

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 20 1975

DATE ENTERED

JAN 8 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Kehl Winery

AND/OR COMMON

Wollersheim Winery

**2 LOCATION***E of Prairie du Sac on WI 188*STREET & NUMBER Highway 188, 1/2 mile South of Highway 60  
(SW 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 6, T-9-N, R-6-E)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

*Prairie du Sac*

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

~~Town of Roxbury~~

VICINITY OF

2nd

STATE

Wisconsin 53578

CODE

55

COUNTY

Dane

CODE

025

**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:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Wollersheim

STREET &amp; NUMBER

State Trunk Highway 188

CITY, TOWN

Prairie du Sac

 VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin 53578

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Dane County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

210 Monona Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53709

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

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

The Kehl Winery is located in the extreme northwestern corner of Dane County on the west face of an unnamed hill overlooking the Wisconsin River and the twin cities of Prairie du Sac and Sauk City in adjacent Sauk County. The site is located on a single property ownership in excess of seventy acres, though the nomination is concerned only with the two original buildings and "cave" which constituted the original winery, an area of approximately 1.6 acres. Access to the site is gained from State Trunk Highway 188, which borders the west edge of the property ownership, via a private road leading to a visitors' parking area adjacent to an old, presently-unused, gravel pit. Visitors park their conveyances here and walk several hundred feet up the hill to the site.

"The Cave". Peter Kehl constructed a tunneled wine cellar into the hill in 1857. The cellar was an arched enclosure about 35 feet deep and 15 feet wide with limestone quarried from the hillside used for the barrel vault. During its first year of existence, the cellar served as Kehls' living quarters. Recently, a datestone for the vault was discovered by the current owners, and it bears the date, "1857". It was incorporated in new foundations for a chicken coop.

Kehl House. In 1858 the Kehls built a handsome and substantial limestone two-story house, with a one-and-one-half-story wing, on the site. The masonry is unusual in this "T"-plan house, employing squared, tooled blocks and rubble in the same wall planes. Overlaying all are tooled, raised mortar joints to emulate random ashlar construction by masking rubble construction, where used. Rusticated quoins are handsomely tooled, and a carved datestone is found on-center in the gable of the main facade. Most window openings have flat lintels, though segmental arches are found on those in the main facade and are flanked by ornamental brackets. Clearly laid up by an accomplished mason, the house is crowned by a fanlight framed by a massive, elaborately-carved decorative stone ornamented with grapes and vines. The house has seventeen rooms, nine of which were used as bedrooms, and a partial basement. Lean-to sheds have been added to the side and rear, and two dormers have been placed on the rear of the wing's roof.

Winery. This building was built starting in 1859 of large, more-or-less regular limestone blocks in the northwest wall, and rubble in the other walls. It is a large two-story building with a hipped roof and regular window openings with flat lintels. Large, central entrances with double doors on the northwest and northeast facades have a segmental arch with finely-cut voussoirs. There is a denticulated cornice and the corners have large cut-limestone quoins. The use of stone in the winery indicates it was probably laid by the same mason who built the house.

The cellar was built with three parallel stone barrel vaults joined by arched doorways. The roof is supported by two clear-span bolted wooden scissors trusses, located at the hipped roof's two apexes, which carry rafters and boards. In the second story, therefore, there are no interior vertical supports. The first story also is very open, but has posts to carry the floor beams above. Currently, the first floor is used as a wine museum and sales area, and the second floor is used for storage. Wine-making is carried on in the cellar.

Other Buildings. Two other buildings are located within the site. A barn was built late in the nineteenth century and additions have been built on to it. A chicken coop is of similar vintage and has been recently and heavily modernized for other uses. Neither of these buildings is held to be significant for purposes of this nomination. In front (northwest) of the barn are the remains of the foundations for a silo no longer in existence.

# 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1857; 1858; 1859-67

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Kehl Winery buildings are architecturally significant for their unusual masonry construction and historically significant as the representatives of an early Wisconsin industry.

