

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections1. Name Footville Multiple Resource Areahistoric Historic Resources of Footville

and/or common

## 2. Location

street &amp; number

\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Village of Footville \_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_ congressional district Firststate Wisconsin code 55 county Rock code 105

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership see inventory

street &amp; number

city, town \_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_ state

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Rock County Courthousestreet & number 51 South Main Streetcity, town Janesville state Wisconsin 53545

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic PlacesRock County Historic Surveyhas this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_\_ yes ☒ nodate 1975/1976 \_\_\_\_ federal ☒ state ☒ county \_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

State Historical Society of Wisconsin  
Rock County Historical Society  
Madison,city, town Janesvillestate Wisconsin 53545

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>Footville Hardware Store (1912)</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

#### I. General Description

The village of Footville is located on a relatively flat prairie surrounded by gently rolling hills. The multiple resource boundaries are the incorporated limits of the village, comprising one square mile of land including four quarter sections of the towns of Center and Plymouth (the southwest quarter of section 33 and the southeast quarter of section 32 Center township; the northwest quarter section 4 and the northeast quarter section 5, Plymouth township). In the last 126 years, the village limits have expanded to more than three times the original plat size. Much of the land remains undeveloped and is used for agricultural purposes. The population has increased from four families in 1845,<sup>1</sup> the original settlement, to 750, according to the 1980 preliminary census.<sup>2</sup>

The principal east-west street is Highway B, the Galena-Janesville road. It bisects the village separating the southern residential, commercial and industrial section, from the northern residential section which also includes a park area and agricultural land. Highway B joins State Highway 11 at the eastern edge of the village. Gilbert Street, which bisects the village and Depot Street are the principal north-south streets.

Footville development was directly affected by its location along major transportation routes. The first commercial and residential buildings were placed along the Galena-Janesville stage road. A post office, hotel and a store (The Footville Hardware Store, 220 Depot Street), were built along this route after 1845. The village was known as Bachelor's Grove until 1854 when, in anticipation of the Beloit and Madison Railroad, Ezra Foot and Julius Gilbert platted the village.<sup>3</sup> January 1, 1855 marked the arrival of the first train at Footville.<sup>4</sup> The rail line stopped there for several years while the railroad ironed out financial difficulties. Nine years later, 1864, the rails reached Madison.

In the late 1800's a gradual shift of location of buildings occurred. Construction of new commercial buildings and residences was to the south of the original stage road, closer to the depot and the railroad tracks. Older commercial buildings were moved by horse and capstan onto lots in the newly created business district on Depot, Centre and South streets. More recently, the present location of State Highway 11 at the easternmost edge of the village has resulted in a shift of new construction to that portion of village.

Footville's industrial area is south of the principal residential and commercial district, near the railroad right-of-way.

In the commercial area, along South Depot Street, lots vary in size and some of the larger lots have as many as four buildings on the same lot. Houses and commercial buildings in this area often straddle the lot lines of the smaller lots. By contrast, the residential areas along Gilbert, Edward and Galena Streets are open with deep lots and large green spaces.

#### II. Architectural

The village contains both frame and brick buildings, although the majority are of frame construction and vernacular style. Local building contractors and carpenters were responsible for designing most of the buildings in the village. Greek Revival influence can be seen in gable roofs with returning cornices on structures built before 1870. Wood frame houses of late picturesque character have stick-work decoration as the dominant feature of buildings constructed in the 1890's and prior to the First World War. Many of these are credited to John Langdon, a local builder-contractor, first listed in Footville directories in the 1880's. Residences built prior to World War I have stone foundations and brick chimneys. Most of the late picturesque style residences have cross or "T" plans while

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commercial buildings are, in general, rectangular and square plans. Vernacular in style, most of the commercial buildings, like the residences, suggest that local carpenters were responsible for their construction. Pent roof additions have been made to the Greek Revival style commercial building included in the nomination and in several of the residences of the same style. Window treatment in the late picturesque homes includes stained, beveled and leaded glass windows with wood muntins and multiple panes. Decorative wood shingles, carved sunburst panels and lacy gable trim are also distinctive characteristics of 1890's and pre-World War I construction in the village residences. Industrial buildings in the village, including a feed mill, quonset hut for manufacturing and warehouses are generally of frame construction.

