church
Ripon, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin

church, but construction did not start until 1857 and was finished that year. The Baptist Church was the first of the large, permanent church structures built in Ripon and stands today as the earliest built church still standing in Ripon today.⁷

The Baptists remained in this building into the twentieth century. In 1912, the congregation numbered 60, but by the 1930s, they had abandoned the building. In the meantime, the local chapter of the American Legion was formed. The national organization was formed in 1919 after World War I. Ripon's chapter was named for Frank H. Brown, the first man from Ripon to die in France during the war. At first the Legion met in a rented hall, then on the Ripon College campus. In 1932, the organization acquired this building for a clubhouse.⁸

In 1942, the national charter of the American Legion was amended to admit World War II veterans into the organization. During the next 60 years, the charter continued to be amended to admit veterans of more recent conflicts into the Legion. In 1946, the Ripon Legion post decided to recognize World War II veterans and re-named their post the Brown-Parfitt Post, adding the name of Francis Parfitt, the first man from Ripon to die in World War II. During the post-World War II era, the American Legion reached its peak of membership.⁹

In 1956, a fire forced some reconstruction of the interior that accounts for many of the current features of the building today. It was probably during that time that the windows were altered, the new ceiling was installed in the meeting hall, the kitchen was installed, and other mid-twentieth century features of the building's interior were added. Since that time, there have been few major alterations other than upgrading kitchen, bathroom, and basement facilities.¹⁰

Throughout the years, Ripon's American Legion Post has mirrored the organization in its support of the active military, veterans' issues, and local civic work. The Legion is a patriotic organization with strong support for current soldiers and veterans. It is also an important civic organization in the community. Along with supporting patriotic celebrations, the local Legion post has been active in other community events including Boys' State, a leadership program that was held at Ripon College

⁷ Steinbring; Cartwright and Miller, pp. 48-54.

⁸ "Local American Legion Post to Celebrate 50th Birthday With Dinner Saturday Night," article in the files of the Brown-Parfitt Post No. 43 of the American Legion, Ripon, Wisconsin.

⁹ *Ibid.*; "Give Lives; Organized in 1920," article in the files of the Brown-Parfitt Post No. 43 of the American Legion, Ripon, Wisconsin.

¹⁰ "Local American Legion Post."

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Baptist Church
Ripon, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin

for many years. Recently, the Legion has become very interested in preserving their historic building for posterity, which has led to the authorization of this nomination.¹¹

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: ARCHITECTURE

The old Baptist Church is locally significant for architecture because it is the best example of the Greek Revival style in Ripon, a community founded by and dominated by Yankees for decades. Yankees brought their fondness for the Greek Revival style with them, but few good examples of the style remain in Ripon. The old Baptist Church is the best example of this style in the community, a style that was used for many other buildings that are not extant.

According to Wisconsin's *Cultural Resource Management Plan*, the Greek Revival style was the first national style commonly seen in Wisconsin, often brought to the state by early Yankee or American settlers. It was popular in the state between 1830 and 1870. Greek Revival buildings are formal, orderly, and symmetrical. Although most Greek Revival buildings in the state are often of frame construction with clapboard siding, the style also adorned brick, fieldstone, and quarried stone structures. While there are a number of "high-style" Greek Revival buildings in Wisconsin, the style is seen more commonly on vernacular buildings, primarily on houses that have a symmetrical massing, regular fenestration, simple cornices and returned eaves, and entrances decorated with a transom and/or sidelights.¹²

The details of the old Baptist Church give it a distinctive Greek Revival style that is both typical and common in Wisconsin and Ripon. It is typical because it is a frame building covered with clapboards with a simple symmetrical form and massing and symmetrical openings. The corner pilasters are an additional decorative detail not always seen on Wisconsin's Greek Revival-influenced buildings, as is the full pediment, rather than just returned eaves.

When this building was constructed, the Italianate style was just becoming popular in Wisconsin and often Italianate details were added to later Greek Revival buildings to express this new style. In the old Baptist Church, the brackets under the eaves are an Italianate detail, but they blend in well with the overall Greek Revival style and help make this building distinct from other examples of the style in Ripon.

¹¹ "Give Lives."

¹² Barbara Wyatt, ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, Vol. 2*, Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, Architecture, p. 2-3.

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Baptist Church
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The tall stone foundation raises the building up, making it taller and more prominent than its surrounding buildings when it was constructed. The foundation material came from the pioneer-era Ceresco quarry, a quarry that was founded by the early utopian settlers on the west side of the city. The use of this local building material on such a high, prominent, foundation adds to the architectural interest of the building.

In 1995, an intensive architectural and historical survey was completed for the historic residential neighborhoods of Ripon. This survey identified the extant examples of the Greek Revival style, as well as historic churches with architectural interest in the city. According to the survey, four buildings of interest for their Greek Revival style were identified in Ripon. Two of the buildings are residential, while the other two are public, including this building.

The report states that the best residential example of the Greek Revival style in the city is the J. W. Wolcott House (now listed in the Southwest Historic District, NRHP, 2004). This simple and typical house has common Greek Revival style features like symmetrical form and fenestration, returned eaves, pilasters, and a main entrance with sidelights. Likewise, the John B. Taggart House (also in the Southwest Historic District) is typical of simple Greek Revival houses in Wisconsin. Its main style details include a symmetrical form and six-over-six-light sash windows.