The house is in a vernacular style which in the 1850's was found in southeastern Sauk and northwestern Dane counties. The walls are constructed of a combination of rubble and quarried blocks. Raised mortar joints conceal this unusual type of construction and create the effect of the random ashlar masonry that was developed in the nineteenth century by German masons working around Sauk City. The high level of craftsmanship of the walls extends to the tooled, rusticated quoins and the ornament in the gable.

The winery (1859-1867) is said by Richard W. E. Perrin to be "...a distinctly German building..."<sup>1</sup> and shows some Neo-Classical influences in the denticulated cornice. The coffered soffit and jambs on the main entrance are notable as fine examples of detailing.

The site has a long history as a winery. From 1847-1849 the property was owned by Agoston Haraszthy de Moksca (c. 1812-1869). Haraszthy immigrated to the United States from Hungary in 1840 and eventually founded the village of Haraszthy which since has become Sauk City. He is said to have owned a brickyard, store, and sawmill, planted the state's first hopyard, and begun the first ferry service across the Wisconsin River.<sup>2</sup> The area reminded him of the Rhine valley, and he experimented with viticulture using European vines. However, these vines were unable to withstand Wisconsin's winters, and after two disastrous seasons he moved to California where he was much more successful. By 1862 Haraszthy had imported 100,000 European vines to that state and had written his extensive book Grape Culture, Wines, and Wine Making. He is known as "the father of modern California viticulture."<sup>3</sup>

Peter Kehl (d. 1870) was the descendent of four generations of German wine-makers. He acquired the property in 1857 and built "The Cave" which served first as his home until the house was built in 1858 and later as a wine cellar. Kehl planted native American wines which could tolerate the winters, and he built a healthy business selling his wine to Catholic churches and Milwaukee hotels. After Kehl's death the business was operated by his son Peter, who began producing brandy. In 1899 a frost destroyed the vines and the winery was closed. A local brewery rented the wine cellars and for some time the second floor of the winery was used as a dance hall.

Wine-making was an industry that was encouraged throughout the United States in the nineteenth century by both federal and state governments. The earliest commercial wineries were in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana,<sup>4</sup> but by 1847 viticulture was begun in Nauvoo, Illinois, and it gradually developed into a major industry in the lower mid-west. The Kehl Winery is a rare example of this early phase of the wine industry in Wisconsin. Today it is in use as a producing winery, and it has the state's only commercial vineyard.<sup>5</sup>

(continued)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See attached sheet.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.6

UTM REFERENCES

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

B 

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 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Biruta Erdmann and Richard Cleary DATE August 20, 1975  
 ORGANIZATION State Historical Society of Wisconsin DATE 608/262-9504  
 STREET & NUMBER 816 State Street TELEPHONE  
 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 James Morton Smith  
 TITLE Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin DATE 10/14/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION <u>Ronald M. Greenleaf</u>	DATE <u>1/2/96</u>
ATTEST: <u>Actg</u> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE <u>12/31/75</u>

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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8. Significance (continued)

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Footnotes

<sup>1</sup>Perrin, Richard W. E., Historic Wisconsin Buildings. Milwaukee Public Museum, 1962. p. 81.

<sup>2</sup>Church, Charles F., "The Wollersheim Winery," Wisconsin Trails. Vol. 15, #3, p. 4.

<sup>3</sup>Adams, Leon D., The Wines of America. Houghton Mifflin. Boston. 1973. p. 185.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., p. 21.

<sup>5</sup>Church, op. cit., p. 4

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9. Major Bibliographical References (continued)