Properties in the village included in the nomination are an Italianate brick residence, the Strang House on North Gilbert Street; a brick structure, the Footville State Bank, a vernacular NeoClassical commercial building constructed prior to World War I; one frame commercial building, the Footville Hardware Store, an 1860 Greek Revival building, with pent roof additions made in 1878<sup>5</sup> and 1978;<sup>6</sup> and one industrial building, a two story cream brick structure, built in 1912 for use as a condensery.<sup>7</sup>

**III. Archeological Surveys**

According to Joan Freeman, archeologist in the Museum Division of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, there are no recorded archeological sites in either the townships of Center and Plymouth or the village of Footville. No archeological surveys were completed during this research. There is no known folk lore, or written reports of pre-historic activity in the area.

**IV. Survey Method**

The multiple resource nomination for the village of Footville is based on two surveys. A reconnaissance survey of Footville was completed in 1975 by Nancy Belle Douglas and an intensive historical survey in 1980 by Ruth Ann Willis and Richard P. Hartung, all of the Rock County Historical Society. The intensive historical survey team identified and researched buildings and sites constructed before 1930 and compiled data about each. This information was recorded on intensive survey forms provided by the Historic Preservation Division of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Oral interviews, published histories, newspapers, business records, letters of early residents, deed and tax records, property abstracts, construction specifications and maps were used in researching sites. The survey was coordinated with the State Historical Society of Wisconsin through Barbara Wyatt, Survey and Planning Coordinator and Diane Filipowicz, Architectural Historian, of the Historic Preservation Division of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Funds were provided by a 50% matching survey and planning grant from the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service through the Historic Preservation Division of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

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V. Use of the Survey

The 1975 reconnaissance survey resulted in the publication of Rock County Historic Sites and Buildings, by Douglas and Hartung. The 1980 survey and a publication, "1980 Annual Pilgrimage to Luther Valley," a guidebook, have been used to promote interest in historic preservation and in the National Register of Historic Places throughout Rock County. The pilgrimage, an historic tour sponsored by the Rock County Historical Society included the village of Footville, with visits to several nominated sites, the Footville State Bank Building, the Footville Hardware Store and a driving tour of several other Footville sites. Over 200 people from Wisconsin and Illinois took part in the tour. Slide and talk presentations have been made to groups in other Rock County communities to promote interest in preservation of historic sites and buildings using sites in Footville to illustrate the nomination procedures for the National Register program.

VI. Description of Individual Sites included in the Nomination

Four Footville buildings are included in the multiple resource nomination, including one residential property, two commercial buildings and one industrial building.

- |                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>A. Solomon J. Strang House<br/>231 North Gilbert Street<br/><br/>Owner: Randall &amp; Carolyn Baertschi<br/>231 North Gilbert Street<br/>Footville, Wisconsin</p> | <p>1883 (construction)<br/><br/>Parcel #6-22-187.3 Assessors Plat, Pt Outlot<br/>78 - Com 201' N of NW cor OL 77, th E 393.7'<br/>N 308.1', W 233.3', S 82.5', W 165', S to POB</p> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

In 1883, Solomon J. Strang purchased 60 acres of land, then outside the village limits.<sup>8</sup> Later the same year he built this fine example of an Italianate style residence in preparation for his marriage in 1884.<sup>9</sup> The two-story house has a hip roof with wide, bracketed eaves. The cream-colored brick came from Milwaukee. Flat shouldered brick arches serve as window caps over arched multi-paned upper sashes. Two bay windows extend from the south side of the house on the first story. An 1887 photo shows the flat-roof bracketed porch at the west entrance as it is today.<sup>10</sup> The house has had numerous frame additions made to it over a period of years, including an addition that was later removed, and is now a two-story residence placed on a lot south of the Strang House. One story frame additions exist to the north and east; the brick walls of the original structure serve as part of the interior design of the new rooms. This house was the first in Footville to be lighted by electricity, produced from a generator on the farm.<sup>11</sup>

The floor plan of the house is original for the principal rooms on the first level; however, the upper story was remodeled into an apartment now returned to bedrooms. There has been remodeling of the rear (east) ground level entry with an addition put on top the east incorporating the original exterior wall as a new interior wall. The major original components extant in the structure are the plain framing around doors and windows, especially in the two bays of the south side which are intact as built. An open stairway, once partially enclosed when the upper rooms were an apartment, has been re-opened and retains its original balusters and handrail. All interior details are typical of the period.

