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Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property


historic name Downtown Plymouth Historic District
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number	Generally bounded by the 100, 200, 300, and 400 blocks of East Mill Street	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Plymouth	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county Sheboygan	code 117 zip code 53073

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _ nationally _ statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)


Signature of certifying official/Title
Date 5/10/16
State Historic Preservation Office - Wisconsin
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _ meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title
Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 ___ See continuation sheet. _____
 determined eligible for the
 National Register. _____
 ___ See continuation sheet. _____
 determined not eligible for the
 National Register. _____
 ___ See continuation sheet. _____
 removed from the National
 Register. _____
 other, (explain): _____

[Signature]
 Signature of the Keeper

6/23/16
 Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	building(s)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	46	4 buildings
public-State	structure	0	0 sites
public-Federal	site	0	0 structures
	object	0	0 objects
		46	4 total

Name of related multiple property listing:
 (Enter "N/A" if property not part of a multiple property listing.)
 N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
 1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
COMMERCE/business, financial institution, department store	COMMERCE/business, specialty store, restaurant
GOVERNMENT/post office	

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
Italianate	Foundation – Stone
Late 19 th and Early 20 th Century American Movements	Walls – Brick
Classical Revival	Roof – Asphalt
Modern Movement	Other - Iron

Narrative Description
 (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture (A)

Commerce (C)

Period of Significance

1858 to 1962

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hilpertshauser, Charles

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Name of Property

County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State Agency
 - Federal Agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository:
 Plymouth Historical Society
 Wisconsin Historical Society
 Sheboygan County Historical Research Center

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 8.00 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16N</u>	<u>421111</u>	<u>4844352</u>	3	<u>16N</u>	<u>421530</u>	<u>4844240</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>16N</u>	<u>421520</u>	<u>4844357</u>	4	<u>16N</u>	<u>421097</u>	<u>4844241</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Rowan Davidson & Jennifer L. Lehrke, Historic Preservation Consultants	date	February 28, 2015
organization	Legacy Architecture, Inc.	telephone	(920) 783-6303
street & number	605 Erie Avenue, Suite 101	zip code	53081
city or town	Sheboygan	state	WI

Name of Property

County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

- Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
- Photographs** Representative black and white photographs of the property.
- Additional Items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title	Various separate listing	date
organization		telephone
street & number		zip code
city or town	state	

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section 7 Page 1

Downtown Plymouth Historic District
Plymouth, Sheboygan County, WI

Narrative Description

The City of Plymouth is located in Sheboygan County in eastern Wisconsin. Downtown Plymouth is situated in the center of the community to the west and north of the Mullet River and extends along five blocks of E. Mill Street. The downtown is identifiable by the prevalence of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century commercial buildings arranged on deep lots facing E. Mill Street. The Downtown Plymouth Historic District consists of 51 such commercial buildings; its development began in the 1850s and continued for over a century. Representative of prevailing commercial architectural styles of the period, Italianate, Commercial Vernacular, German Renaissance Revival, Twentieth Century Commercial, and Contemporary styles are common and often demonstrate high levels of integrity and quality.

The majority of construction within the district took place during the historic periods of rapid economic development in Plymouth. The 1870s and 1880s saw the development of solid blocks of two- or more- story masonry storefront buildings with one to a lot. The early twentieth century was a period of civic improvement and was influenced by the rise of the automobile; the post-World War II period demonstrated a renewed interest in improvement, alteration, and revitalization, often replacing existing nineteenth century structures and finalizing the commercial district. In all of these periods, the district served as active civic and commercial core for the City of Plymouth. The result is Plymouth's most architecturally intact historic commercial area.

The Downtown Plymouth Historic District's resources consist primarily of two-story and three-story commercial storefront buildings along E. Mill Street. There is also some variety within this typology with the addition of manufacturing, livery buildings, and garages as well as a few office and civic functions. The district's 47 contributing and 4 non-contributing buildings were constructed between 1858 and 1962. The non-contributing resources lack architectural integrity or fall outside of the period of significance. One of the contributing resources, the Hotel Laack at 52 Stafford Street and constructed in 1892, is already listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is not extensively addressed in this nomination.

The contributing buildings are well constructed and reflect aspects of public and commercial life during the period of significance. The variety of styles, closely aligned with periods of construction, reflect the architectural trends of the era in which they were built. The commercial architecture displays variety within a clear set of constraints as the imposing array of uninterrupted blocks vary largely in their façades, decoration, and double or single block, or single and multiple lot formations. Most of the buildings are narrow and deep, typically 30 to 40 feet wide and 80 to 120 feet deep, with the first floor invariably commercial in use with storage below and upper levels originally serving as office space, flats, or communal meeting areas. Many of the buildings are utilitarian in their efficient

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use of space, materials, and decorative simplicity, though there are exceptions. Exterior alterations to the original buildings have been minimal and have generally been limited to window and door replacements in their original openings, additions, and occasional siding replacement or covering. Of the contributing buildings, they have good integrity except for the storefronts, which in many cases have been altered as is typical in commercial historic districts. However, the historic style of these buildings is still easily identifiable due to the high integrity of the rest of the façades. The buildings within the Downtown Plymouth Commercial District are well preserved and have much of the same appearance today as they did when originally constructed.

Building Descriptions

The following are brief descriptions of selected representative examples of the district's resources, in approximate chronological order. Styles are varied and include the Italianate, Classical Revival, German Renaissance Revival, and Commercial Vernacular; some buildings only have a few features that reference a particular style.

A.F. Laack Building

131-133 E. Mill Street

1875

The A.F. Laack Building is a two-story, brick, Italianate style, commercial block building constructed on a stone foundation with a basement level. It has a 40 foot front along the south side of E. Mill and is approximately 80 feet deep. The main façade is finished in cream brick while the rest of the building is of common brick construction. Historic photos reveal two iron and glass storefronts of equal proportions on the main (north-facing) façade, each with its own entrance. Presently, these storefronts have been removed and the rough openings are boarded up. The western half of the first floor has had the cream brick replaced with a light colored brick. The first floor is also approximately twenty feet in height. A narrow band, stretching across the façade, features a line of brick dentils and a simple band of stone marking the transition to the second floor. There is a row of seven equally spaced, tall, arched window openings on the second floor; the sash is missing. Each window opening has a stone sill and Romanesque half-circle arches with emphasized bases and keystones constructed of cream brick. Directly above each window opening is a blanked round arch detail in brick matching the hoods of the windows below. Above these seven brick arched details is a large parapet cornice extending from the roof line. Constructed of metal, this cornice is symmetrical with three bays, each supported by large classical brackets. The two flanking bays have large modillions spaced equally, and the center bay is capped with a pedimented gable and a finial at the top. Ghost signage reading 'A.F. Laack' and '1875' is visible on the face of the entablature. Hints of classical influence are present in the tall gabled parapet including dentils, swag ornament and the triangular pediment. (refer to Photo #1).

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Born in 1818, August F. Laack immigrated to the United States in 1847 and settled in the Town of Greenbush, not far from Plymouth. He later moved to Plymouth and opened a hotel at the eastern end of E. Mill Street and constructed a wood frame hardware store nearby in 1866. In 1875, Laack had a general mercantile and hardware store constructed at 131-133 E. Mill Street (the subject building) and converted the wood frame building into the Plymouth Marble Works. The subject building, also referred to as the 'old' Laack building, was designed by Sheboygan architect and builder Charles Hilpertshauer and constructed by local Plymouth masons Rattsburg and Wendt. Though Laack senior retired to manage a fruit farm in Sheboygan County in 1871, he still maintained his business interests in Plymouth with the intention of handing them over to his son, Henry C. Laack, and financed many of his son's earlier projects in the 1870s and 1880s. A.F. Laack also founded the Plymouth Marble Works, which supplied the various Laack family buildings and numerous other commercial buildings in Plymouth with stone. A.F. Laack died in 1887 and the building was inherited and operated by his son, H.C. Laack. In 1895, the A.F. Laack building and hardware store was sold to William Towbridge, who operated it as a hardware store through the 1910s.¹

W. Sebald Building

420-422 E. Mill Street

1876

The Sebald building is a commercial block building constructed of cream brick on a stone foundation with a complete basement level. The main façade faces the street to the south while the other two façades (side and rear) of the rectangular building are relatively plain, constructed of common brick and having few windows. (The other side is not visible as it is obscured by the adjacent building.) The fenestration on these sides consist of tall, wood, double-hung windows on stone sills with low, brick, arched lintels on both the first and second floors. The first floor of the main façade sits on stone trim and is asymmetrical reflecting the different storefronts and different original uses on the interior. Recessed at the center of the façade, is a large primary entrance having tall double doors of wood with two large plate glass transom windows above. Adjacent to this primary entrance and to the west is a storefront; the storefront is composed of two display windows with an additional door centered between them. There is a projecting cornice ornamented with dentils and brackets which visually unifies the primary entrance and the adjacent storefront system. To the east of the primary entrance are two tall windows divided into two equal lights on the bottom and an arched window above. These tall and narrow Italianate style windows are centered symmetrically along the brick wall, have stone sills, and projecting, segmentally arched window hoods. The second floor of the façade is symmetrical. There are five, tall, double-hung windows spaced equally across the façade, and each has a stone sill and a projecting segmentally arched window hood above. There are shallow rectangular shaped recessed brick details above each window. The main façade is capped with a brick cornice of two

¹ Hildebrand, Janice. *The Heart of Sheboygan County*. Dallas, TX: Curtis Media Corporation, 1992, page 142; & General Files, on record at the Plymouth Historical Society and the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center.

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Downtown Plymouth Historic District
Plymouth, Sheboygan County, WI

series of brick dentils supporting a narrow stone band. The building has a low sloped roof and a stepped parapet wall on each side along with four large brick chimneys (refer to Photo #12).

In 1876, William Sebald purchased the lot at 420-422 E. Mill Street and constructed a two-story, cream brick commercial block for use as his grocery business and liquor store. Sebald's liquor store also operated as a tavern. The Sebald family lived in an apartment on the upper floor. The western half of the block was leased to a number of other businesses including the Plymouth Reporter newspaper. The building is presently occupied by the Plymouth Historical Society.²

Odd Fellows Building

427-431 E. Mill Street

1877

The Odd Fellows Building is a three story brick commercial block constructed on a stone foundation with a basement. Like many of the other commercial storefront buildings this one also features one decorative façade facing the street to the north, and exhibiting some Italianate stylistic references, while the other three sides are constructed of common brick, little fenestration, and without much architectural detail. The first floor storefront along the main (north facing) façade has been replaced; however, the current storefront dates from the early twentieth century with plate glass, a low wall of painted concrete and prism glass transom windows. Above the transom windows is a wide cornice band of brick. A continuous stone sill separates the first and second floors. The upper two floors of the building are arranged into three distinct bays divided by brick pilasters with quoins and capped with modified Corinthian stone capitals. The center bay is the largest with three windows, equally spaced within the bay, centered symmetrically. The tall, double-hung windows have a shared stone sill and segmental brick arches above. The same fenestration pattern and materials are repeated on the third floor. The two smaller side bays are symmetrical as well and have only a pair of aligned windows on the second and third floors, identical to those in the central bay. The bays are topped with a pedimented cornice supported by the four brick pilasters. Under the cornice in the central bay are two stone inserts in the brick with the letters 'Odd Fellows Block,' and '1877.' The parapet is covered with a deep cornice which rises to become a triangle above the center bay. The building has a low sloped flat roof behind the parapet wall (refer to Photo #13).