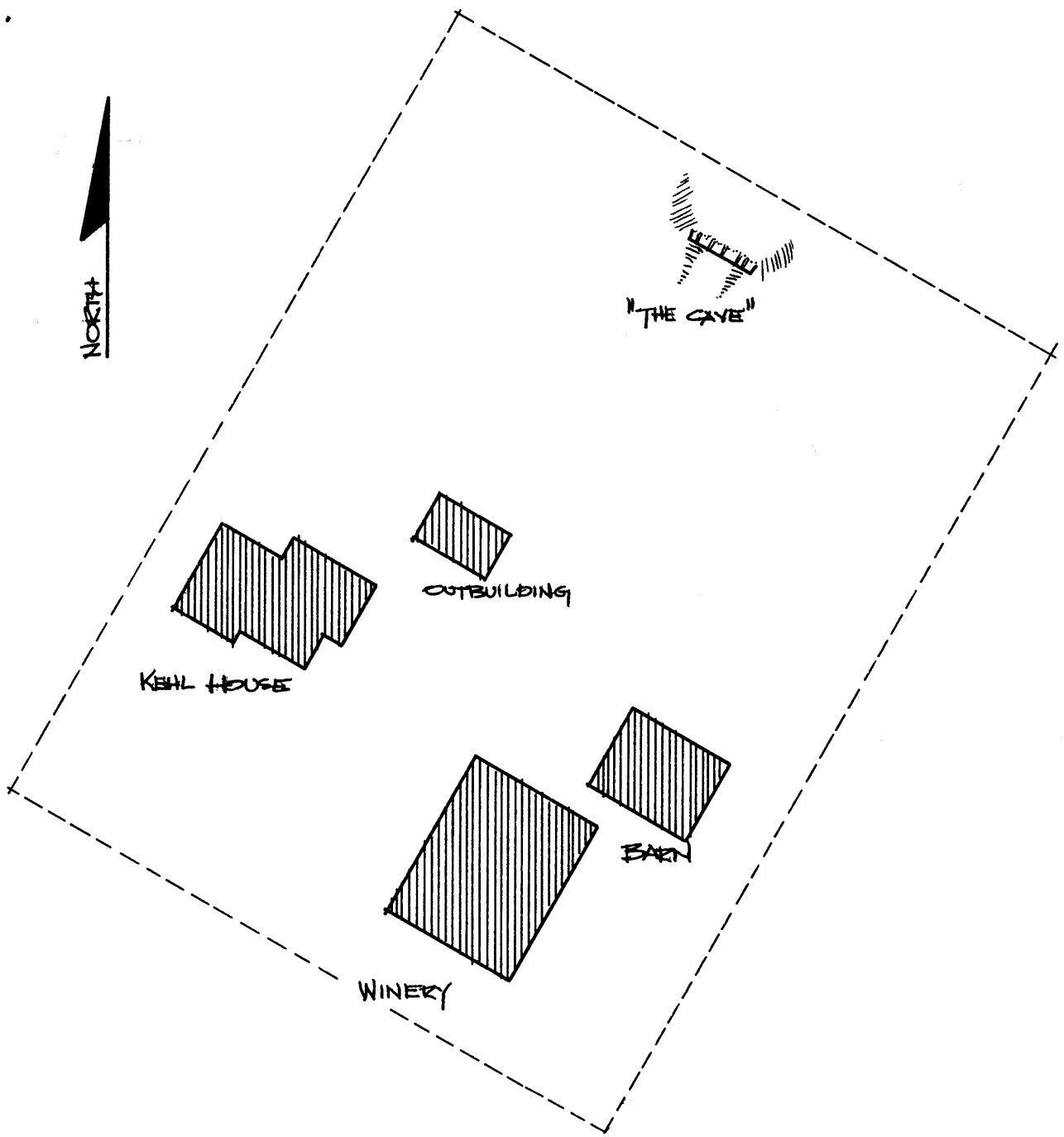
Adams, Leon D., The Wines of America. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. 1973.

Church, Charles F. "A Vintage Dream Comes True at the Wollersheim Winery,"  
Wisconsin Trails, Vol. 15, No. 3 (Autumn, 1974), pp. 4-6.

Perrin, Richard W. E. Historic Wisconsin Buildings: A Survey of Pioneer  
Architecture, 1835-1870. Milwaukee Public Museum Publications in History,  
#4, pp. 80-84.

\_\_\_\_\_. The Historic American Building Survey: Wisconsin  
Architecture. United States Department of the Interior, National Park  
Service, 1965, p. 25.

Dictionary of Wisconsin Biography. Madison: State Historical Society of  
Wisconsin, 1960, for Haraszthy see p. 158.



KEHL WINERY (WOLLERSHEIM WINERY)  
WISCONSIN

NO SCALE

J.M.D.