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B. William J. Owen Store ca. 1860 (construction)  
220 Depot Street  
Parcel #6-22-71 Original Plat E 80' S $\frac{1}{2}$   
Owner: Richard & Marilyn Solum lot 6, E 80' N $\frac{1}{2}$  lot 8  
220 Depot Street  
Footville, Wisconsin SIGNIFICANT DATES: ca. 1860-1894

This is the oldest commercial building in the village and has been continuously operated as a general store from 1860 to the present.<sup>12</sup> It also retains the most complete Greek Revival store front in Rock County. The store is a two story frame structure with a full pediment on the street side gable. One story frame additions with shed roofs have been added to each side to serve as display, storage and living quarters; the north wing was added in 1878<sup>13</sup> and the south wing in 1979.<sup>14</sup> The building has wide wooden corner pilasters and a wide entablature over double-hung windows. This decoration has been retained despite the fact that aluminum siding of an unsympathetic color (red) has been added to the building. An 1873 illustration proves that the original windows of the store front have been replaced by large plate glass windows with false mullions.<sup>15</sup> The store has been moved twice, each move prompted by the growth of the village. The last move was from the old stage road area business district to its present location near the depot, condensery and bank in the commercial area developed from 1880 to World War I.

On the ground level this structure features a large open space for commercial use. Three wooden posts ranged in the center of the space support the upper floor. Approximately 12" by 12", chamfered at the corners and with a superimposed molding at 8' and 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' these support posts have a columnar appearance. The posts along with the floor to ceiling framework surrounding the entrance appear to be the only original features of the interior first level. Other features indicating its longtime use as a store are the 8 unit wood shelf and drawer storage cabinets ranged along the south wall, and a massive corner columned counter originally centered in the open space at center but now closer to the door. A series of holes in the floor show where twine and rope, originally stored in the basement, would be drawn from storage for sale.

The upper level has two interesting rooms, kitchen and laundry, with ceilings panelled with wide planking undoubtedly of early origin.

The W. J. Owen store was originally built at the head of C Street along the Galena Road stage route where the original commercial development of the village occurred, (1873 Atlas of Rock County, p. 90). During the middle months of 1878, Owen moved the store cater cornered across Galena Road to Lot 1, Block 16 facing his new home to the north, (1891 Atlas of Rock County, p. 40). By 1912 the building moved again to its present location on parts of lots 6 and 8, Block 17, (Tax Rolls 1908-1911, 1912-1914). The first move was approximately 200' while the second move was about 735', (estimated from footages given in the 1873 Atlas of Rock County). With the decline in stage road traffic and the development of a new commercial district closer to the railroad this, the "most complete Greek Revival commercial structure remaining in the county," (Rock County Historic Sites and Buildings, p. 166) also moved. The integrity of the structure with its shed roof additions a century apart (1878 and 1979) is basically retained in pilasters demarcating window and entry spaces on the ground level and wide pilasters framing the corners. Thus, the significance of the building and the historical necessity of its

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change in location warrant exception to the moving prohibition in National Register regulations.

