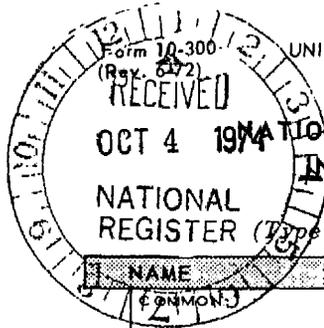


DATA SHEET



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wisconsin
COUNTY: Jefferson
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE FEB 25 1975

1. NAME
Pioneer Aztalan Site

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Pioneer Aztalan Site

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: CR
SE Corner, intersection of Jefferson County Trunk Highway "R" and "Q"

CITY OR TOWN: Lake Mills vicinity Aztalan CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Wisconsin 9th

STATE Wisconsin	CODE 55	COUNTY: Jefferson	CODE 055
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Museum Grounds

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Lake Mills-Aztalan Historical Society, c/o Karl Magnussen, President

STREET AND NUMBER: 213 7th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Watertown STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 55

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Jefferson STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 55

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Wisconsin Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969-73 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: State Historical Society of Wisconsin

STREET AND NUMBER: 816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN: Madison STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 55

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Wisconsin	ENTRY NUMBER FEB 25 1975	DATE
COUNTY: Jefferson		
FOR NPS USE ONLY		

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Pioneer Aztalan is a narrow strip of land totaling about three acres at the southeast corner of the intersection of Jefferson County Trunk Highways "Q" and "B" which in Wisconsin's territorial days were, respectively, the Janesville-Fond du Lac and Milwaukee-Mineral Point territorial roads. The property extends along the east side of "Q" from "B" on the north to the northernmost boundary of Aztalan State Park, a National Historic Landmark, on the south.

On this property stands the last remaining original building of the pioneer village of Aztalan, which was settled in 1836-37. The building is the old Aztalan Baptist Church, which was built in 1852 or 1853 of cream colored brick. It has Greek Revival features but is more significant historically than architecturally. In 1942 it was restored and converted to the museum of the Lake Mills-Aztalan Historical Society.

The village of Aztalan reached its peak in the middle 1850's with a population of some 250. By 1842 it had become Jefferson County's first incorporated village. It had the first post office in the county, established in 1837. By 1853, when the church was built, there were also two blacksmith shops, a wagonmaker, shoe shop, fanning mill shop, brickyard, saleratus (bicarbonate) factory, two stores, a steam sawmill, a nursery of 150,000 trees, and an extensive stone quarry. There were also two hotels.

As was the case with many early settlements of great promise, Aztalan was twice passed by when the railroads were built and before the end of the century had become all but a ghost town. Its population, some businesses and industries moved a few miles west and became part of the current city of Lake Mills. Today nothing remains of the original pioneer village but the area occupying part of the southeast quarter of the once thriving community. There are houses and other buildings on the other three-quarters of the originally platted village, but all are of recent vintage and none are remnants of the original settlement.

A short distance behind the surviving Aztalan church is the base of the "Princess Mound," a unique, ancient burial mound so-called because of the carefully decorated and prepared female body it contained. "...it is significant that this is the only burial encountered in a mound or elsewhere [in ancient Aztalan] which was attended by any such elaborate preparation of the body as was evident in this instance." Although the mound was originally about 47 feet in diameter and stood about six feet high at the center, it now averages only about "1.2 feet above the surrounding surface level," but the outline is still recognizable. "Most of its earth was hauled away many years ago, presumably for filling in around the church which was built in 1853..."

At another location nearer the center of the property and southeast of the church is a group of three pioneer log buildings, all moved to the old village site and restored by the Lake Mills-Aztalan Historical Society. One of these, the Pettey cabin, was built in the early 1840's soon after the John Pettey family came to Wisconsin. It is a small, single-room cabin with a massive split rock chimney and a large fireplace inside. It is characterized by R. W. E. Perrin as one of two such small cabins which have survived

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Wisconsin	
COUNTY	
Jefferson	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 25 1975

(Number all entries)

PIONEER AZTALAN SITE

- 7. and been sympathetically restored which are "typical of the smaller variety built by pioneers of Anglo-American stock." It was lived in only a short time but always well maintained by the Pettey family, a descendant of which donated it to the historical society at Aztalan and had it moved to its current site in 1951. It is furnished as a pioneer cabin of the 1840's.

The other two cabins consist of a very small one, known now as the "loom house," which dates to about 1850 and now contains a loom, spinning wheels, reels and related equipment, and finally a 1 1/2 story log structure known as the Zickert house, which dates to 1867. The latter had been sided, altered, and added to over the years but was painstakingly restored to its original size and form, which could be determined structurally, by the Lake Mills-Aztalan Historical Society members. It is furnished as a log house of its period. All of the three log buildings came from nearby townships, fortunately having survived and been preserved to a great extent. Of the three, the Pettey cabin, though moved from its original site, is the most significant architecturally and has retained the most structural integrity through long-term maintenance.

At the southernmost end of the nominated property is a fairly old frame house, not an original building of the pioneer village of Aztalan and not significant architecturally, which serves as the home of the caretaker of the museum grounds.

