

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 24 1979
DATE ENTERED SEP 19 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Schoenicke Barn
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

NE of Watertown on Venus Rd.

STREET & NUMBER
Route 2, Venus Road
CITY, TOWN
Watertown
STATE
Wisconsin
CODE
55
COUNTY
Dodge
CODE
027
VICINITY OF
9th
NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mr. William R. Bedford
STREET & NUMBER
Route 2, Venus Road
CITY, TOWN
Watertown
STATE
Wisconsin
VICINITY OF
53094

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Dodge County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
127 East Oak Street
CITY, TOWN
Juneau
STATE
Wisconsin
53039

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places
DATE
1979
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
State Historical Society of Wisconsin
CITY, TOWN
Madison
STATE
Wisconsin
53706
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

2

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Schoenike barn is situated on the William Bedford farm in Dodge County near Watertown. The nominated structure is a Scheune or threshing barn, built in the Prussian Colonial style. It was built by an emigrant from Brandenburg, a part of the Kingdom of Prussia at the time of the Old Lutheran migration in the mid-nineteenth century.

The Scheune was built as a threshing barn and for crop storage, and the early Prussian emigrants to Wisconsin diverged little from the native form of the structure. The Schoenike barn is framed in half-timber but was never executed in the style. It does not have the infill of brick or stone; white oak boards were used to sheathe the barn instead.

The plan features a central drive-through with large doorways at either end of the central threshing floor. The area on either side of the threshing floor would have been used for grain storage. At one time a shed spanned the east wall. This 32' x 52' barn has a gable roof; deteriorated asphalt shingles cover the early wood shingles. The roof may have been thatched originally, but there is no conclusive evidence.

At a later date the barn was placed on a stone foundation built into a slope. This allowed for a ground level entry on the west wall providing access to a dairy room able to accommodate about 25 cows. Deterioration of the lower timbers and boards indicates that they formerly rested on the ground. Slight relocation of the barn may have occurred when the foundation was added.

The barn is in fair condition. In 1978 the process of replacing deteriorated and missing boards began, using new 1 x 12 white oak lumber. New doors are anticipated. Although the notches for the original threshing floor are still evident, floor boards and joists have been replaced. Two of the cross beams have been removed to allow for a hay track/loader, and hay chutes demonstrate a more recent construction.

The main floor of the barn is presently being used for the storage of lumber. Throughout most of the year a portion of the basement is used as a chicken coop.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) ethnic association	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1855¹

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Gottlieb Schoenicke²

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Schoenicke barn is significant as a rare American example of Prussian Colonial half-timber construction. Further, it expresses the Prussian material culture as transported to the United States and the subsequent influences of American agriculture and technology on modifications to the ethnic structure.

Gottlieb Schoenicke came to the United States from Brandenburg in 1844. He was from the small village of Posedin, northwest of Frankfurt on the Oder River in the district of Lebus. His wife and five children, two brothers, and a sister accompanied him. Schoenicke bought the land on which the nominated barn is situated in 1848. He and his wife had seven more children. One of the sons, Gottlieb Daniel Schoenicke, acquired the farm in 1889, and his son, Emil, acquired it in 1932. Not until 1976 did the farm leave the Schoenicke family.

Brandenburgers and Pomeranians began settling in Dodge County in 1843 as part of the second wave of the Old Lutheran migration to America. The Brandenburgers tended to cluster together in the southeastern part of the county, forming a close-knit community and retaining their cultural distinction. The Scheune is one manifestation of this cultural distinction.

The Scheune was a common structure in the wheat farming areas of northern Germany. Grain was stacked in the two end bays of the barn and the central threshing floor was used to store farm equipment in the off-season. In the fall of the year the threshing floor was used to beat the wheat to separate the grain from the straw. Flails were often used for this vigorous activity, although sometimes cattle were encouraged to trample the wheat. The straw was raked away to be used as livestock bedding, and the grain was cleaned and bagged or stored in bins in the Scheune.

Half-timbering was the common method of construction in northern Germany, mostly due to the shortage of lumber. Although brick, stone, and mortar were commonly used to fill between the timbers, frame sheathing was used if wood was plentiful. In Dodge County wood was ample, as demonstrated by the circa 1855 Schoenicke barn.

In the latter part of the nineteenth century dairy farming began to supersede wheat production as the dominant agricultural production in southeastern Wisconsin. At the same time, technological advances were changing agricultural

1. Al Pape. Research Information Report, Schoenicke Barn, 5-1-75.

2. Abstract of Title.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Knipping, Mark. "A Pomeranian Wheat Farm of Dodge County, Wisconsin." A manuscript prepared for the Old World Wisconsin Research Office, Madison: 1 February 1977.
- Pape, Al. Research Information Report, Schoenick Barn. Old World Wisconsin, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1 May 1975.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Horicon, Wisconsin

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 371425 4790025

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The barn is located in the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 15, Town of Lebanon. The site is 1/2 mile south of county road MM, at the end of Venus Road. The boundary of the nominated property extends 10' beyond the walls of the barn.

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

Barbara Wyatt

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

January 3, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

816 State Street

TELEPHONE

(608)262-8904

CITY OR TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Rebecca Dewey

TITLE Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

5/20/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

William H. Brown

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9-19-79

ATTEST: *Anna Jane Saxe*

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION
Regional Coordinator

DATE

9-18-79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

practices drastically. These occurrences often led to the modification of traditional structures such as the Schuene to accommodate the evolving agriculture. The Schoenicke Scheune was elevated onto a stone foundation so that a dairy basement could be housed below. At this time the wheat storage bays likely became used for hay storage. Hay chutes were inserted at the corners of the storage bays, near the drive-through on the west side of the structure. Later, two beams near the roof were removed for placement of a hay track/loader.