C. Footville State Bank Building 1909 (construction)  
158 Depot Street Parcel #6-22-63 Original Plat, E 66' of  
S 24' Lot 7 Blk. 16  
Owner: Luther Valley Historical Society  
158 Depot Street  
Footville, Wisconsin SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1910-1975

This small square one story red brick building, with its flat tin roof, was designed and built in 1909 with Meggott and Law, Architects<sup>16</sup> and construction completed by C. & W. Hayes, general contractors, Janesville.<sup>17</sup> Menomonie sand mold brick was used for the walls, piers and outside chimney. The exterior is distinguished by a wide frieze with triglyphs, wide brick pilasters on each corner and Bedford Indiana cut limestone lintels and facing at the foundation. Large overlights top the front door and plate glass window on the east facade. Cut blocks of Bedford Indiana limestone form a veneer around the base of the building to the window sills.<sup>18</sup> This veneer is painted white.

The Footville State Bank has an intact interior from the time the structure was opened for use, retaining its panelled teller's cages, vault and work spaces. Windows and doors retain their original plain woodwork framing and the interior layout is unchanged. Now owned by the Luther Valley Historical Society which intends to maintain and preserve its exterior and interior features, the bank is the least altered of any of the nominated structures.

D. Footville Condensery 1912 (construction)  
East End Beloit Street Parcel #6-22-166 Assessors Plat, Outlot 57  
exc Vol. 517 P 294 as hwy.  
Owner: Helgesen Land Co.  
Footville, Wisconsin SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1912-1975

The former condensery building is the largest industrial building in Footville. Constructed of cream brick, the two story building has a low gable roof with a wood monitor spanning the roofline. Segmental brick arches over the paired windows and regular flat brick buttresses provide the only relief on the plain brick walls. The length of the building runs parallel to the railroad tracks. Originally a 60 x 220 foot building,<sup>19</sup> a brick warehouse was added in 1927 increasing the size of the building 72 x 150 feet at the west end.<sup>20</sup> In 1953 the cement block receiving platform was constructed to the west.<sup>21</sup> Ten years later the factory was purchased by a tube and pipe manufacturing firm and the one story boiler room with a radial brick chimney was dismantled. At that time a 35 x 50 foot concrete block storage area was built to the north side of the building.<sup>22</sup>

There are no significant interior details remaining in this structure.

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Footnotes:

- <sup>1</sup> Ezra Foot Autobiography, Ezra Foot Papers, Rock County Historical Society Archives.
- <sup>2</sup> Wisconsin State Journal, May 8, 1980.
- <sup>3</sup> Rock County Court House, Register of Deed Records, Janesville, Wisconsin.
- <sup>4</sup> Guernsey, Orrin & Willard, Josiah F., History of Rock County, (Janesville, Wisconsin Wm. M. Doty and Brother, 1856), p. 79.
- <sup>5</sup> Janesville Gazette, September 17, 1878, p. 4.
- <sup>6</sup> Orfordville Footville News, January 17, 1979, p. 1.
- <sup>7</sup> The Footville Hustler, February 8, 1912, p. 1.
- <sup>8</sup> Rock County Courthouse, Register of Deed Records, Janesville, Wisconsin.
- <sup>9</sup> Ruth Ann Willis interview with Mary Strang, March, 1980.
- <sup>10</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>11</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>12</sup> History of Rock County, Wisconsin, (Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1879) p. 854.
- <sup>13</sup> Janesville Gazette, September 17, 1878, p. 4.
- <sup>14</sup> Combination Atlas Map of Rock County, Wisconsin, (Chicago, Ill.: Everts, Baskin and Stevart, 1873) p. 63.
- <sup>15</sup> Orfordville-Footville News, January 17, 1979, p. 1.
- <sup>16</sup> Buildings specifications for Footville State Bank, Rock County Historical Society Archives.
- <sup>17</sup> Janesville Daily Gazette, October 15, 1909, p. 12.

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Footnotes (continued)

<sup>18</sup> op. cit. Builders specifications.

<sup>19</sup> op. cit. The Footville Hustler.

<sup>20</sup> Janesville Daily Gazette, 25th Annual Review, January 14, 1928, p. 43.

<sup>21</sup> Janesville Daily Gazette, March 11, 1963, p. 1.

<sup>22</sup> Janesville Daily Gazette, December 31, 1963, p. 21.



## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
— prehistoric	— archeology-prehistoric	— community planning	— landscape architecture	— religion
— 1400–1499	— archeology-historic	— conservation	— law	— science
— 1500–1599	— agriculture	— economics	— literature	— sculpture
— 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	— education	— military	— social/
— 1700–1799	— art	— engineering	— music	humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	— philosophy	— theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	— communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	— politics/government	— transportation
		— invention		— other (specify)

**Specific dates** various - see Item 7 **Builder/Architect** various - see Intensive Survey Forms

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### I. Introduction

Footville is a small village in southern Wisconsin that has grown gradually over the last one hundred forty six years. Agriculture is the most important industry in the Footville area and the village serves as a commercial center to the area farmers. With transportation as the key element in the creation and growth of the village, Footville has continued to thrive as a support to local farmers. Footville's architecture spans the period 1845 to 1980.

#### II. Historical Development

The village is surrounded by beautiful and fertile farm land. The first businesses and residences were located along the Galena-Janesville stage road after the territorial road was built in 1845 and the first settlers arrived.<sup>1</sup> The Couch-Snyder hotel at 103 Gilbert was located along this route<sup>2</sup> as was the William J. Owen General Store, since relocated to 220 Depot Street.<sup>3</sup> Originally platted in 1854 to include 26 blocks,<sup>4</sup> the village has expanded in all directions, tripling in size. Farms which were surveyed but excluded from the nomination due to loss of integrity are located within the village limits along the northern and western edges of this former stage road, now County Hwy. B.

Ezra Foot, founder of Footville, came to the area as an agent for Eastern land speculators in 1845.<sup>5</sup> A local farmer and school teacher, Julius Gilbert, helped Foot plat the village in 1854 in anticipation of the arrival of the Beloit-Madison Railroad.<sup>6</sup> Because of financial difficulties the line terminated for several years at Footville, making it the transportation link with area farmers for grain exports to Chicago and Milwaukee. The Madison stage brought travelers going south from Madison, Evansville and Magnolia to the depot until the rails advanced to Madison in 1864. This transportation link provided the impetus for development of farm related enterprises in Footville, culminating the the growth of the dairy industry from small "cottage industries" in cheese and butter making to the building of the condensery in 1912.<sup>7</sup>

#### III. Industry

As early as the 1850's the Rock County Agricultural Society and Mechanics Institute, a powerful influence on Rock County farmers, were advocating the expansion of dairying industries as a means to produce income and make farmers less reliant on crops.<sup>8</sup> Many area farmers were members and spokesmen for this organization. By 1873 a cheese factory (now demolished) was in operation in Footville. This was a great impetus to the dairy farmer who needed a market for products to make dairying profitable. Because of the lack of refrigeration facilities, a nearby market for rapid processing of perishable goods was especially important. The biggest boost to the dairy industry and to the growth of Footville came in 1912 with the opening of the Footville Condensery. Backed by financing of \$100,000 provided by residents in the Footville area a market was created for 300,000 pounds of milk per day for the area farmers.<sup>9</sup>

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In 1927 the Pet Milk Company, a national firm, purchased the condensery and enlarged the operation. At one time, in excess of 100 persons were employed at the Footville plant. During World War II the plant received the Army-Navy "E" flag for production excellence. Seventy to eighty carloads of milk were shipped each week to U.S. armed forces throughout the world.<sup>10</sup>

In 1919 the plant generated the first electric power for the village<sup>11</sup> and the condensery provided hot and cold water for such local events as the annual "Irish Picnic," before the village had a water works system.

Pet Milk closed their operation in Footville in 1957, and the building remained vacant until 1963 when the Triangle Conduit & Cable Company,<sup>12</sup> attracted by the rail service and truck service available to the building, as well as the building size, purchased the property and operated the plant until 1979.<sup>13</sup> The building is now vacant, due to the loss of rail service and the expense of trucking. A new owner, the Lancaster Level Flow Company, manufacturing farm related products, is expected to begin operations in a few months.