The Greek Revival building that is the most well known in Ripon is a small public building known as the "Little White Schoolhouse"(NRHP, 1973), which was moved to its present location several decades ago in order to preserve it. It is better known as the "birthplace" of the Republican Party due to meetings held there that, with other groups in the country, helped form the party. Its Greek Revival style elements are even more simple than the houses listed above. They consist of returned eaves, an entrance with cornice and pilasters, and six-over-six-light sashes.

The Baptist Church, is, therefore, the most elaborate of the Greek Revival buildings still extant in Ripon. It has a very distinct "temple" form with a full pediment and corner pilasters. Although the windows are partially enclosed, they provide the important symmetry of the building and are tall and impressively-sized openings. The main entrance, decorated with the tall transom, sidelights, and pilasters, adds to the Greek Revival style elements that mark this building. The added brackets, while reflecting the emerging Italianate style, do not detract from the overall quality of the building, rather they add a distinctive element that makes the roofline and cornice stand out.

Only one other church in Ripon dates from before the Civil War. It is the beautiful Carpenter Gothic St. Peter's Episcopal Church (NRHP, 1974), built in 1860-61. The other churches in the city are

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Baptist Church
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variations of the Gothic Revival and Romanesque Revival styles built between 1865 and 1906. The Baptist Church stands out not just for its fine style but as the oldest church in the city, a church that reflects the popularity of the Greek Revival style for public buildings prior to the rise of the Gothic Revival style as the most important of all nineteenth century church styles.

The integrity of the building is good, considering its adaptive re-use and damage from a fire. The portico, probably a later addition, does not detract from the building's overall Greek Revival form and the enclosed windows are reversible, with the size of the openings clearly visible. The interior has suffered from some remodeling but the basic floor plan is intact and much of the remodeling was necessary due to fire damage. The original sanctuary of the church is extant and period finishes give it a historic appearance. The "hidden" intact balcony has all its historic features and provides a view above the modern ceiling to the original ornamented ceiling. Because these features are extant, and just covered, they can be restored at a future date. The current owners, the local American Legion Post, take pride in their historic building and want it maintained as a landmark for future generations.

Summary

The Baptist Church is not only a good example of the Greek Revival style, it is the best example of the style in the community, reflecting the pioneer era in Ripon when Yankee settlers constructed many Greek Revival-influenced buildings. Most of these buildings have either been demolished or have been so altered that they have lost historic integrity. The Baptist Church, due to its extant Greek Revival features and its "temple" form, stands out as the best example of the style. It is also one of the earliest church buildings in the city and reflects the era when this style was very popular for public buildings. For these reasons, the Old Baptist Church is locally significant for architecture and well deserving of listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Criteria Consideration A

Ordinarily buildings that serve or have served a religious purpose are not eligible for the National Register. However, this property meets the consideration because it derives its primary significance from architecture.

Historic Preservation Statement

This nomination was prepared at the request of the Ripon Historic Preservation Commission in conjunction with the local American Legion chapter. The Historic Preservation Commission, along

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Baptist Church
Ripon, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin

with the Ripon Historical Society has sponsored many historic preservation projects, including National Register nominations for three historic districts, and an individual building along with a residential intensive survey. Ripon was a long-time Main Street community and a sense of historic preservation is well-entrenched in the community.

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Baptist Church
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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cartwright, Carol Lohry and George Miller. *City of Ripon, Wisconsin Intensive Survey Report*. Ripon: Ripon Historical Society, 1995.

"Give Lives; Organized in 1920." Article in the files of the Brown-Parfitt Post No. 43 of the American Legion, Ripon, Wisconsin.

"Local American Legion Post to Celebrate 50th Birthday With Dinner Saturday Night." Article in the files of the Brown-Parfitt Post No. 43 of the American Legion, Ripon, Wisconsin.

Steinbring, Jack. "American Legion Hall Once Home to Baptist Church," *Ripon Commonwealth Press*, 16 October 2003, p. 16.

Wyatt, Barbara, ed. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, Vol. 2*. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, Architecture, p. 2-3.

End of References

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Baptist Church
Ripon, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin

Boundary Description:

The boundary of this property corresponds to its legal description: Bovay's Addition, Block 4, the East ½ of Lots 8 and 10. The site might have been larger historically, prior to the construction of the large modern former grocery store building that sits rather close to the building on the west. The modern building, two streets, and a parking lot at the rear, which are the boundaries of the legal description, make a concise and appropriate boundary today.

Boundary Justification:

This is the remaining portion of the original parcel that retains an association with the building. It corresponds to the current legal parcel of the building.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section photos Page 1

Baptist Church
Ripon, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin

Baptist Church,
133 E. Fond du Lac St.
Ripon, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin
Photos by Carol Cartwright
September 2005
Negatives on file at the Wisconsin Historical Society

Views:

- 1 of 10: Site view, from northeast.
- 2 of 10: Main elevation, from the north.
- 3 of 10: Rear elevation, from the southeast.
- 4 of 10: Interior, looking at foyer.
- 5 of 10: Interior, rear wall of meeting hall
- 6 of 10: Interior, front wall of meeting hall (kitchen beyond).
- 7 of 10: Interior, front and side walls of meeting hall.
- 8 of 10: Interior, staircase to basement.
- 9 of 10: Interior, basement hallway.
- 10 of 10: Interior, basement bar area.