Constructed in 1877 by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows for use as a meeting hall, the three story cream brick commercial block was also occupied by a number of first floor business tenants. In the 1910s Emmet Mill and Ed Walters operated the first car dealership in Plymouth from this location and in 1925 sold the business to H.W. Motor Sales of Plymouth, which opened a showroom in the first

² *The Hub City Chronicle, Newsletter of the Plymouth Historical Society*. Plymouth, WI: Plymouth Historical Society, summer 2006; & General Files; & *Historic Plymouth Walking Tour*. Plymouth, WI: Sheboygan County Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Plymouth Historical Society, 1992, page 2.

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Downtown Plymouth Historic District
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floor commercial space and operated a garage in the rear.³

H.W. Fischer Building

215 E. Mill Street

1882 and c1900

The Fischer building is a two-story, cream brick, commercial block with a stone foundation and a basement. The building currently has one address and a unifying storefront but was constructed at two separate buildings. That these buildings were constructed separately is evident in the upper stories. The buildings have distinct, and an interior firewall. The primary (street) façade faces north. The remaining three sides are of common brick, few windows, and no significant architectural details. The first floor of the primary façade has been significantly altered though it still maintains two distinct storefronts. These storefronts feature low red brick walls, metal framed windows, and recessed entries. There is wood banding with a dentil detail spanning the entire façade and serving as a transition to the cream brick second floor. The façade to the west is the older of the two buildings, constructed in 1882 as a shoe store. This half of the façade is significantly shorter than the eastern one, and it is clear that the interior floors are set at a different height as well. The second floor of this façade has three identical arched windows spaced symmetrically on the cream brick wall. Each window is tall and narrow with a stone sill and is topped with a brick Romanesque arch. The painted wood cornice spans between two large brackets at each end. At the center, steeply pitched raked cornices create a gable which has returned eaves underneath. The building to the east was constructed between 1887 and 1910 as a hardware store. This eastern façade has four windows, equally spaced and divided into two bays. These windows are replacement windows and are tall and narrow in keeping with the Italianate style design. They sit on a stone sill that spans the eastern half of the façade and are surrounded by short brick pilasters that terminate in Doric capitals, a line of rosettes, and brick Romanesque arches. The bays are divided by three taller brick pilasters that terminate in Ionic capitals below the cornice. The projecting cornice is of wood with regularly spaced modillions. The side walls of the buildings have stepped parapets and a dividing parapet between the two halves (refer to Photo #3).

H.W. Fischer established himself as a successful cobbler in Plymouth by 1876 and had a brick commercial block constructed at 215 E. Mill Street in 1882 for use as his shoe store. The store occupied the space until the early twentieth century. In 1914, another prominent Plymouth business, the Bade Drug Store, opened in this location.⁴

³ Hildebrand, Janice. *The Heart of Sheboygan County*, page 144; & General Files.

⁴ Plymouth Historical Society and Sheboygan County Historical Research Center. *Plymouth, Images of America*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia publishing, 2006, page 42; & General Files.

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A.H. Schram Building

410-412 E. Mill Street

1889

The Schram building is two story cream brick commercial block with a stone foundation and a basement. Like many of the other commercial buildings in the district, only its main (south facing) façade has significant architectural detail referencing the Italianate style, while the rest of the building is utilitarian in design. The Schram building is also clearly divided into two sections along its main façade. The first floor of this façade has been altered and presently consists of two similar storefronts, each with three large plate glass windows, two entries with metal frame doors at the eastern end of each storefront, and painted wood and board siding. The first floor storefront is covered with a large shingled pent roof. Above this eave is a series of rectangular brick patterns in the original façade. The western half of the façade has three bays divided by brick pilasters. The central bay is the widest and has four double-hung windows in wood frames in a band on a single stone sill. Within the same wood frame is a transom having patterned glass tile. There is narrow stone lintel and above it a terra cotta pattern in a frieze. On either side of the central bay are two identical smaller bays flanked by brick pilasters. These bays have paired double-hung windows in a wood frame and a similar glass tile transom and terra cotta detail above. Each pilaster on the western half of the façade terminates in a large bracket which by extending to the roof line becomes part of the cornice ornament. The cornice is richly ornamented with modillions, rosettes, and other classically inspired motifs. This elaborate painted cornice has brackets and florets within each bay and pyramidal caps extending from the brackets. The cornice of the central bay rises to a gable and is elaborately ornamented with a semi-circular, stylized sunburst motif and other decoration. The eastern half of the façade also has three bays divided by brick pilasters at the second floor, but despite using similar materials and details appears as a separate building altogether. The central bay is the widest and has two, paired, double-hung windows in wood frames on a single stone sill. Similar to the western façade, this window also has a transom of glass tile and a terra cotta pattern above that, although this terra cotta pattern is plainly geometric and different from the one on the western façade. On either side of the central bay are two identical smaller bays also flanked by brick pilasters. These bays have paired double-hung windows in a wood frame, a similar glass tile transom and terra cotta details above. Each pilaster terminates in a large bracket which is part of the wood and metal cornice above. This elaborate painted cornice has spaced brackets and darts within each bay and small curved and raised caps extending above the brackets. Unlike the western side of the façade this portion has no ornament above the cornice line (refer to Photo #10).

Albert H. Schram was born in Milwaukee in 1854 and moved to Plymouth in 1875 as a young man working as a carpenter. Schram had a two story brick commercial block constructed at 410-412 E. Mill Street in 1889 for use as a funeral and furniture store. The building was possibly designed by Sheboygan architect and builder Charles Hilpertshausser. The location was also operated as the manufacturing location for wooden furniture and coffins, and a significant addition was constructed in

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1893 as the business expanded. Schram was a successful local business leader and served as the city fire chief for seven years and was twice elected as Mayor of Plymouth in 1899 and again in 1901 for two successive terms. He was a popular and influential mayor overseeing the introduction of electricity and a water works to the City of Plymouth. Subsequently, the Tohl Variety Store and a bowling alley were operated at this location in the early and mid-twentieth century. The A.H. Schram Building has been designated a local landmark by the City of Plymouth.⁵

City Hotel

207 E. Mill Street

1892

The City Hotel building is a cream brick, two-story commercial block with its primary façade facing the street to the north. The building is constructed on a stone foundation with a basement on a low slope that exposes lower level fenestration along the southern and western façades. These secondary façades lack architectural detail and have only a few double hung wood windows with stone sills and shallow arched brick hoods. The northwest corner of the building is chamfered at forty five degrees to make a double door entry on the first floor. This metal door and frame and opening have been replaced. Along the rest of the north façade is a series of five equally spaced large plate glass windows set in an iron and painted wood frame. This nineteenth century storefront extends up approximately twelve feet from the foundation to a painted wood lintel spanning the length of the north façade. The second floor has a large corner oriel round tower extending out directly over the corner entrance below. This wood tower has four double-hung windows and terminates in a projecting wood cornice. The rest of the second floor façade is a symmetrical cream brick wall with three equally spaced windows. The two identical windows on either end are paired double-hung windows set on stone sills and have shallow curved brick hoods. The central window is a single, double-hung window that matches the others. There is also a continuation of the painted wood cornice featuring small brackets and dots. Some of these features reference the Italianate style. The cornice is set a few feet below the top of the brick parapet wall. The building has a low sloped flat roof (refer to Photo #2).

Originally constructed in 1892 as a tavern and hotel, the City Hotel building at 207 E. Mill Street is most commonly known as the location of the Reinhold and Meyer Manufacturing Company, which was established in 1903 and produced equipment and supplies for the expanding local cheese industry.⁶

⁵ *The Hub City Chronicle*, fall 2008; & Plymouth Historical Society. *Plymouth, Images of America*, page 44.

⁶ Plymouth Historical Society. *Plymouth, Images of America*, page 45.

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Radloff Building

402-404 E. Mill Street

1894

The Radloff building is a three-story, cream brick corner commercial block building constructed on a stone foundation with a basement. Both the southern and western façades, facing the streets, are decorative and exhibit some features of the Italianate style; while the rear of the building, along the northern and eastern façades, are utilitarian in design and lacks much detail, fenestration, and are constructed with common brick. The southwest corner of the building is chamfered at a forty five degree angle and features the main entry, raised up by three steps, at the first floor. This wood door, recessed slightly from the brick façade, is surrounded by narrow lights and has a shallow brick arch above. The south façade, adjacent to the entry, consists of two distinct storefronts. The western storefront has a pair of large plate glass windows set in decorative wooden frames on paneled low walls. To the east of these windows is another recessed wood framed door entry, similar to the one at the corner, with side lights, a pair of steps, and a shallow brick arch above. The next storefront to the east is a symmetrical arrangement of plate glass windows in wood frames on paneled low walls flanking a recessed wood storefront entry with a central door and windows on all sides of the recessed entry. Both storefronts are capped with a painted wood cornice terminating at each end of the façade with a large scrolled bracket. A similar wood storefront and a single plate glass window is adjacent to the entry along the first floor of the western façade. The rest of the western façade along the first floor is a plain cream city brick wall with two windows towards the north end and a small recessed metal door at the far north end. The upper two floors are divided into vertical bays. The narrow corner entry wall is flanked by two brick pilasters on either side extending up to capitals supporting a denticulated garland frieze set along the cornice. There is a double-hung window on the second floor with a stone sill and stone lintel. The window above on the third floor is a similar double-hung window, but is hooded with a brick segmental arch. Between the windows on the second and third floors is an inserted decorative rectangular and diamond shaped panel. The south facing façade has a central bay of three centered windows on both floors in a similar configuration to the corner entry façade. The second floor windows have a stone lintel, while the third floor windows have an arched lintel. This pattern continues for all of the fenestration on the upper floors of the building. The central bay is flanked by a set of two windows to the east and a single window on both floors to the west adjacent to the corner entry façade. The bays are divided by brick pilasters similar to those found at the edges of the corner entry wall. The western façade is similar to the southern façade with the same windows and brick detailing. The southern edge of the western wall adjacent to the corner entry wall has a bay with only one window on each floor divided from the rest of the façade by another brick pilaster extending up to the cornice above. There are no more pilasters along the rest of the western façade with four pairs of double-hung windows centered along the façade on both the second and third floors. There are no inserted decorative panels and no garlanded cornice along the western façade between the fenestration except for in the narrow first bay adjacent to the corner entry. The wood cornice terminates at a brick parapet wall and has a decorated pediment set above the central bay of the

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southern façade and a large extending decorative feature over the corner entry wall. This feature has an arched pediment top and has the large numbers '1894' inscribed on it. The building has a low sloped flat roof (refer to Photo #8).