**IV. Commerce**

Footville is the commercial center for the agricultural community in the townships of Plymouth and Center. The business area was first located along the Galena-Janesville Stage Road. The William J. Owen Store, now the Footville Hardware Store, was located along this road until 1912, when it was moved to its present location in the new commercial district along Depot Street.<sup>14</sup> From 1880 until the beginning of the first World War, there was a gradual shift of buildings, commercial and residential, to the present commercial district, with the most concentrated area near the intersection of Center and Depot streets.<sup>15</sup> The Footville State Bank and the Footville Telephone Company, constructed in 1909 and 1914 respectively, are located near this intersection providing the driving force for continued growth in this area.

The oldest commercial building still extant is the William J. Owen Store, included in the nomination. The store was owned and operated by William J. Owen and his sons for over 30 years.<sup>16</sup> Owen also served as a postmaster and the store was the village post office. In 1878, Owen moved the building across the road and enlarged it by the addition of a shed roof wing, now the north wing of the building.<sup>17</sup> The next move in 1912 was made by E. H. Mattice and wife, who operated the store for over 40 years.<sup>18</sup> Each move was symbolic of the growth of the village, from the Stage Road area business district where it stood among blacksmith shops, residences, churches and other stores, to its present location near the depot, condensery, bank and other commercial enterprises.

The Footville State Bank played an important part in the commercial development of Footville. Supplying the capital for farm and merchandizing enterprises in the village that was previously loaned by individual investors, the bank has been in continuous operation since 1910. In 1975 the bank built a new facility at the eastern edge of the village and donated the building to the Luther Valley Historical Society. The bank was the scene of a robbery in 1965, a rare and dramatic occurrence in this small community. The bank president and his son gave chase to the lone gunman who robbed the bank.<sup>19</sup>

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**V. Architecture**

Footville's architecture consists largely of nineteenth and early twentieth century vernacular types, with a few good examples of Late Picturesque, Italianate and NeoClassic style influenced buildings.

John Langdon, a local builder-contractor, was responsible for the late picturesque character of most homes in the village. Each house attributed to him is constructed with nearly identical lacy gable decoration with panelled and shingled gables. In an April 1980 interview with Ruth Ann Willis (Rock County Historical Society), and Lester Curry of Footville (son of a carpenter who worked with Langdon), attributions of Langdon designs and alterations were made; because of lack of architectural distinction or loss of integrity, none of those modest buildings was included in the nomination.

The Italianate style is represented by two residences in Footville; the Strang House at 231 North Gilbert is included in the nomination. Mary Strang, daughter of Solomon Strang, believes the building was constructed by her father who was a local farmer, store keeper, coal and grain dealer, and farm implement sales lot owner. This is the best example of the Italianate style represented in Footville. Although frame additions have altered slightly the shape and appearance of the house, the exterior walls have remained intact.

The William J. Owen Store is important to the architectural history of Footville, as well as Rock County, as the most complete Greek Revival store front remaining in the county. Its full pediment is prominently displayed to the street side view and the building visually dominates the commercial district of Footville. The oldest commercial building in the village, it has been continuously operated as a general store from 1860 to the present.

Evidence of the NeoClassical Revival style surfaced in a commercial building, the Footville State Bank at 158 Depot Street. The bank was designed by architects Meggot and Law and built by Janesville General Contractors, C. & W. Hayes. In its small scale and the rudimentary character of "high style" design, this building expresses the essence of present day Footville. The bank building was planned and built in 1909 and the specifications are located in the Rock County Historical Society Archives. The building was built during Footville's greatest growth period, just before World War I. At this time many of the early rural settlers were retiring to the village and investing their money in local real estate, commercial and industrial enterprises.<sup>20</sup>

**VI. Preservation Activities by Local Groups**

To date there has been limited local preservation activity in Footville. The Luther Valley Historical Society has carefully restored the former Footville State Bank Building which they acquired by donation in 1975. The society has a growing interest in the built environment in Footville and the surrounding area.

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Two of the nominated sites, the Footville Hardware Store on Depot Street and the Strang House on Gilbert Street, have been enlarged in recent years by owners who attempted to be sympathetic to the original design of the structures. Many of the buildings in Footville are threatened by remodelings which enlarge the buildings but are unsympathetic to the original design. Synthetic sidings are being applied to structures with little regard for historical or architectural details.

