

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

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Thematic Resources of the Cooksville Area

CONTINUATION SHEET

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<u>Property</u>	<u>Owner Name &amp; 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 &amp; Truss Bridge</u> Cooksville vicinity	Town of Union Wayne Disch, Chairman Croft Road Evansville, WI 53536
41 <u>Cooksville Cheese Factory</u> Cooksville vicinity	Dr. Adolf & Allison Lunde U 188, Leedle Mill Road Route 3 Stoughton, WI 53589
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	Norman & Laura Jean Hatlen Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
44 <u>Miller House</u> Cooksville vicinity	James D. & Thomas N. Hatlen Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
45 <u>Miller House</u> Cooksville vicinity	Carl Liedholm Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
46 <u>Champney Brickyard &amp; House Site</u> Cooksville Historic District	Sidney Anderson Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
47 <u>Joseph K. P. Porter Farmstead</u> Cooksville vicinity	Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Tait Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
48 <u>Harrison Stebbins House ("Windermere")</u> Cooksville vicinity	Earl & Lavon Keehn Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
49 <u>Richardson Grout House</u> Cooksville vicinity	Harold Porter 6641 Gettysburg Drive Madison, WI 535705

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.  
(KOC - corrected 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.)