Franz Radloff, a Plymouth developer and speculator, had the large, three-story brick business block constructed at 402-404 E. Mill Street in 1894. Designed by the Sheboygan architect Charles Hilpertshauer, the building has had many tenants during its history including many professionals in the upper two office floors. The Radloff Building was one of the first in Plymouth to feature electric lighting, and its first tenant was the Gaffron and Leifer Company, a successful clothier.⁷

Huson Brothers Building

300-302 E. Mill Street

1895

The Huson Brothers building is a two-story commercial red brick building with a stone foundation and a basement. The building, located on a street corner, has two primary façades facing south and west, and two secondary façades that are utilitarian and lack much architectural detail or fenestration. Both the southern and western façades are similar to one another and have some features of the Classical Revival style. Most of the first floor façade has recently been remodeled, though it maintains the locations of the entries and windows. The southwest corner, facing the intersection of the two streets, has a deeply recessed entry with stepped opening along each façade. The southern façade has an arched recessed opening at the eastern end and three sets of windows on a low wall. Each set is divided into a bay by a pilaster extending up to just short of a shallow cornice that extends the length of the southern and western façades. The western façade is similar with pilasters dividing the façade into approximately equal bays. The bay closest to the corner entry has a window similar to those found on the southern façade and there is a small window at the northern end of the western façade. All of the windows and doors along the first floor are set in metal frames. The second floor has the original red brick exposed and is divided into approximately equal bays by brick pilasters. The pilasters of the first and second floors do not align. These brick pilasters terminate in Corinthian capitals supporting a recently added cornice. There are four equal bays along the southern façade, each one with a centered pair of double-hung windows, each window sits on a separate stone sill and has a shallow arched brick lintel. Along the western façade the spacing of the pilasters and fenestration is less regular, with the windows, identical to those on the south façade, sometimes paired and sometimes individual, but always centered between pilasters. The second bay from the southern end of the façade is the largest of five. Approximately two feet above the added cornice is a brick parapet (refer to Photo #6).

⁷ *Historic Plymouth Walking Tour*, page 2; & Plymouth Historical Society. *Plymouth, Images of America*, page 41; & General Files.

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George C. Huson and Gilbert L. Huson, the two sons of prominent Plymouth businessman and Mayor Henry H. Huson, continued the family dry goods businesses and expanded in 1895 when they constructed a two-story brick business block at the northeast corner of E. Mill Street and Stafford Street. The two brothers would partner with J.H. Timm shortly thereafter and renamed the company the Huson Brothers and Timm Company, dealing in farm supplies and agricultural equipment. The second floor was occupied by professional offices. The building was later the home of the Dairy State Bank and then the First National Bank during the second half of the twentieth century.⁸

Exchange Building

301-307 E. Mill Street

1905

The Exchange building is one of the largest commercial buildings in downtown Plymouth and is a three-story building constructed on a concrete and stone foundation with a basement. The first floor is constructed of stone while the upper two levels are of red brick. The two main façades, facing E. Mill Street and Stafford Street, have most of the architectural detail and exhibit features of the Classical Revival style while the rear of the building, facing the east and the south are relatively unadorned and are of common brick construction. The western façade has a covered pedimented entry at the northwest corner with a raised portico entry in stone. There is another, slightly smaller entry in the center of the façade. Between the two entries is a series of four large windows, recessed slightly in the finished stone wall. These large plate glass windows have a pair of smaller windows framed immediately above them. To the south of the central entry are four more identical windows with a smaller door centered along this section. This entry is not raised and lacks a portico. As the street slopes slightly along this western façade, a few small window to the basement are located below each larger one above. The appearance of the north façade is similar to the western one with a larger portico and pediment covering a raised entry at the northwest corner of the building. Two identical windows are set in the stone façade to the east of the entry. The remainder of the first floor façade on the north is altered however, and has been filled in with a replacement storefront of plate glass and metal framed doors and windows set on a brick low wall. The second and third level are almost identical on both the northern and western façades with double hung windows resting on a narrow stone band serving as a sill. This band is the termination of the stone façade below. The northwest corner of the building has a projection with a symmetrical set of three windows at each floor. These windows have an articulated stone lintel and are flanked at the ends of the projection with brick pilasters. On the third level there are smaller brick pilasters between the windows too. On the western façade there is only one bay with one window on this shallow bump out. The rest of both floors on both façades feature pairs of double hung windows spaced equally between brick pilasters. There are five such bays on the northern façade and nine on the western façade. The pilasters terminate with stone Doric capitals aligned with the lintels of the third floor windows. Above this is stone banding wrapping around the building. The

⁸ *The Hub City Chronicle*, August 2010 & February 2014; & General Files.

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third level terminates in a deep overhanging terra cotta cornice on the northern and western façades. This cornice is supported by a brick parapet wall which is visible along the eastern and southern façades. The building has flat roof and a single large brick chimney (refer to Photo #7).

The Plymouth Exchange Bank was established in 1896 and had a location along Division Street; however, the bank grew rapidly and constructed a three-story large brick commercial block located at the southeast corner of E. Mill Street and Stafford Street in 1905. The first floor contained the bank and the Huson-Ziegler Dry Goods and Grocery Company. The second floor was devoted to office space, and the third floor had a large ballroom and meeting rooms for various Plymouth social organizations. The Exchange Bank failed in 1929 and was replaced with the State Bank of Plymouth in the same location. The Exchange building was also the home of the Wisconsin Cheese Exchange, located in Plymouth because of its importance to the cheese-making industry, from 1936 to 1957.⁹

H.C. Laack Block

225-227 E. Mill Street

1889, 1898

The H.C. Laack Block is large, corner, two-story commercial block in the German Renaissance Revival style, constructed on a stone foundation with a basement. Much of the building is constructed with intricate, and sometimes painted, cream brick on the northern and eastern façades while the rear southern and western façades either abut neighboring commercial buildings or are constructed with common brick. Much of the first floor on the two main façades has been significantly altered and now consists of a dark brick wall with occasional deeply recessed metal storefront entries and tall plate glass windows. One portion along the eastern façade has not been changed however, and this section reveals brick pilasters dividing detailed brick designs along a blank wall with a stone band running along the top of the lower floor section. There are also filled in small arched brick openings present at this location and a filled in brick entry with a shallow brick arch supporting a shallow gable end. The second floor has not been altered significantly and consists of cream brick bays divided equally by the extension of brick pilasters and the stepped bases of chimneys above. The prominent northeast corner of the building is angled at forty-five degrees to the intersecting streets. This angled section has a single window above resting on a stone pediment and painted sill that serves as the base for all of the fenestration on the second floor. This window is capped with an arched transom of glazed tile and art glass. The eastern façade is approximately symmetrical with a central bay of three double-hung windows centered in the bay. Each window has a small transom of glazed tile and art glass. The central bay is flanked by two equally sized bays, each with three more identical windows. On each side of these bays is a heavy chimney. To the south end are two more windows at the end of the building, and at the north end is a single window adjacent to the angled corner. The north façade has a

⁹ Ziller, Carl, Ed. *History of Sheboygan County, Past and Present, Vol. 1*, page 234; & Plymouth Historical Society. *Plymouth, Images of America*, page 45; & General Files; & *Historic Plymouth Walking Tour*, page 2.

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narrower central bay with a pair of double-hung windows with an arched transom of glazed tile and art glass. On each side of this central bay are two equally sized bays, each with two more identical double-hung windows with decorative transoms. The western end of the building is a large addition, constructed nearly ten years later, but designed to match the architecture of the commercial block. This addition has its own central bay with a pair of double hung windows and an arched transom to match elsewhere. This central bay is flanked by two equal and narrow bays with one double hung window and transom each. The building terminates with a complex and varying brick parapet wall featuring stepped and triangular elements capping the main entries, the corner, the chimneys, and the central bays. Brick corbelling is present at all of these locations, and the chimneys extend far above the parapet wall with stepped brick work and curved brackets. The main angled northeast corner has a stepped roof line with the date '1889' inscribed above a shallow brick arch, all of which is painted. This pointed roof element is capped with a sculpture of a mortar and pestle, indicating the presence of a drug store. On each main façade the central bay has a painted triangular parapet with stone caps and the words 'H.C. Laack Block' written prominently. The western addition, designed to match has the date '1898' written on the stepped roof line at the central bay. This complex parapet wall is arranged in bays with heavy brackets and stylized modillions of corbelled brick. The overall effect of the design is likely intended to refer to the medieval and renaissance architecture of the towns of central and northern Europe (refer to Photo #4).

Henry C. Laack was born in 1850 in Greenbush, not far from Plymouth. His father was the successful local businessman August F. Laack, who sent Henry to Chicago to apprentice as a tinsmith at the age of fourteen. When he returned to Plymouth in 1870, he worked for his father. He inherited the family business in the 1870 and expanded it from hardware to dry goods and a grocery. H.C. Laack constructed a large, two-story brick business block at the southwest corner of E. Mill Street and Stafford Street in 1889. The 52 feet by 108 feet building was estimated to cost more than \$10,000 at the time and included three business tenants, a basement, offices, and a hotel. The brick used in the construction of the Laack Block and the other Laack buildings came from the brickyard of Otto Krauss south of the city. The Krauss brickyard supplied much of the cream brick for the City of Plymouth. H.J. Goetzler established a general store along E. Mill Street in 1887 and moved his business into the western side of the Laack Block when it was completed. The Goetzler Store was a successful and long-lasting tenant. Other early tenants included the Kaiser Saloon in the basement, the C.A. Faber Pharmacy, and the Ackerman Drug Store. The neighboring Laack Hotel, was also constructed by H.C. Laack in 1892 as an extension of the Laack Block, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. At one time the Laack family owned five separate commercial buildings along E. Mill Street. H.C. Laack died unexpectedly in 1895, and his wife, Mary, took over the family business. She managed the business well and expanded many of the buildings owned by the family. Electric lights and telephone service were installed in the Laack Block and the neighboring hotel in 1897. H.J. Goetzler encouraged Mary Laack to expand the business block to the west, and a significant addition, measuring 32 feet by

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100 feet, was constructed in 1898. A large fire destroyed much of the interior in 1902, and Mary Laack died the same year at the age of 45. The business was then passed on to the estate of their young children.¹⁰

Dahl Brothers Garage

411-415 E. Mill Street

1920

The Dahl Brothers Garage building is arranged as a traditional commercial block with main north facing façade expressing most of the German Renaissance Revival style architectural detail. The red brick building sits on a concrete foundation with a basement, and the other three sides are constructed of common brick. The first floor of the main façade is similar to its original design with two metal doors with large transom windows above at each end. A row of stone flanks each door opening, and the doorways are surrounded by narrow stone bands including the lintel. Four similar horizontal stone bands continue across the entire first floor façade, interrupted by the fenestration. There is a central metal double door opening recessed from the façade with large plate glass windows set in metal frames on each side. Divided by pilasters of red brick with the same stone banding as elsewhere is another set of large plate glass windows on a low wall of brick and stone. These second sets of windows and low walls were once garage door openings leading to the street. The second floor façade is clearly divided by a large painted wood entablature with no markings. The upper portion of this makes the sills of the upper floor's windows and bays. There is a single double-hung window, with six-over-nine lights, at each end of the upper floor. These window are surrounded by stone trim and lintels. A similar pair of these double-hung windows is banded in the center of the façade with the same type of stone surround. In between the double-hung windows are two large bays featuring four fixed windows with four-over-six lights. Each bay is capped with a large painted wood entablature and cornice. The parapet wall above is capped with a thin band of stone. There are occasional indents in the parapet for drainage. Curved peaks sit directly above each bay with a stone detail set in the center of the brick. The entire façade, at both levels, is precisely symmetrical. Dutch gable ends are visible above the parapet wall at each end of the side gable which is also visible from the north facing main façade (refer to Photo #11).