It is hoped that nominations of the eligible structures will generate increased awareness of the historical character of the built environment in the village of Footville.

Footnotes:

- <sup>1</sup>Strong, Moses B., History of the Territory of Wisconsin, (Madison, Wisconsin: Democrat Printing, State Printing Office, 1885), p. 437.
- <sup>2</sup>Plat Map of Rock County, 1858, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Archives.
- <sup>3</sup>Combination Atlas Maps of Rock County, Wisconsin (Chicago, ILL.: Everts, Baskin and Stewart, 1873), p. 90.
- <sup>4</sup>Rock County Plat Records, Register of Deeds, Rock County Courthouses, Janesville, Wis.
- <sup>5</sup>Ezra Foot Autobiography, Ezra Foot Papers, Rock County Historical Society Archives.
- <sup>6</sup>op. cit. Rock County Plat Records.
- <sup>7</sup>The Footville Hustler, February 8, 1912, p. 1.
- <sup>8</sup>Guernsey, Orrin and Willard, Josiah F., History of Rock County, (Janesville, Wisconsin Wm. M. Doty and Brother, 1856), pp. 214-217.
- <sup>9</sup>op. cit., The Footville Hustler.
- <sup>10</sup>Ruth Ann Willis interview with Ella Dunbar, March 1980.
- <sup>11</sup>The Footville Story - A History of Footville, Footville Centennial Committee, 1954, Footville, Wis.
- <sup>12</sup>"Triangle Closes Doors in Footville," Janesville Daily Gazette, December 7, 1979, pp. 1 and 8.
- <sup>13</sup>Ibid.
- <sup>14</sup>Ruth Ann Willis interview with Lester Curry, April 1980.
- <sup>15</sup>op. cit. interview with Ella Dunbar.

(continued)

EXP. 12/31/84

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

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

Historic Resources of Footville, Rock County, Wisconsin  
Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 5

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Footnotes (continued)

<sup>16</sup>"William J. Owen" obituary, Janesville Daily Recorder, January 16, 1899, p. 4.

<sup>17</sup>op. cit. interview with Ella Dunbar.

<sup>18</sup>Ibid.

<sup>19</sup>Janesville Daily Gazette, February 9, 1979, pp. 1 and 2.

<sup>20</sup>Village of Footville, Original Plat Records, Rock County Court House, Janesville, Wis.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

ORIGINAL NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

See continuation sheet.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property see Intensive Survey FormsQuadrangle name Footville Quadrangle, Wisconsin-Rock County Quadrangle scale 1:2400  
7.5 Minute Series

UMT References

A 

1	6	3	1	8	9	9	0	4	7	2	6	7	3	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

1	6	3	1	8	8	1	0	4	7	2	6	3	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

1	6	3	1	8	8	1	0	4	7	2	6	4	1	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

1	6	3	1	9	1	0	0	4	7	2	5	9	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Village limits of Footville, Wisconsin

(for individual buildings, see Legal Descriptions, Intensive Survey Forms)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ruth Ann Willis, National Register Officer  
Richard P. Hartung, Director, Rock County Historical Societyorganization Rock County Historical Society date February 9, 1980street & number 10 South High Street telephone 608-756-4509city or town Janesville state Wisconsin

## 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Richard P. Hartung*title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

date

12/17/82

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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received  
date entered MAY 7 1982

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Footville Multiple Resource Area  
State Wisconsin

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Footville State Bank

Entered in the  
National Register *for* Keeper

Attest

*Melissa Byers 5/7/82*

2. Strang, Solomon J., House

~~Substantive Review~~ Keeper

Attest

*5/7/82 [Signature]*

3. Footville Condensery

Entered in the  
National Register *for* Keeper

Attest

*Melissa Byers 5/7/82*

4. Owen, William J., Store

Entered in the  
National Register *for* Keeper

Attest

*Melissa Byers 5/7/82*

5.

Keeper

Attest

6.

Keeper

Attest

7.

Keeper

Attest

8.

Keeper

Attest

9.

Keeper

Attest

10.

Keeper

Attest