The Lake Mills-Aztalan Historical Society plans in the future to restore the interior of the original old Aztalan Baptist church and erect a separate museum on other nearby property which it owns.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

PIONEER AZTALAN SITE

7. Paragraph 1 is deleted and the following substituted therefor:

DESCRIPTION OF BOUNDARIES OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

An area of approximately fourteen acres bounded by a line starting at the northwest corner of Aztalan State Park and proceeding northward along the center line of Aztalan Mound Road (County Highway "Q") across the intersection with County Highway "B" to a point 132 feet north of the north side of "B" (rear property lines of properties facing the north side of "B"), thence eastward to the west bank of the Crawfish River, thence southerly along the west bank of the river to the northeast corner of Aztalan State Park, thence westward along the northern boundary of the park to the point of beginning.

This area incorporates the portion of the original Village of Aztalan on which stand the buildings and features described above and, in addition, properties on the north side of the old Milwaukee-Mineral Point territorial road (County "B") on which most of the main buildings of the old village once stood.

The site possesses potential for historical archeology to the extent that there were houses, hotels, various outbuildings, a blacksmith shop and stores on it and there is potential for locating the foundations of some of these structures. Only that portion of the old village site which has potential for historical archeology has been included in the expanded boundaries.

Descriptions of the three log cabins may be disregarded except for the Pettey cabin, which has distinct architectural significance and is thus eligible for nomination to the National Register, even though moved, under the Criteria Considerations set forth by the National Park Service on National Register Criteria of Evaluation (see Criteria Considerations (B) or (2) in the green NRHP brochure or any other NPS publications stating the criteria of evaluation). Moving was necessary to the preservation and maintenance of the Pettey cabin.

10. Boundaries are expanded as suggested. Acreage and UTM references have been changed on the original Form 10-300.

4. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<u>Early settlement</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Pioneer Aztalan site is significant as the only surviving portion of an important settlement which developed at the crossing of two main territorial roads of Wisconsin where there was need for lodging, services, and supplies. It was also the first settlement of consequence in Jefferson County, its first business center, and the location of its first post office--a settlement which was expected to grow in importance, and was indeed an important village during the prime years of its existence.

Archeologically, the site is important because of the presence of the remains of the "Princess Mound," a burial "so unique in Wisconsin archeology that it was reconstructed as a special exhibit in the [Milwaukee Public] Museum, exactly as it lay here in the pit below this mound."¹ It has now been dismantled, but it remains important because it can definitely be ascribed to the builders of the ancient earthworks of Ancient Aztalan and because the burial place of these people was never discovered and practically nothing is known of their mortuary customs.²

Finally, there is architectural significance in the Pettey log cabin. Perrin states: "Of the small one-room cabins which marked the early pioneer period, two very good examples have survived and, fortunately, falling into sympathetic hands, have been very nicely restored. They are the John Petty [Pettey] cabin at Aztalan, in Jefferson County, and the Goodrich cabin at Milton in Rock County. Both of these cabins were built by 'Yankées' in the late 1830's and are very typical of the smaller variety built by pioneers of Anglo-American stock."³ (The Goodrich cabin is a National Register property on the Milton House grounds in Rock County.)

Pioneer Aztalan was designated a Wisconsin Registered Landmark in 1969.

1. Barrett, p. 243
2. Barrett, footnote, p. 242
3. Perrin, p. 8



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Barrett, S. A., Ancient Aztalan, Milwaukee (1933)
History of Jefferson County, Western Historical Co., (1879)
 Ott, John Henry, History of Jefferson County, S. J. Clarke Co. (1917)
 Perrin, Richard W. E., Historic Wisconsin Buildings, Milwaukee (1962)
 Schultz, Helen A., "Pioneer Aztalan," (research report), 1969 (Wisconsin Registered Landmarks files), Madison.
 Schultz, Helen A., "The Restored Cabins on the Aztalan Museum Grounds," (research report), 1970, (Wisconsin Registered Landmarks files), Madison.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

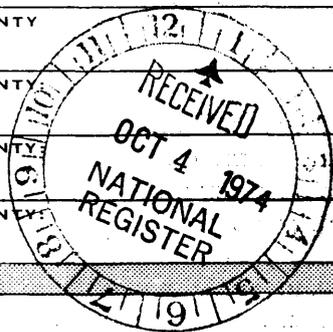
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY	O	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES
UTM Zone 16: NE 348,670 E 4,770,390 N SE 348,700 E 4,770,120 N	R	SW 348,360 E 4,770,140 N NW 348,380 E 4,770,410 N

UTM
OK
①

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **14.0**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Donald N. Anderson, Asst. Director, Historic Sites & Markers Division

ORGANIZATION: **State Historical Society of Wisconsin** DATE: **May 15, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Madison** STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is: National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/> Name <u>James Morton Smith</u> James Morton Smith Title <u>Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin</u> Date <u>30 September 1974</u>	I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register. <u>Robert W. Teece</u> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation Date <u>2/25/75</u> ATTEST: <u>Charles H. [Signature]</u> Keeper of The National Register Date <u>2.24.75</u>
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