The Dahl Brothers Garage was constructed in 1920 at 411-415 E. Mill Street and was one of a few car dealerships and repair garages along E. Mill Street that began to appear in the 1910s and 1920s with the growing popularity of the automobile. The Dahl Brothers Garage did not last long however, and was sold to the Schibilsky family in 1923, who operated a Ford dealership from the same location. In 1936, Schibilsky Ford was replaced with the Plymouth Theater, which remained open until 1979.¹¹

¹⁰ *The Hub City Chronicle*, February 2014; & *Historical Atlas of Sheboygan County, Wisconsin*. Sheboygan, WI: Joerns Brothers, 1902; & General Files; & *Historic Plymouth Walking Tour*, page 2; & Plymouth Historical Society. *Plymouth, Images of America*, page 51.

¹¹ Plymouth Historical Society. *Plymouth, Images of America*, page 50.

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Crystal-Majestic Theater Building **406-408 E. Mill Street** **1910**

The Crystal-Majestic Theater Building is a two-story commercial vernacular block building constructed between two pre-existing brick buildings. The red brick structure sits on a concrete foundation, and the first floor of the main south facing façade has been completely altered from its original appearance. Presently, the first floor has two pairs of clerestory windows over boarded openings with two metal doorways at the north end of the stone veneer façade. When the building was constructed the first floor had a set of four large doors set under a large theater marquee. The area where the marquee once hung is also covered with diagonal painted wood boards. The second floor, however, maintains its integrity and has a cut stone band across the façade that doubles as the sill for two pairs of large, double-hung wood windows, equally spaced and centered on the second floor of the façade. Above these is another stone band across the façade and small diamond stone details inlaid at the corners of the brick façade. Centered at the top of the second floor is a round oriel window with a brick surround flanked by two more small diamond stone details. The parapet is capped with a narrow stone cap and the center is raised in a large shallow arch with broad square stone dentils spaced equally. The ends of this arch form shallow brick pilasters that continue down to the stone band below (refer to Photo #9).

The Crystal Theater Building was constructed at 406-408 E. Mill Street in 1910 by H.E. Genske. Built between two neighboring large brick commercial blocks, the theater and the offices above were constructed with no party walls and featured narrow opera style seating, vaudeville acts, and alcoves on each side for lectures and musical performances. The Theater was later converted into a movie theater, though it maintained its stage. By the 1940s the business had been renamed the Majestic Theater.¹²

Plymouth Post Office (#2) **40 Stafford Street** **1926**

The second Plymouth Post Office is constructed on an unusual polygonal plan with most of the building efficiently filling its rectangular site, but with the main east façade facing at an angle perpendicular to the street. The red brick building is constructed on a concrete foundation with a basement level. The first floor of the main façade has a single door entry with a transom window above at the north end presumably leading to an interior stairwell. Next to this is a double-door entry with a large arched transom above. This door opening matched the subsequent three larger window

¹² Plymouth Historical Society. *Plymouth, Images of America*, page 49; & *the Hub City Chronicle*, April 2013; & General Files.

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openings, each with a brick arch transom above featuring stone caps and keystones. These three windows are spaced equally apart, along with the double-door entry, and sit on a foot off the ground with a continuous stone sill. The four arches are centered on the angled eastern façade. On the façade at the second floor are four rectangular double-hung windows spaced equally directly over the arches. Each one has a simple stone sill and a brick soldier course lintel. At each end of the second floor façade is a round oriel window with brick and stone surrounds. Above the fenestration is a narrow stone cornice approximately four feet below the parapet wall. The parapet has a narrow stone band featuring a raised scroll and urn detail at the center of the eastern façade. The south façade, facing the Mullet River, features many of the same design details. Another matching large arched window opening is at the eastern end of the façade with the rest of the fenestration matching the double hung windows found on the second floor. The northern and western façades are sparser with fewer double-hung window and few brick details. There are a few loading dock openings in the rear western façade along the first floor (refer to Photo #5).

The second federal post office constructed in the City of Plymouth, the Plymouth Post Office was constructed in 1926 adjacent to the Mullet River along Stafford Street just south of the main intersection of E. Mill Street and Stafford Street that served as the center of the commercial part of the city. This post office is significantly larger than its predecessor and had large doors in its rear for the loading and unloading of mail. It was later occupied by office space, and notably by the office of Dr. Brikbauer for much of the twentieth century as well as an American Legion post.¹³

Building Inventory

The following inventory lists every building in the district and includes the address of the property; the historic name; the date or circa date of construction; the resource's contributing (C), non-contributing (NC), or previously listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) class; and architectural style of the building.

<u>Address</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Style</u>
115 Division Street	Plymouth Steam Foundry	1894	C	Italianate
117 Division Street	Building	1949	C	20th Century Commercial
31 E. Mill Street	Plymouth Printing Company	1914	C	Italianate
101-105 E. Mill Street	Burkhardt Tavern & Bowling Alley	1941	C	20th Century Commercial
109 E. Mill Street	Hein Buick Garage	1926	C	20th Century Commercial
109 E. Mill Street	Building	1910	C	Commercial Vernacular

¹³ General Files.

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110 E. Mill Street	Becker Blacksmith Shop	1904	C	Front Gabled
113 E. Mill Street	Holzschuh & Ecke Livery Stable	1892	C	Contemporary
114 E. Mill Street	Hecker Brothers Marble Works	1916	C	Commercial Vernacular
116 E. Mill Street	C. Muth Veterinarian Office	1921	C	Commercial Vernacular
120 E. Mill Street	S. Vahldieck Building	1905	C	20th Century Commercial
123-125 E. Mill Street	Burkhardt Saloon	1896	C	Front Gabled
126 E. Mill Street	B.A. Gaffron Building	1916	C	Commercial Vernacular
127 E. Mill Street	Hecker - Empire Building	1895	C	Italianate
131-133 E. Mill Street	A.F. Laack Building	1875	C	Italianate
201 E. Mill Street	H.C. Laack Building	1895	C	Commercial Vernacular
207 E. Mill Street	City Hotel	1892	C	Italianate
208 E. Mill Street	Lindow's Photography Studio	1962	C	Contemporary
210 E. Mill Street	Bar-B-Que Restaurant	1962	C	Contemporary
214 E. Mill Street	Thorpe Finance Corporation	1959	C	Contemporary
215 E. Mill Street	H.W. Fischer Building	1882	C	Italianate
216 E. Mill Street	Karpe Building	1874	C	Front Gabled
217 E. Mill Street	Nesemann Jewelry Store	1961	C	Contemporary
218-220 E. Mill Street	Wisconsin Power & Light Building	1893	C	Commercial Vernacular
222 E. Mill Street	L.J. Kaestner Building	1928	C	Commercial Vernacular
224-228 E. Mill Street	Central House Hotel	1858	C	Italianate
225-227 E. Mill Street	H.C. Laack Block	1889	C	German Renaissance Revival
300-302 E. Mill Street	Huson Brothers Building	1895	C	Classical Revival
301-307 E. Mill Street	Exchange Building	1905	C	Classical Revival
315 E. Mill Street	Plymouth Savings and Loan Building	1973	NC	Contemporary
317-321 E. Mill Street	Plymouth Cigar Factory	1899	C	Italianate
401 E. Mill Street	P.M. Wolf Building	1878	C	Front Gabled
402-404 E. Mill Street	Radloff Building	1894	C	Italianate
405 E. Mill Street	Plymouth Post Office (#1)	1916	C	Commercial Vernacular
406-408 E. Mill Street	Crystal-Majestic Theater Building	1910	C	Commercial Vernacular
407-409 E. Mill Street	Timm Building	1915	C	Italianate
410-412 E. Mill Street	A.H. Schram Building	1889	C	Italianate
411-415 E. Mill Street	Dahl Brothers Garage	1920	C	German Renaissance Revival
414-416 E. Mill Street	Eberhardt Building	1890	C	Italianate
417-419 E. Mill Street	C.H. Volquarts Building	1894	NC	German Renaissance Revival
420-422 E. Mill Street	W. Sebald Building	1876	C	Italianate
423 E. Mill Street	J.M. Ackerman Building	1883	C	Italianate
424 E. Mill Street	Zerler Brothers Building	1860	C	Front Gabled
426 E. Mill Street	B.B. Gift Shop	1961	C	Contemporary
427-431 E. Mill Street	Odd Fellows Building	1877	C	Italianate

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430 E. Mill Street	Building	1961/c1995	NC	Contemporary
433 E. Mill Street	State Bank of Plymouth	1904	NC	Contemporary
434 E. Mill Street	Capelle's Home Appliances	1946	C	20th Century Commercial
437 E. Mill Street	Boecher Building	1875	C	Italianate
40 Stafford Street	Plymouth Post Office (#2)	1926	C	Mediterranean Revival
52 Stafford Street	Hotel Laack	1892	NRHP	Queen Anne

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Narrative Statement of Significance

The Downtown Plymouth Historic District is significant for its concentration of intact commercial buildings arranged along four city blocks and constructed between 1858 and 1962. This district has been the center of commerce in Plymouth for over 150 years and continues to serve the commercial needs of the community. The district has an architecturally and historically important collection of commercial buildings that together constitute a well-defined and visually distinct geographic and historic entity. For these reasons, the District has local significance under National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture, and under Criterion A in the area of Commerce.

The proposed Downtown Plymouth Historic District has boundaries roughly delineated along both sides of E. Mill Street between Caroline Street and North Street. The district is located at the center of the City of Plymouth and is comprised of 47 contributing resources and 4 non-contributing resources. One of the contributing resources is already listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Individually, the contributing resources include very fine representative examples of several of the most popular styles applied to commercial and civic architecture in Wisconsin during the period of significance (refer to Photo #14, Photo #15, and Photo #16).

The period of significance reflects a century of commercial architecture and planning and begins in 1858 with the construction of the district's oldest extant commercial building, the Central House Hotel at 224-228 E. Mill Street. Since the mid-nineteenth century, commercial businesses constructed in the downtown district conformed aesthetically to Italianate, Commercial Vernacular, and Twentieth Century Commercial styles. The period of significance ends in 1962 with the construction of a series of small in-fill storefront buildings along E. Mill Street in a Contemporary style. Additionally, 4 buildings within the district are considered non-contributing as they lack architectural integrity or were constructed outside the period of significance.

The commercial buildings within the Downtown Plymouth Historic District are well preserved and have much the same appearance today as they did years ago. Exterior alterations to the original buildings have been minimal and have generally been limited to window replacements in their original openings, and storefront alterations and replacements; avoiding widespread elimination of the historic brick façades, and Italianate and vernacular cornice lines. The result is one of Plymouth's most architecturally intact historic commercial areas.

