

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 5 1976

DATE ENTERED SEP 29 1976

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

*wh*  
Eureka Lock and Lock Tender's House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

*S of Eureka on Fox River*  
In northeast 1/4 of Section 31, Town 18 North, Range 14 East

CITY, TOWN

Eureka

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Wisconsin

CODE  
55

COUNTY  
Winnebago

CODE  
139

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER

Recreational Boating

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

STREET & NUMBER

4610 University Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Madison

VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin 53705

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Secretary of State

STREET & NUMBER

State Capitol

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53702

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wisconsin's Historic Preservation Plan, Volume II: The Inventory

DATE

1975

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Eureka Lock and Lock Tender's House comprise one acre of state owned land. The lock, built in 1876, originally had a wood foundation on wooden pilings as a base. The side walls were built of stone but were replaced with walls of concrete in 1941. The lock gates and sills leak and are in need of repair. The overall length of the lock is 200.2'; the width is 35.0'. The water depth of the canal is about 6'. The present water level of the canal is 749.5' M.S.L. above the lock and 746.8' M.S.L. below the lock.

Situated on the north bank of the canal between the two gates is the lock tender's house, built two years after the lock and canal. A two-story frame building, it has a gable roof with a central gabled roof dormer on the south end. A one-story enclosed shed-roofed porch runs across the entire length of the main facade. On the north end of the building is a one-story frame addition with a shed roof. A new foundation was put under the house in 1923. There are also two small frame outbuildings, a well house and garage, near the house.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS              | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE     | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-                | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)           |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |   |  |

SPECIFIC DATES 1876, 1941

BUILDER/ARCHITECT U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Eureka lock was significant in the overall development of the historic Fox-Wisconsin waterway system. Today, this is the only operable lock between the cities of Portage and Oshkosh.<sup>1</sup>

When the lock and canal were completed in 1876 by the Army Corps of Engineers under the general supervision of Colonel D. C. Houston, the village of Eureka, founded in 1850, was already a bustling river port that not only supported a grist and saw mill and several stores, but also had a small but active steamboat building industry as well. With the addition of the lock and canal, Eureka became even busier as an almost daily flow of commercial and pleasure craft plied the waters between Oshkosh and Berlin.<sup>2</sup>

After World War I, however, Eureka's commercial activity went into a steady decline. In his official report, Major H. B. Ferguson of the Corps of Engineers provided some interesting facts regarding overall commerce on the Fox for the year ending 1915: Eureka had an impressive record of 1,414 lockages that ranked second only to the Ft. Winnebago lock at Portage which had 1,666.<sup>3</sup> But by the end of 1920 the amount of freight locked through was notably less; it was becoming apparent that the heyday of commercial steamboat and barge traffic on the Upper Fox was drawing to a close. Commercial activity declined, the Major wrote, mainly because "All cities on the upper river have rail connection and practically all farm products and coal move by rail in preference to water. As the upper river is generally narrow, barge traffic is subject to heavy "drag" of the bottom in case any attempt at speed is made and resulting delays materially increase the cost of boat haul.<sup>4</sup> In 1951, the upper Fox was closed to navigation.

The future of the Eureka lock appeared uncertain until members of the Berlin Boat Club took an active interest in its preservation in 1958. Its use today is confined exclusively to pleasure craft.

1. Robert E. Gard and Elaine Reetz, The Trail of the Serpent: The Fox River Valley, Wisconsin House Ltd., (Madison, Wis: 1973), p. 119.
2. Ibid., p. 118.
- 3 & 4. Major H.B. Ferguson, "Report on the Re-examination of the Fox River," House Documents, 67th Congress, 2nd Session, Vol. 17, Serial # 8005, (Washington, D.C.: December 5, 1921-September 22, 1922), pp. 21, 41 & 45.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Ferguson, Major H.B. "Report on the Re-examination of the Fox River." House Documents, 67th Congress, 2nd Session, Vol. 17, Serial #8005, Washington, D.C., 1921-1922, 21, 41 & 45.
- Gard, Robert E. & Reetz, Elaine. The Trail of the Serpent: The Fox River Valley. Wisconsin House Ltd., Madison, 1973, 118-119.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.0  
 UTM REFERENCES

A 1,6 3,4,9,9,2,5 4,8,7,2,9,0,0  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B                    
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C                    
 VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

D                  

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|       |      |        |      |
|       |      |        |      |

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Allan T. Heninger, Planning Analyst I

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

12-3-75

STREET & NUMBER

816 State Street

TELEPHONE

(608) 262-2971

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

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

*James Morton Smith*

TITLE Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE 1/29/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*[Signature]*

DATE 9/29/76

LO DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST:

DATE 9/27/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER