

FOR HCRS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED FEB 8 1980  
DATE ENTERED SEP 17 1980

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

## Thematic Resources of the Cooksville Area

CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	PAGE
<u>Property</u>		<u>Owner Name &amp; Mailing Address</u>
31 <u>William Porter Farmhouse</u> Cooksville Historic District	4	Sidney Anderson, Jr. Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
32 <u>Cooksville Congregational Church Bldg.</u> Cooksville Historic District		Michael Saternus Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
33 <u>Frame House, Lot 7, Block 9, Waucoma plat</u> Cooksville Historic District		Keith & Ilene Axford Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
34 <u>Cooksville Cemetery</u> Cooksville Historic District		Cooksville Cemetery Association c/o Marvin Raney Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
35 <u>Norwegian Lutheran Church</u> Cooksville Historic District		Cooksville Lutheran Church Omar Haakenson, Council President Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536
<del>36 <u>Billings House, Lot 10, Blk 4 Waucoma plat</u> Cooksville</del>		<del>John Star Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536</del>
37 <u>"Searle Barn," Lot 2, Blk 4, Waucoma plat</u> <del>Cooksville</del>		Art Hanson Route 1 <del>Evansville, WI 53536</del>
38 <u>Cooksville Mill &amp; Pond Site (RO 221)</u> Cooksville vicinity		Carl & Jennifer Gutknecht Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536  Mary Anderson Estate, Mrs. Earl Anderson Estate c/o Lavern Anderson 109 Jefferson Street Janesville, WI 53545  Karl Wolter Route 1 Evansville, WI 53536

*deleted - see  
continuation sheet  
received 9/16/80  
with corrections*

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

Historical Resources of Cooksville - Partial Listing

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 16a

INVENTORY: RESOURCES OUTSIDE HISTORIC DISTRICT

38. Cooksville Mill and Mill pond site (c. 1842-1905)  
SHSW Archeological Site No. R0-221 UTM Reference: ' (s) 16/316755/4745110  
c. 10 acres: Part of NE SW, Sec. 6, Town of Porter, Begin 170' W of a point  
512' S of NE corner of NE SW, Sec. 6, T4N, R11E, thence W 790', thence N 512',  
thence E 960' to NE corner of said 1/4 Sec., thence S c. 54' on center line  
(excluding west 1/2 Hwy. 138 right-of-way, which is 45.5' wide west of center  
line), thence SW from center (including race within boundary; traditional  
boundary follows the race but does not specify its angle) c. 275' to a point  
170' west of E edge of 1/4 section, thence S c. 280' to point of beginning.

Owners: Carl and Jennifer Gutknecht, Route 1, Evansville, Wis. 53536  
 Mary Anderson Estate: Mrs. Earl Anderson, Estate c/o Lavern Anderson,  
 109 Jefferson Street, Janesville, Wis. 53545  
 Karl Wolter, Route 1, Evansville, Wis. 53536

Foundations and wood pilings remain near the foot of a hillock c. 250' west of Main Street (Hwy 138), approximately as far north as Webster Street. These are the visible remains of Cooksville's gristmill, which was derelict by the 1890s and burned in October, 1905. The dam was abandoned by 1897. An earth embankment still runs northwest to Badfish Creek, which meanders through the former millpond.

The site is significant for its long association with Cooksville's economic life, and for its archeological potential. The first sawmill was built by John Cook c. 1842; the site with tailrace and millpond was sold by Betsey Curtiss to John Shepard in 1845. He (or Chambers and Lovejoy) built the gristmill by 1847; it was owned and operated by T. W. Longbourne in the 1850s and through 1866. Rice and Barber (also Rice and Nesbitt) owned it by the 1870s. Though the area is currently unused, it is possible that the pond and/or mill could be restored.

(Ag. 1856, p. 116; Atlas, 1873, p. 57; Rock County, 1879, p. 693; Port., 1889, p. 1020; Abstracts, Raney notes; interview with Green and Peters, May 9, 1979.)

39. Savage House c. 1848, c. 1880

Dane County

SW SE S. 1, T5N, R11E (less than 1 acre at SW SE corner) UTM Ref: (p) 16/316940/4745970

Owner: Mrs. Earl Anderson, Route 1, Evansville, Wis. 53536

This vernacular Gothic Revival frame house with Late Picturesque trim is significant for its long connection with the Savage family, who were extremely active and popular in Cooksville's social and cultural life in the 19th century and into the 20th. John Waite Savage (1808-1884) moved to Wisconsin from Vermont in 1842; he purchased 374' of lath for the house in 1848 from the Cooksville sawmill and moved into the house with his wife and five children, one of whom subsequently married a Stebbins. The house was later remodeled with Late Picturesque dormers, shingles, and barge board trim. It is currently vacant and boarded up.

The Cooksville area's most famous native, John Lucian Savage (1879-1967), was born and grew up in the house. As chief design engineer for the Federal Bureau of Reclamation from 1924 until his retirement in 1945, he was known worldwide as the principal designer and engineer of some of the world's biggest power and irrigation dam projects. His works included the Hoover Dam, Imperial Dam, Grand Coulee Dam, Shasta Dam, American Falls Dam, TVA's Norris Dam, and about 50 other U.S. dams. In addition, as a consulting engineer, he designed water projects in at least 19 other nations, including the Yangtze River Gorge project in China. His awards included an honorary D. Sc. from the University of Wisconsin, from which he had graduated in 1903, the Colorado Engineering Council's Gold Medal (1937), China's National Resources Commission Gold Medal (1945), the Washington Award of the Joint American Society of Engineers (1949), and the Interior Department's Gold Medal Award for Distinguished Service (1950). Encomia from the media included: "More people are indebted to John Savage and will be for generations to come than any other engineer...the demand for his talents has been worldwide." (Look); "Savage was the greatest dam builder of an age in which hydroelectric power changed the face of the earth." (Newsweek); "Savage has been the chief engineer of more big dams than any other man in history." (Colliers); he was considered "the best dam man in the business" (Colorado Wonderland).

(Correspondence with M. Saturnus, 4/19/1979; Condit, American Building Art - The Twentieth Century, New York: Oxford, 1961, pp. 261, 372)

40. Leedle Mill Truss Bridge (DOT No. P-53-0066) c. 1916, and  
 Leedle Mill Site 1861; c. 1880-1882

~~SHSW Archeological Site No. RO-223~~

NE NE Sec. 1, Town of Union (T4N R10E), c. 1 acre. UTM Reference: (r) 16/315940/474569