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Historic Context/Commerce

The region around the bend in the Mullet River that is now Plymouth was first settled in 1845, eight years after the neighboring settlements of Sheboygan and Sheboygan Falls. The first settlers, the Thorp and Davidson families, were Yankee settlers from New England and Pennsylvania searching for good farmland.¹⁴ The first buildings were constructed around a cold spring at a bend in the Mullet River. Henry Davidson opened the first tavern and store in the area in 1845 and also served as the first postmaster. A small community grew up around the tavern. The location was ideal for a mill, and the Quitquioc flour mill was established by Henry Davidson and Robert Hotchkiss in 1847 at the eastern end of what is now E. Mill Street.¹⁵ The flour mill was the first significant industry in the area, though the community also became known for furniture making. Henry Davidson wanted to call the settlement Springfield, but his son Thomas insisted on Plymouth, named after the small town in Connecticut where the family came from originally.¹⁶

In 1847, one of the settlers, John Taylor, employed H.J. Cowan as a surveyor to layout streets on the western half of the area and named the town Plymouth. The neighboring area to the east was platted separately in 1851 and named Quitquioc by N.H. Smith. The name Quitquioc comes from the local Native language meaning 'crooked river.' The Mullet River was renamed after its surveyor. Division Street divides the two original plats, and the original plat and street names survive to the present day. A heated debate erupted over the correct name for the community, and the State Legislature intervened in 1851, officially naming the area Quitquioc; however, this law was overturned and reversed after an election, and the area was renamed Plymouth in 1852, which it remains to the present. The feud was often political in nature, and the two groups of settlers involved remained estranged through the 1850s and 1860s.¹⁷

A plank road from Sheboygan and Sheboygan Falls was introduced in 1851. The 1850s saw the influx of many German and Dutch immigrants to the area, and there is evidence that there was some friction between the Yankee, German and Dutch settlers. The Yankees were primarily concerned with wheat farming, while the Germans and Dutch were often craftsmen or unskilled laborers. Such divisions continued through the nineteenth century as Plymouth was somewhat divided into two groups;

¹⁴ Buchen, Gustav. *Historic Sheboygan County, revised edition*. Sheboygan, WI: Sheboygan County Historical Society, 1976, page 178; & Ziller, Carl, Ed. *History of Sheboygan County, Past and Present, Vol. 1*, page 238.

¹⁵ Plymouth Historical Society. *Plymouth, Images of America*, page 47; & Smith, H.N. *History of Plymouth, Plymouth Reporter Articles 1872-1873*. Sheboygan Falls, WI: republished by the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center, 2000.

¹⁶ Plymouth Historical Society. *Plymouth, Images of America*, page 38.

¹⁷ Ziller, Carl, Ed. *History of Sheboygan County, Past and Present, Vol. 1*, page 234; & Buchen, Gustav. *Historic Sheboygan County*, page 178; & Plymouth Historical Society. *Plymouth, Images of America*, page 12.

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Yankee's lived on the hill south of the Mullet River and owned businesses on the western side of Division Street while those of German origin lived along Main Street and to the north and east and owned businesses to the east of Division Street. In this way the separation of Plymouth and Quitquioc continued.¹⁸

The early 1870s saw the introduction of a city hall, fire department, and police department as well as numerous large churches along E. Main Street. While E. Main Street became the center of Plymouth's civic, social, and religious life, the parallel E. Mill Street was the center of commercial activity. Plymouth was incorporated as a City in 1877, before that it had been a part of the wider township and had never been a Village.¹⁹ Furniture was arguably the largest segment of Plymouth's economy with many manufacturers in the small city including the Plymouth Furniture Company, Pressuler Brothers, Schram Chair factory, Peerless Chair Company, Plymouth Chair Company, A.I. Riedling Co., and others. E. Mill Street was a center for mercantile business as well, with dozens of brick commercial blocks constructed in the 1870s and often catering to the surrounding farm communities by supplying dry goods, machinery, and pharmacies.²⁰ Plymouth also became a local center for professionals, having a large number of newspapers, doctors, dentist, attorneys, and banks for a community of its size in the late nineteenth century.²¹

Plymouth grew rapidly in the 1880s as older wooden structures were replaced with masonry ones along E. Mill Street. This development was partly encouraged by a series of large fires in 1887, when the population of the city reached 1,800 people.²² The city became a railroad center, with the first depot for the Sheboygan and Mississippi Railroad constructed in 1858. This railway was subsumed by the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad which constructed the Union Depot in 1871. Later, the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific entered Sheboygan and constructed a separate depot in 1912. The bridge over the western end of E. Mill Street was constructed by the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railway, also known as the Milwaukee Road, in 1891, and all of the depots were close to the businesses along E. Mill Street. Plymouth was nicknamed 'Hub City' after the junction of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway and the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway in the center of Sheboygan County.²³ During the late nineteenth century the city limits were extended a number of times, and Plymouth saw many technological improvements including street lighting along E. Mill Street in 1890, electrical service, telephone service, and a city waterworks. An interurban railway was

¹⁸ Hildebrand, Janice. *The Heart of Sheboygan County*, page 13.

¹⁹ Buchen, Gustav. *Historic Sheboygan County*, page 183.

²⁰ Ziller, Carl, Ed. *History of Sheboygan County, Past and Present, Vol. 1*, page 236; & General Files.

²¹ Buchen, Gustav. *Historic Sheboygan Count*, page 183; & City of Plymouth Directories.

²² *Plymouth, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin*. New York: Sanborn Map Company Fire Insurance Map, 1887, 1903, 1910, 1927, & 1942.

²³ Plymouth Historical Society. *Plymouth, Images of America*, page 14.

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also constructed, with streetcars traveling down the length of E. Mill Street and on to Sheboygan, Sheboygan Falls, and Elkhart Lake.²⁴ The geographic center for commercial activity in Plymouth was the intersection of E. Mill Street and Stafford Street with the immediate area around it serving a regional destination for business. Downtown Plymouth at this time had two train stations, four hotels, two theaters, a dozen saloons and taverns, three banks, and more than a hundred individual retail businesses.²⁵ By 1903 the population of Plymouth had reached 2,500 people.²⁶

The turn of the century was a time of a booming local economy in Plymouth. The emphasis on small scale retail and furniture manufacturing had receded and was replaced with ‘Cheeseville,’ the nickname given to the City of Plymouth at the time. The number of cheese factories in Sheboygan county had grown from 20 in 1871 to the over 125 by 1905, and Plymouth was the primary destination for their products. The south side of the Mullet River, opposite E. Mill Street, was filled with cold storage warehouses, offices, and cheese manufacturing factories all near the two main railway lines. A quarter of Plymouth’s residents worked in some capacity with cheese production by 1910 when the population of the city reached 3,200 people.²⁷ The cheese exchange, an organization for the strict selling and purchasing of the commodity of cheese, was established in 1918 and was the center for the business in the entire state of Wisconsin, the largest producer of cheese in the country. The cheese exchange expanded in 1936 and eventually closed in 1970.²⁸

Like in much of the state, the depression years were hard ones for Plymouth, but the city continued to grow with an economy based on cheese manufacturing, and the population reached 4,500 people by 1950.²⁹ Cheese production moved away from the small rural cheese factories and towards larger plants in the City of Plymouth itself. Producers like the Borden Plymouth Plant manufactured cheese and other dairy products in the post-war years and were joined by others such as the Bamford Cheese Factory, S&R Cheese Corporation, Schneider Cheese Factory, and the Sargento Cheese Company.³⁰ The local economy changed somewhat as the 1960s saw the end of passenger rail service to Plymouth, and a number of the commercial blocks along E. Mill Street and the civic buildings along Main Street were demolished and replaced with more modern structures.³¹

²⁴ *Historical Atlas of Sheboygan County; & the Hub City Chronicle*, July 2014; & Ziller, Carl, Ed. *History of Sheboygan County, Past and Present, Vol. 1*, page 236.

²⁵ City of Plymouth Directories.

²⁶ Plymouth Fire Insurance Maps.

²⁷ *The Hub City Chronicle*, October 2014; & Plymouth Fire Insurance Maps.

²⁸ Buchen, Gustav. *Historic Sheboygan County*, page 180; & Hildebrand, Janice. *The Heart of Sheboygan County*, page 15.

²⁹ Plymouth Historical Society. *Plymouth, Images of America*, page 54.

³⁰ Hildebrand, Janice. *The Heart of Sheboygan County*, page 16.

³¹ Plymouth Historical Society. *Plymouth, Images of America*, page 35.

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The district is eligible under Criterion A in the area of Commerce as the historic and long-standing center of commerce in the community. It represents the history of commercial activity as well as the evolution, growth and expansion of retail and business enterprises.

Architecture

The Downtown Plymouth Historic District is locally significant in the area of architecture because many of its buildings are good examples of popular commercial and civic architectural styles from the mid-nineteenth to mid-twentieth centuries. As a whole, it is an area that maintains a high level of integrity that reflects the development of the district during the period of significance. The following are brief descriptions of the architectural styles represented within the district, listed in the chronological order in which they were popular, as well as good examples of those styles.

Front Gabled

The front gable was a common form for commercial buildings in both rural and urban Wisconsin communities from 1840 to well into the twentieth century. Characterized by a rectangular plan and gabled roof, the form is named so as its major façade is placed on the gable end of the building. Front gable buildings are most commonly one-and-a-half stories in Wisconsin; however, one, two, and two-and-a-half story versions are found. Dormers can be found on half-story versions on one or both sides of the gabled roof. Proportions of earlier examples of the form are narrower in width than the later, generally broader examples regardless of the number of stories. Correspondingly, roofs of earlier examples tend to be steeper and later versions more gently sloped. While typically symmetrical, a central or offset entry door may be sheltered by a small porch, uncovered stoop, or full porch with shed or hipped roof. The front gable form typically has a clapboard-clad, or occasionally brick, exterior. Simply detailed sills and lintels, turned porch posts, decorative shingles, and oversized parlor windows are commonly the only decorative embellishment associated with the form, a lack of which disassociates the form from recognized styles of the same period in which the front gable form predominates. This front gable form should not be confused with mundane versions of other major styles.³²

There are five Front Gabled style buildings within the Downtown Plymouth Historic District. Notable amongst these are the P.M. Wolf Building, located at 401 E. Mill Street and constructed in 1878, and the Burkhardt Saloon, located at 123-125 E. Mill Street and constructed in 1896.³³ Most the Front

³² Wyatt, Barbara, Ed. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin: Volume 2, a Manual for Historic Properties.*

Madison, Wisconsin: Historic Preservation Division State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, page Architecture 3-2.

³³ City of Plymouth Deeds; & City of Plymouth Directories; & Plymouth Fire Insurance Maps.

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Gabled style buildings in the district also have float, or ‘boomtown,’ façades facing the street at the gable end. These flat fronts cover the visible gable end and were intended to give the appearance of a larger or masonry building.

Italianate

The Italianate style was popular in Wisconsin from approximately 1850 to 1880, the period of time during which Sheboygan County experienced its fastest growth. Residential variations are square or rectangular in plan and, at two stories in height, are often cubic in mass. Its main elements include a low sloped hipped roof with wide soffits that is seemingly supported by a series of decorative oversized wooden brackets. The roof may be topped with a cupola. The fenestration arrangement is regular and balanced with tall thin windows that are topped with decorative window heads or hood moldings. The windows may also be arched. Italianate buildings are often adorned with a decorative full porch or a smaller central porch that is supported by thin wooden columns and decorative brackets. Commercial variations feature carefully composed front façades, ‘flat’ roofs, and utilitarian façades away from the front, street facing, and façade.³⁴

There are sixteen buildings exhibiting characteristics of the Italianate style buildings within the Downtown Plymouth Historic District. No fewer than seven of these have already been mentioned. By far the most common style represented in downtown Plymouth other examples include the Plymouth Steam Laundry, located at 115 Division Street and constructed in 1894, the J.M. Ackerman Building, located at 423 E. Mill Street and constructed in 1883, the Central House Hotel, located at 224-228 E. Mill Street and originally constructed as a Side Gabled building in 1858, yet has a significant Italianate addition and alteration dating from the 1880s, and the Eberhardt Building, located at 414-416 E. Mill Street.³⁵

Commercial Vernacular

Commercial Vernacular is a generalist style for nineteenth century commercial buildings that do not quite fit into the high style categories described above. They may have elements of Italianate, Romanesque, or Queen Anne styles, but not enough to categorize them as that style. For instance, the first floor storefront may be reminiscent of a particular period, but there is no evidence of that period throughout the rest of the façade. Second story openings may have hood moldings or be arched, and the parapet of the building may be adorned with a decorative corbelled cornice. Early Commercial

³⁴ Blumenson, John J.G. *Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945*. Second Ed. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1981.

³⁵ City of Plymouth Deeds; & City of Plymouth Directories; & Plymouth Fire Insurance Maps.

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Vernacular buildings were constructed of wood, but were taken by fire over the years. The remaining buildings are made of brick or stone.³⁶

There are nine contributing Commercial Vernacular building in the Downtown Plymouth Historic District. Besides the one resource already mentioned there are a few other notable buildings such as the B.A. Gaffron Building, located at 126 E. Mill Street and constructed in 1916, the L.J. Kaestner Building, located at 222 E. Mill Street and constructed in 1928, and the Plymouth Post Office #1, located at 405 E. Mill Street and constructed in 1916.³⁷

German Renaissance Revival

While revival styles of architecture were popular across the country in the late nineteenth century, the German Renaissance Revival style was a notable local manifestation of Wisconsin's heritage. German-born and trained architects and clients sponsored this architectural movement, a stronger culturally associated style than the more standard national fads. Due to this cultural link, the style is found most concentrated in areas of heavy German immigration in eastern Wisconsin and was most prominently used from 1880 to 1910. The style is characterized by the heavy use of Northern European forms characteristic of sixteenth century Germany, such as "Flemish" gables with curved consoles, slim piers rising to finials, and other sculptural ornament.³⁸ There are two contributing and one non-contributing buildings exhibiting German Renaissance characteristics in this district.

Mediterranean Revival

Another period revival style of the 1900s through the 1940s, the Mediterranean Revival style is relatively rare in Wisconsin. Homes in this style are often architect designed and constructed of brick with stone trim. They may feature straight or arched openings, columns, stone balconies and porch railings, and low sloped, red clay tile, hipped roofs. The Mediterranean Revival style is often planned around a courtyard and exhibits flat wall surfaces, broken by arcading, terra cotta, plaster, or tile ornamentation, sometimes drawing on classical motifs. This style is used for both residential and commercial buildings.³⁹

There is only one building in the District that exhibits some features of the Mediterranean Revival

³⁶ Wyatt, Barbara, Ed. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*. Page Architecture 3-10.

³⁷ City of Plymouth Deeds; & City of Plymouth Directories; & Plymouth Fire Insurance Maps.

³⁸ Wyatt, Barbara, Ed. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*. Page Architecture 2-13.

³⁹ Wyatt, Barbara, Ed. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*. Page Architecture 2-32.

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style, the Plymouth Post Office #2, located at 40 Stafford Street and constructed in 1926.⁴⁰

Twentieth Century Commercial

The term Twentieth Century Commercial is a generalist stylistic term for twentieth century commercial buildings that do not quite fit into the high style categories described above. These are simple, undecorated buildings with little architectural detailing. The only ornamentation that may appear in the building may come in the form of decorative brickwork at the parapet.⁴¹

Five Twentieth Century Commercial buildings were constructed in the Downtown Plymouth Historic District. The two resources that are not discussed elsewhere in this documents are the Hein Buick Garage, located at 109 E. Mill Street and constructed in 1926, and Capelle's Home Appliances, located at 434 E. Mill Street and constructed in 1946. These buildings do not clearly fit into any defined architectural style nor do they fall under the auspice of modern and contemporary architecture.⁴²

Contemporary

The term Contemporary is used to describe mid- and late twentieth century buildings. Architectural historians and architects have identified names for many contemporary theories of architecture; however, buildings of these genres are now first reaching sufficient age to be evaluated for significance per National Register criteria.⁴³

The Contemporary style section of the Architecture Study Unit of the Wisconsin Historical Society's *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin* dates the occurrence and popularity of contemporary style architecture in Wisconsin from approximately 1950 to the present. That text defines contemporary style buildings as those constructed during or after the mid-twentieth century that cannot be described in the manner of other preceding stylistic movements. It also notes that while architectural historians and architects have generated terminology for some movements within contemporary or modern architecture, these genres are just now reaching sufficient age to be viewed as historic and their scholarly value and significance recognized and understood.⁴⁴

Carole Rifkind describes modern architecture in her *A Field Guide to American Architecture* as the experimental and radical product of American Modernism and the European International Style taking

⁴⁰ City of Plymouth Deeds; & City of Plymouth Directories; & Plymouth Fire Insurance Maps.

⁴¹ Wyatt, Barbara, Ed. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*. Page Architecture 3-10.

⁴² City of Plymouth Deeds; & City of Plymouth Directories; & Plymouth Fire Insurance Maps.

⁴³ Wyatt, Barbara, Ed. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*. Page Architecture 2-37.

⁴⁴ Wyatt, Barbara, Ed. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*. Page Architecture 2-37.

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on a mechanical appearance. Her text identifies modern architecture's common emphasis of simple geometrical volumes, expression of structure, sculptural character, self-containment, defiance of traditional identification of front or back and interior or exterior, rejection of ornament, and heavy emphasis on surface and texture. Organization of plan tends to be organized based on functional, and often extends laterally. Modern buildings tend to favor a low-profile, enhanced by its ground floor being directly at grade and attic-less, flat roof. Roof overhangs may blur the sense of indoor and out. Plain wall surfaces are often offset by linear elements. While often large, door and window openings do not violate the uninterrupted character of the walls. Windows are grouped in bands, either at full-room height or in the upper wall zones, are often a major feature. Technical advances with construction materials and engineering during the early twentieth century are heavily represented in the expression of contemporary architecture, which often employs reinforced concrete, insulating board, and glass as both window and wall.⁴⁵

Six Contemporary style buildings in the Downtown Plymouth Historic District were constructed in the post-war period. Often constructed when previous commercial buildings occupying the same lots were demolished, these post-war retail buildings were constructed in the 1950s and 1960s and have a distinctly smaller scale than their older neighbors. Two demonstrative examples are the Bar-B-Que Restaurant, located at 210 E. Mil Street and constructed in 1962, and the Nessemann Jewelry Store, located at 217 E. Mill Street and constructed in 1961.⁴⁶

Architects

Charles Hilpertshauser

Charles Hilpertshauser was born in 1862 in Sheboygan County to German-Swiss immigrants. His father was a builder and encouraged his son to work in the Chicago office of the architect John C. Cochran in 1880. Charles returned in Sheboygan in 1885 and worked with his father for a number of years while opening his own architectural office. By 1887 he had devoted himself to architecture and worked as a general contractor. Hilpertshauser was responsible for the design and construction of some notable buildings in the City of Sheboygan and Sheboygan County during the following thirty years including the Kohler Company Factory, the German Reformed Church, and the Bodenstein Brothers Business Block. His work in Plymouth includes the H.C. Laack Block at 225-227 E. Mill Street, the Radloff Building at 402-404 E. Mill Street, the Hotel Laack at 52 Stafford Street, and the now demolished State Bank of Plymouth Building that was located at 433 E. Mill Street. Charles

⁴⁵ Rifkind, Carole. *A Field Guide to American Architecture*. New York: New American Library, Inc., 1980, page 212.

⁴⁶ City of Plymouth Deeds; & City of Plymouth Directories; & Plymouth Fire Insurance Maps.

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Hilpertshauser died in 1910.⁴⁷

Conclusion

The Downtown Plymouth Historic District is nominated under National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a fine local example demonstrating the range of commercial architectural styles during its period of development between 1858 and 1962. The district conveys a sense of historical and architectural cohesiveness through its architectural designs of 28 retail storefronts, 6 office buildings, 5 taverns or hotels, 7 garages, 3 light industrial buildings, 2 banks, 2 post offices, a livery stable, and a theater, all arranged along four blocks of E. Mill Street in the City of Plymouth. Representative of the prevailing architectural styles of the time, Front Gabled, Italianate, Commercial Vernacular, German Renaissance Revival, Mediterranean Revival, Twentieth Century Commercial, Contemporary, and other styles are prominent within the district. The buildings within the Downtown Plymouth Historic District are well preserved, maintain architectural and historical integrity, and have much the same appearance today as they would have years ago. The result is now Plymouth's most architecturally intact historic commercial areas.

Statement of Archeological Potential

This area of Sheboygan County along the Mullet River was likely home to considerable Native American activities. While it is possible that the construction of the extant resources may have greatly disturbed archeological artifacts, it is possible that Native American resources may be extant within the boundaries of the district in Plymouth. Archaeological potential remains unassessed.

Preservation Activities

The Downtown Plymouth Historic District has been fortunate in consistently attracting long-term business owners who have taken pride in their historic properties and have maintained them. In addition, the City of Plymouth and the Plymouth Historical Society are proactive in promoting, protecting, and preserving Plymouth's historic resources. In listing this district, the City of Plymouth hopes to provide the opportunity for business owners to obtain tax credits and/or other incentives to maintain and restore their properties.

⁴⁷ *Portrait and Biographical Record of Sheboygan County, WI*. Chicago, IL: Excelsior Publishing Co., 1894, page 517.

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Acknowledgements

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Major Bibliographical References

There is a wealth of resources available on the history of the City of Plymouth and Sheboygan County. The information and research already produced on these subjects far exceeds the purpose of this nomination. The following bibliography contains works with considerably more breadth and information on individual historical subjects and buildings; in particular, the work of local historians whose research can be accessed through the Plymouth Historical Society.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The district consists of the legal parcels associated with the 45 contributing and 4 non-contributing resources within the district and may be defined by the general description:

Beginning at the northwest corner of the lot associated with 31 E. Mill Street, continue east along the curb to a point aligned with the western edge of the property associated with 109 E. Mill Street, turn 90 degrees to the north and continue across E. Mill Street to the northwest corner of the lot associated with 110 E. Mill Street, turn 90 degrees to the east and continue to western edge of the property associated with 116 E. Mill Street, turn 90 degrees to the north and continue to the northwest corner of the lot associated with 116 E. Mill Street, turn 90 degrees to the east and continue to the northeast corner of the lot associated with 126 E. Mill Street, turn 90 degrees to the south and continue across E. Mill Street to the curb opposite the eastern edge of the lot associated with 126 E. Mill Street, turn 90 degrees to the east and continue along the curb to a point aligned with the western edge of the lot associated with 207 E. Mill Street, turn 90 degrees to the north and continue across E. Mill Street to the northwest corner of the lot associated with 208 E. Mill Street, turn 90 degrees to the east and continue to the edge of the lot associated with 214 E. Mill Street, turn 90 degrees to the north and continue to the northwest corner of the lot associated with 214 E. Mill Street, turn 90 degrees to the east and continue to the edge of the lot associated with 218 E. Mill Street, turn 90 degrees to the north and continue to the northwest corner of the lot associated with 218 E. Mill Street, turn 90 degrees to the east and continue across N. Stafford Street to the northeast corner of the lot associated with 300-302 E. Mill Street, turn 90 degrees to the south and continue to the southeast corner of the lot associated with 300-302 E. Mill Street, turn 90 degrees to the west and continue to the edge of the lot associated with 300-302, turn 90 degrees to the south and continue across E. Mill Street to the curb opposite the eastern edge of the lot associated with 300-302 E. Mill Street, turn 90 degrees to the east and continue along the curb to a point aligned with the western edge of the lot associated with 402-404 E. Mill Street, turn 90 degrees to the north and continue across E. Mill Street to the northwest corner of the lot associated with 117 Division Street, turn 90 degrees to the east and continue to edge of the lot associated with 414-416 E. Mill Street, turn 90 degrees to the north and continue to the northwest corner of the lot associated with 414-416 E. Mill Street, turn 90 degrees to the east and continue to the northeast corner of the lot associated with 434 E. Mill Street, turn 90 degrees to the south and continue across E. Mill Street to the edge of the curb aligned with the western edge of the lot associated with 434 E. Mill Street, turn 90 degrees to the east and continue to the northeast corner of the lot associated with 437 E. Mill Street, turn 90 degrees to the south and continue to the southeast corner of the lot associated with 437 E. Mill Street, turn 90 degrees to the west and continue to the southwest corner of the lot associated with 433 E. Mill Street, turn 90 degrees to the south and continue to the southeast corner of the lot associated with 427-431 E. Mill Street, turn 90 degrees to the west and continue to the southwest corner of the lot associated with 315 E. Mill Street, turn 90 degrees to the north and continue

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to the southeast corner of the lot associated with 301-307 E. Mill Street, turn 90 degrees to the west and continue across N. Stafford Street to the curb aligned with the southern edge of the lot associated with 301-307 E. Mill Street, turn 90 degrees to the south and continue along the curb to the northeast corner of the lot associated with 40 N. Stafford Street, turn 45 degrees to the west and continue to the southeast corner of the lot associated with 40 N. Stafford Street, turn 45 degrees and continue to the southwest corner of the lot associated with 40 N. Stafford Street, turn 90 degrees to the north and continue to the edge of the lot associated with 215 E. Mill Street, turn 90 degrees to the west and continue to the southwest corner of the lot associated with 113 E. Mill Street, turn 90 degrees to the south to the southeast corner of the lot associated with the rear building behind 109 E. Mill Street, turn 90 degrees to the west to the southwest corner of said lot, turn 90 degrees to the north to the southeast corner of the lot associated with 101-105 E. Mill Street, turn 90 degrees to the west to the southwest corner of the lot associated with 101-105 E. Mill Street, turn 60 degrees to the north and continue to the southwest corner of the lot associated with 31 E. Mill Street, turn 30 degrees to the north and continue to the beginning.

The boundaries of the proposed Downtown Plymouth Historic District are clearly delineated on the accompanying district map and enclose an area of 8.00 acres.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the proposed Downtown Plymouth Historic District enclose all the areas historically associated with the district's 51 resources. To the north, the boundary was drawn to exclude the residential, civic, and religious resources along E. Mill Street, and to the east the boundary was drawn to exclude more recent construction. To the west the boundary was drawn to exclude the natural border of the railroad. To the south the boundary was drawn to exclude extensive parking lots and the natural border of the Mullet River. The result is a cohesive district with as few non-contributing properties as possible.

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Name of Property:	Downtown Plymouth Historic District
City or Vicinity:	City of Plymouth
County:	Sheboygan County
State:	Wisconsin
Name of Photographer:	Rowan Davidson
Date of Photographs:	February 24, 2015
Location of Original Digital Files:	Wisconsin Historical Society, Historic Preservation Division, Madison, WI

- Photo #1 (WI_SheboyganCounty_DowntownPlymouthHistoricDistrict_0001)
131-133 E. Mill Street façade, camera facing southeast
- Photo #2 (WI_SheboyganCounty_DowntownPlymouthHistoricDistrict_0002)
207 E. Mill Street façade, camera facing southeast
- Photo #3 (WI_SheboyganCounty_DowntownPlymouthHistoricDistrict_0003)
215 E. Mill Street façade, camera facing southeast
- Photo #4 (WI_SheboyganCounty_DowntownPlymouthHistoricDistrict_0004)
225-227 E. Mill Street façade, camera facing southwest
- Photo #5 (WI_SheboyganCounty_DowntownPlymouthHistoricDistrict_0005)
40 Stafford Street façade, camera facing west
- Photo #6 (WI_SheboyganCounty_DowntownPlymouthHistoricDistrict_0006)
300-302 E. Mill Street façade, camera facing northeast
- Photo #7 (WI_SheboyganCounty_DowntownPlymouthHistoricDistrict_0007)
301-307 E. Mill Street façade, camera facing southeast
- Photo #8 (WI_SheboyganCounty_DowntownPlymouthHistoricDistrict_0008)
402-404 E. Mill Street façade, camera facing northeast
- Photo #9 (WI_SheboyganCounty_DowntownPlymouthHistoricDistrict_0009)
406-408 E. Mill Street façade, camera facing northwest
- Photo #10 (WI_SheboyganCounty_DowntownPlymouthHistoricDistrict_0010)
410-412 E. Mill Street façade, camera facing northwest
- Photo #11 (WI_SheboyganCounty_DowntownPlymouthHistoricDistrict_0011)
411-415 E. Mill Street façade, camera facing southeast
- Photo #12 (WI_SheboyganCounty_DowntownPlymouthHistoricDistrict_0012)
420-422 E. Mill Street façade, camera facing northwest
- Photo #13 (WI_SheboyganCounty_DowntownPlymouthHistoricDistrict_0013)
427-431 E. Mill Street façade, camera facing southeast

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Photo #14 (WI_SheboyganCounty_DowntownPlymouthHistoricDistrict_0014)

The corner of E. Mill Street & Stafford Street perspective, 225-227, 217, 215, 207, 201, 131-133, 127, 123-125 E. Mill Street, camera facing southwest

Photo #15 (WI_SheboyganCounty_DowntownPlymouthHistoricDistrict_0015)

The middle of the 400 block of E. Mill Street perspective, 420-422, 414-416, 410-412, 406-408, 402-404 E. Mill Street, camera facing northwest

Photo #16 (WI_SheboyganCounty_DowntownPlymouthHistoricDistrict_0016)

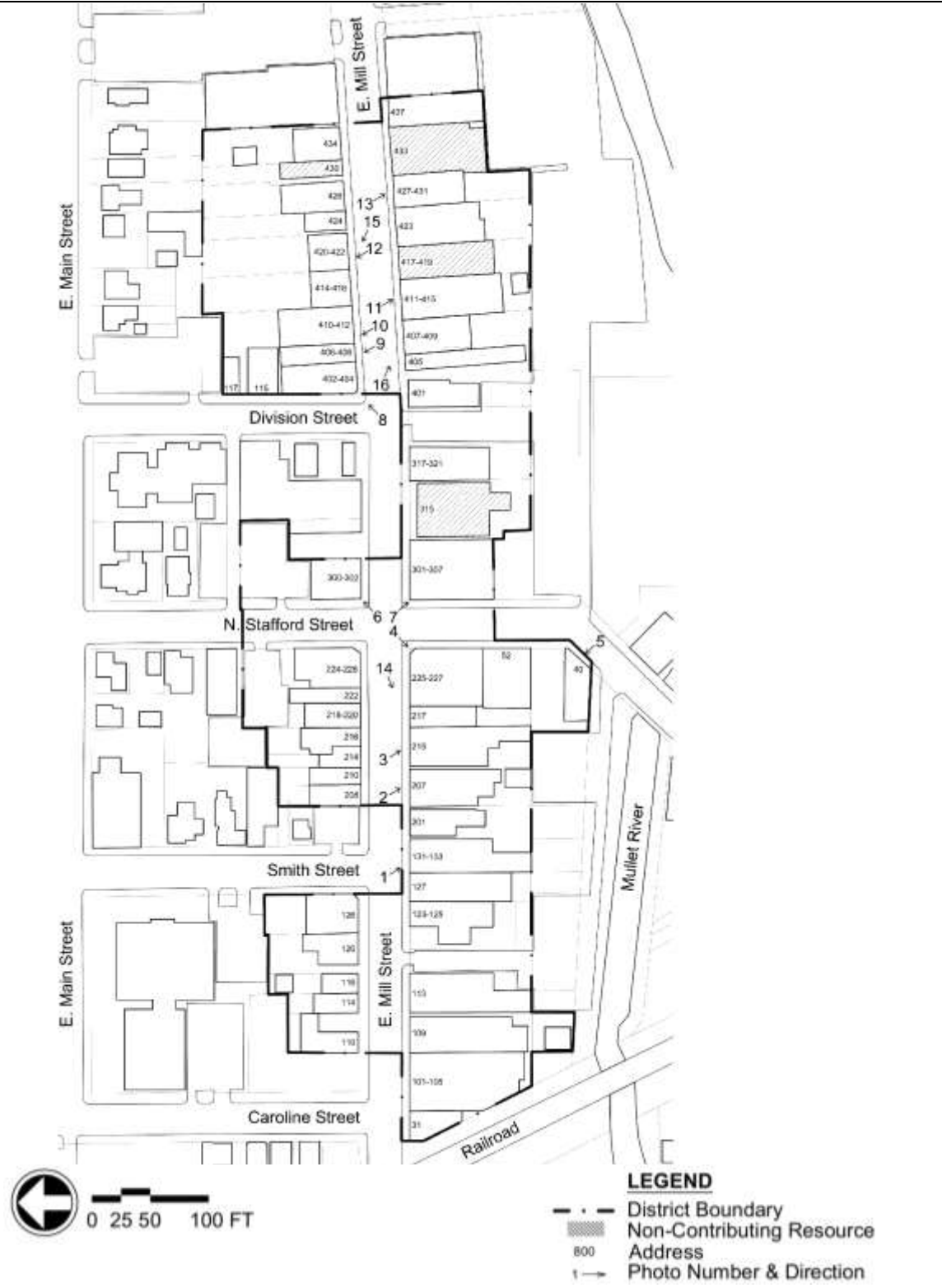
The corner of E. Mill Street & Division Street perspective, 405, 407-409, 411-415, 417-419, 423, 427-431, 433 E. Mill Street, camera facing southeast

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Downtown Plymouth Historic District
Plymouth, Sheboygan County, WI

Section Sketch map and photo key Page 1





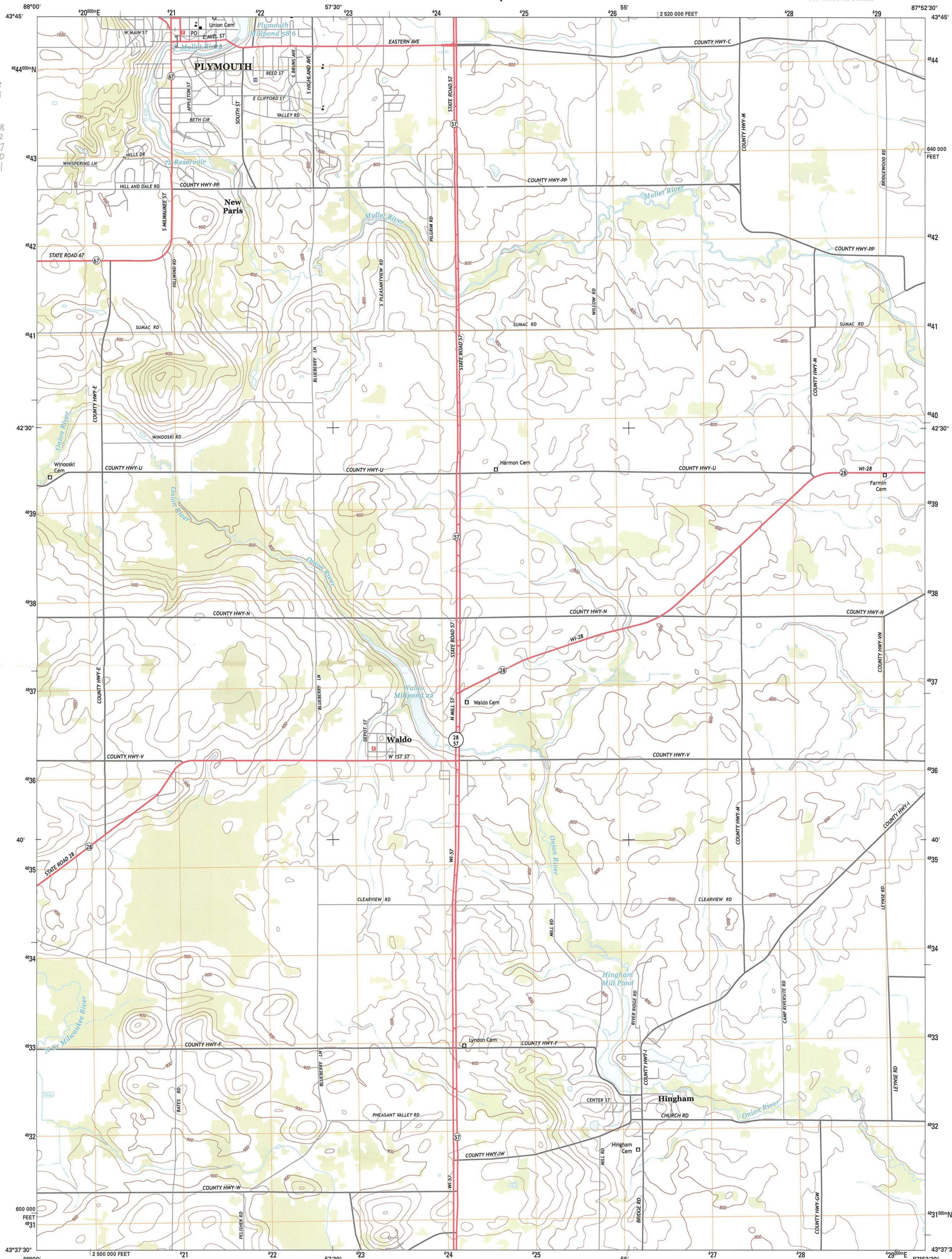
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



PLYMOUTH SOUTH QUADRANGLE
WISCONSIN-SHEBOYGAN CO.
7.5-MINUTE SERIES

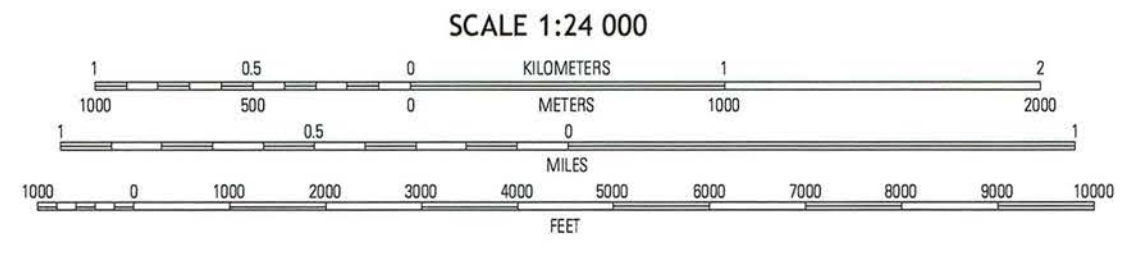
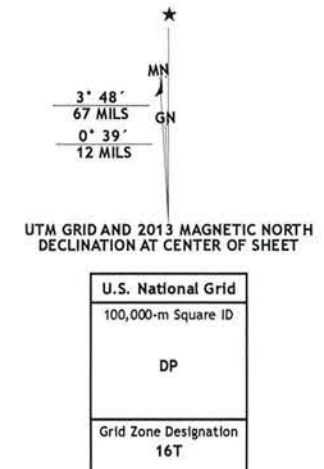
Downtown Plymouth Historic District
City of Plymouth, Sheboygan Co., WI
UTM Reference:

Zone	Easting	Northing
1 16N	421111	4844352
2 16N	421520	4844357
3 16N	421530	4844240
4 16N	421097	4844241



Produced by the United States Geological Survey
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)
World Geodetic System of 1984 (WGS84). Projection and
1 000-foot ticks: Wisconsin Coordinate System of 1983 (south
zone)

Imagery.....NAIP, July 2010
Roads.....©2006-2012 TomTom
Names.....©2013
Hydrography.....National Hydrography Dataset, 2010
Contours.....National Elevation Dataset, 1999
Boundaries.....Census, BWC, BC, USGS, 1972 - 2012



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NORTH AMERICAN DATUM OF 1983

This map was produced to conform with the
National Geospatial Program US Topo Product Standard, 2011.
A metadata file associated with this product is draft version 0.6.12



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Ellipt Lake	Franklin	Howards Grove
Cascade	Plymouth South	Sheboygan Falls
Batavia	Random Lake	Oscar Grove

ADJOINING 7.5 QUADRANGLES

PLYMOUTH SOUTH, WI
2013





A two-story brick building with a decorative cornice in red and green. The ground floor features large display windows with colorful posters and a set of double doors. The second floor has several windows, including a bay window on the right side. The building is situated on a street corner with snow on the ground.

Four large display windows on the ground floor, each containing a colorful poster. The posters feature text and illustrations:

- Poster 1: "ty HOLIDAY"
- Poster 2: "FROM THE NEW"
- Poster 3: "ELEMENTARY"

A set of double doors on the ground floor, with a small sign above them. The sign reads "207".

DO NOT
ENTER



ONLY

↑

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SURAHU







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ADVANCED EYECARE
ON THE HILL
1000 W. BEAL ST
STAFFORD, VA

W. BEAL ST
Stafford

See Durrvo's
School of Dance



YOUTH
ING CO

Protein Area Hub
EST. 2014

Factory Outlet

CAFE

CAFE



1894

Buy one Filet-O-Fish[®] and
be lovin' a second one for
50¢
McDonald's

DELIVERING IDEAS TO
YOUR BOOKS

PRINTING DESIGN
ONLINE & OUT OF PRINT

PRINTING DESIGN
ONLINE & OUT OF PRINT



404
CANINE DESIGN
Crawley Sales, LLC
Professional • Polite • Gentle
Pet Services

OPEN

LIBRARY

OPEN

FREE

Gift



LIBRARY

410

OPEN

THE SHOPPES
ON MILL STREET

412

ENTRANCE

Vivid
Reflection
Salon

414

OPEN

Vivid Reflection
Salon





SHERN RWY

CELEBRATING 93 YEARS
PERMONIX HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vertical sign on the right side of the building, partially obscured and difficult to read.



VIDEO CENTER
VCR & TV SALES & SERVICE • MOVIE RENTALS

TRICOR INSURANCE
RE/MAX Realty Plus

PSG

3566



1894

Green traffic light

Black SUV

White car



Use The Best
Cream
of
Wheat
FLOUR

The FLOUR the
best cooks use



MUSEUM

WILLET RIVER SOUTHERN KY

CREAM OF WHEAT FLOUR MUSEUM

Mobi Self Serv

225
225
225



FIVE CITY
FAMILY RESTAURANT

Northwestern Medical
PHYSICIAN NETWORK

Large glass storefront window display for a retail store, featuring mannequins, clothing, and a sign with contact information.

10001894-7753
842098711

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Downtown Plymouth Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Sheboygan

DATE RECEIVED: 5/13/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/02/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/17/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/28/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000421

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT ___ RETURN ___ REJECT 6/23/16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

RECEIVED
FEB 05 2016

OBJECTION TO LISTING IN
THE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

BY:

OWNER IN A HISTORIC DISTRICT

Historic District Name: Downtown Plymouth

Address of Property in District: 110 1/2 E. Mill St.

City: Plymouth County: Sheboygan

In accordance with Section 101 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, and Title 36, Part 60.6, of the Code of Federal Regulations, I hereby certify that I am the sole/part (circle one) owner of the property listed above and do hereby object to its listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In accordance with said law and regulations, I understand that this historic district will not be listed in the National Register if a majority of persons owning property in the district sign and have notarized these statements, and that they submit them to the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Officer prior to the meeting of the State Historic Preservation Review Board during which the nomination of the district will be considered.

Signed: [Signature] Date: 2/2/16

Print or Type Name: Major Dan Jennings

Mailing Address: 11315 W. Watertown Plank Rd

City: Wauwatosa State: WI Zip: 53226

NOTARY

State of Wisconsin, County of Milwaukee

The above statement was subscribed and sworn before me this 2nd day of

February, 2016

[Signature]
Notary Public Signature

My commission Expires: 8-14-2016



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

RECEIVED 2280

MAY 13 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

TO: Keeper
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Peggy Veregin
National Register Coordinator

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this Tenth day of May 2016, for the nomination of the Downtown Plymouth Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places:

- 1 Original National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form
- 1 CD with NRHP Nomination form PDF
- Multiple Property Nomination form
- 16 Photograph(s)
- 1 CD with image files
- 1 Map(s)
- 1 Sketch map(s)/figures(s)/exhibit(s)
- 1 Piece(s) of correspondence
- Other:

COMMENTS:

- Please ensure that this nomination is reviewed
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- X The enclosed owner objection(s) do or do not constitute a majority of property owners
- Other: