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**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 Cleveland's Hall and Blacksmith Shop

other names/site number Heathmans Blacksmith Shop/ Modern Woodmen of America's Attica Lodge

2. Location

street & number	N7302 County Trunk Highway X	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Town of Brooklyn	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county Green	code 045
			zip code 53502

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _ nationally _ statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

11/23/09

State Historic Preservation Officer - 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

Cleveland's Hall and Blacksmith Shop

Green

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

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:)

Edouard H. Beall

1-7-10

Jan

Signature of the Keeper

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)

private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

building(s)
 district
 structure
 site
 object

contributing
 noncontributing
 1 0 buildings
 sites
 structures
 objects
 1 0 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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store
SOCIAL/meeting hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19th CENTURY

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Limestone
walls Limestone

roof Shingle
other Wood

Narrative Description

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

Cleveland's Hall and Blacksmith Shop
Name of Property

Green
County and State

Wisconsin

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)

INDUSTRY

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Period of Significance

1873-1899

1883-ca.1930

Significant Dates

1873

1883

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Cleveland's Hall and Blacksmith Shop
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Wisconsin

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:

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

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

1 16 297050 4738070
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

See Continuation Sheet

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	Timothy F. Heggland	date	March 31, 2009
organization		telephone	608-795-2650
street & number	6391 Hillsandwood Rd.	zip code	53560
city or town	Mazomanie	state	WI

Cleveland's Hall and Blacksmith Shop
Name of Property

Green
County and State

Wisconsin

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	Cathlene Cryor Burgweger	date	March 31, 2009
organization		telephone	608-558-0280
Street & number	N8010 Sandy Hook Road	zip code	53521
city or town	Brooklyn	state	WI

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

Cleveland's Hall and Blacksmith Shop
Town of Brooklyn, Green County, Wisconsin

Description:

Cleveland's Hall and Blacksmith Shop is a very intact, free-standing, Front Gable vernacular form building that is rectilinear in plan, measures 34.5-feet-long by 22.5-feet wide, is two full stories in height, and has walls that are sheltered by a simple gable roof. The Hall's golden colored limestone exterior walls are approximately one-foot-thick and extend down below ground level. These walls are sheltered by the slightly overhanging eaves of the simple gabled main roof, the ridgeline of which runs east to west, and the slopes of which have recently been reclad in wood shingles that look almost identical to the original ones visible in historic photos of the building. There is no basement or crawl space beneath the building and its original dirt first story floor has now been completely covered with a layer of poured concrete. The building is located on the southwest corner of a slightly sloping 3.66-acre parcel that comprises the northeast corner formed by the intersection of the north-south running CTH X and east-west running CTH C in what is now the small, sparsely populated unincorporated community of Attica. The Hall is situated very close to both highways and, even when one allows for the widening of these roads in modern times, it is clear that the building must always have been located very close to these roads in a fashion that was typical of many commercial buildings built in the early days of nineteenth century settlement in Wisconsin. Records suggest that this building was constructed as a blacksmith shop for David C. Heathman in 1873.¹ It is shown at this location on an 1873 map of the Village of Attica that was published in an atlas of Green County that was published in the same year.² In 1883, the building was purchased by Benjamin Cleveland, who continued to operate the first story as a blacksmith shop. Also in 1883, Cleveland plastered the walls of the building's second story, which also consists of just a single room. This space was then made available to the general public for use as a public hall and meeting place called Cleveland's Hall. In 1900, the building was purchased by the Attica lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America, a fraternal order, and the blacksmith shop was discontinued. The first story was occupied by a number of other commercial ventures in the years that followed, but the second story continued to be used as a lodge hall by the Modern Woodmen of America for many years thereafter. Currently, the Hall is vacant but it is in the midst of a thorough restoration that will return it to its original appearance.

The land in Attica slopes gently down from west to east towards the north-south running Sugar River, which also forms the eastern boundary of the larger parcel that is associated with the Hall. Historically, Attica's tiny three-or-four-building commercial center was arrayed around the point of intersection of the two county highways mentioned above. Today, however, the Hall and another early but now

¹ It is possible that the building predates 1873, possibly dating from about 1860. A map of the community made in 1861 does show a building in this quadrant.

² *Atlas of Green County, Wisconsin*. Madison: Harrison & Warner, 1873.

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greatly altered Greek Revival style-influenced general store located directly across CTH C from the Hall on the southeast corner of the intersection are the sole survivors of Attica's commercial past. A scattering of nineteenth and twentieth century houses are still located along CTH X to the north of the Hall and these, unlike the Hall and the other surviving commercial building, are generally set back some distance from the highway. The parcel associated with the Hall slopes gently down from west to east from CTH X to the Sugar River and the southern portion that surrounds the Hall itself is devoid of trees or shrubs. The west-facing main elevation of the Hall is set back some thirty feet from the east edge of CTH X, the south-facing side elevation is set back some ten feet from the north edge of CTH C, and mown grass separates the Hall from these two highways on both its west and south sides.

Exterior

The symmetrically designed 22.5-foot-wide Front Gabled principal facade of the Hall faces west onto CTH X, which was known as Main Street in Attica's heyday, and it is constructed of coursed limestone blocks. This facade is three-bays-wide and its first story contains a single centered, rectilinear door opening that once provided the principal access for horses that were being shod in the blacksmith shop inside. Prior to the beginning of the current restoration work, this opening was actually a good deal wider; it was widened sometime early in the twentieth century to allow vehicles to be brought into the building's interior. Fortunately, it was possible to determine the original width of this opening by using a fine historic photo of the Hall dated 1899 that showed the opening's original appearance.³ As a consequence, the later opening was reduced in size and the excess wall surface on both sides of the new opening was filled in with coursed limestone that is identical in appearance to that of the original walls.⁴ Located above this opening in this elevation's second story is a second door opening of conventional size that contains a four-panel wood door that is now temporarily hidden from view by a plywood sheet. This opening is flanked on either side by a single window opening; both openings contain six-over-six-light double hung wooden sash windows that are exact modern reproductions of the Hall's original windows. Both of these window openings have dressed stone sills and massive dressed stone lintels and the door opening that is located between them also has a massive dressed stone lintel.⁵

The 34.5-foot-long south-facing side elevation of the building faces onto CTH C and it is also three-

³ This photo was found in a cupboard in the building. The photo was dated on the basis of internal evidence that is visible within the photo, and among other things it shows that this opening was then filled with two side-hinged wooden doors.

⁴ The only visible reminder of this wider opening is the massive wood lintel that crowned it, which was left in place when the present opening was recreated.

⁵ The 1899 photo shows that the Hall's window openings originally all contained six-over-six-light double hung wooden sash windows. A photo of the Hall dated 1908 shows that many of its original windows, and particularly those of the second story, had been replaced with two-over-two-light wood sash windows between 1899 and 1908, and some of these later windows and also some of the original six-over-six-light windows were still extant when the current restoration began.

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Cleveland's Hall and Blacksmith Shop
Town of Brooklyn, Green County, Wisconsin

bays-wide, is symmetrical in design, and is constructed of coursed limestone blocks. Both the first and second stories of each of these three bays contains a single window opening, all six of these openings have dressed stone sills, and the three first story openings also each have massive dressed stone lintels. Each of these openings contains a six-over-six-light double hung wooden sash window that is an exact modern reproduction of the Hall's original six-over-six-light windows.

The nearly symmetrical 22.5-foot-wide rear elevation of the Hall faces east towards the Sugar River and it alone is constructed of uncoursed rubble limestone. This elevation is two-bays-wide and it too is crowned by an unadorned stone-clad gable end. In addition, a very small, cream brick chimney stack is visible on the ridge of the building's roof above the gable end. The first story of this elevation's left-hand bay contains a rectilinear door opening that contains a four-panel wood door. This opening is crowned with a massive dressed stone lintel. Placed to the right of this door opening is a single window opening and identical window openings are located in the second stories of both bays. Each of these three window openings has a massive dressed stone lintel. The first story opening has a dressed stone sill, but the sills of the second story window openings are of cream brick. All of these window openings contain six-over-six-light double hung wooden sash windows that are exact modern reproductions of the Hall's original six-over-six-light windows.

The 34.5-foot-long north-facing side elevation of the building is also three-bays-wide and it is constructed of coursed limestone blocks, but its design is not symmetrical. The second story of each of these bays contains a single window opening and these three openings are evenly distributed across the width of the elevation. They each now contain a six-over-six-light double hung wooden sash window that is an exact modern reproduction of the Hall's original six-over-six-light windows and each of these openings also has a cream brick sill. The window opening that originally occupied the first story of this elevation's left-hand bay is offset slightly to the left of the one in the second story above. It has recently been lengthened and converted into an equally wide door opening that is now filled with wooden boards, but its massive dressed stone lintel is still intact.⁶ This elevation's only other features are two more small, cream brick two-part chimney stacks that are placed on the north slope of the roof between the first and second and the second and third bays from the right.

⁶ This elevation's only other original first story opening was a window that was positioned between the second story's first and second bays from the right. This opening was crowned with a massive dressed stone lintel and dressed stone sill, but, before the current restoration project began, the lower portion of this opening had already been partially filled up with limestone that is very similar to that used in the surrounding walls. It has now been completely filled with the same stone.

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Cleveland's Hall and Blacksmith Shop
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Interior

The first story of the building's interior consists of a single 22-foot by 32-foot room whose original floor has now been covered with poured concrete. The walls of this room consist for the most part of the inside surface of the building's stone exterior walls, although a portion of the wall surface to the left of the door opening located in the center of the building's west-facing main elevation has been partially plastered. Massive timber lintels are placed over the room's window and door openings, and all of the openings also have foot-deep stone reveals. There is also a length of timber inset into the wall to the left of the first window opening from the right (east) on the room's south-facing wall that has iron rings hanging from it that were once used to hold the reins of horses being worked on by the blacksmith. The ceiling consists of the joists that support the floor of the second story above. A short, straight run of boxed-in wooden stairs located in the northwest corner of this room lead up through an opening in the ceiling to the second story and is its only means of access.

The second story consists of a single 22-foot by 32-foot room and its floor is of narrow tongue-and-groove wood boards. The ceiling of this room is now open all the way up to the rafters, ceiling joists, and the roof's ridge board, although it is likely that it was plastered at one time. All the walls of this room are still plastered, and their rough surfaces are completely covered with a cross-hatched pattern that has been deeply incised into it.⁷ The lowest portion of these walls is edged by a narrow unpainted base board and similar boards are used to encase the window and door openings. In addition, what appears to be an original four-panel wooden door is still in place in the opening in the center of the room's west-facing elevation, although the door is not visible from the outside because this opening is covered with plywood on the outside.

In general, both the exterior and interior of this building still display a remarkable degree of physical integrity for a building of this type and era of construction, and they have greatly benefitted from the restoration that the current owner has sponsored.

Integrity

After the Modern Woodmen purchased the building in 1900, several changes were made to it. An historic photo of the hall taken the year before, the last year of Cleveland's ownership, shows that in that year the building's main west-facing façade still retained the early two-story wooden front porch that was positioned across the width of the center bay of this facade. The first story of this porch was

⁷ The date "1883" is inscribed into the plaster on the wall surface just above this door and this date represents the date when the walls were plastered and the room was turned into a public hall.

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Cleveland's Hall and Blacksmith Shop
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open and was supported by two corner posts, while the second story was enclosed with clapboards. An open stair on the north side of the porch extended from the ground up to the porch's enclosed second story and to the second story entrance door that gave access to the room inside. A second photo taken in 1908, shows that by that time the Hall, which by then was the clubhouse and meeting place of the Woodmen, had added a large two-story, full-width, clapboard-clad Boomtown style addition across the front (west end) of the building and it is assumed that the smaller, older porch was demolished in the process. How long this addition remained in place is not known, but later historic photos dated 1963 show that it had been removed by that time. At about the same time, a large one-story, wood frame, clapboard-clad, gable-roofed addition was built around the north side of the building and later across its east side as well. These 1960s era additions have recently been removed by the present owner, and the building has now been returned to its original mid-nineteenth century appearance.

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Section 8 Page 1

Cleveland's Hall and Blacksmith Shop
Town of Brooklyn, Green County, Wisconsin

Significance:

Cleveland's Hall and Blacksmith Shop is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) for its local significance under National Register (NR) Criterion A (History) because it is a fine, highly intact example of the kind of dual purpose nineteenth century buildings that played important roles in both the commercial and the social and cultural life of many small rural communities in Wisconsin. The Hall was first identified as being potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP by the Green County Intensive Survey in 1980.⁸ More recent research designed to assess the Hall's current potential for eligibility was undertaken using the NR significance areas of Industry and Entertainment/Recreation, both of which are also themes that are identified in the State of Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP). This research centered on evaluating the Hall by utilizing the Carriage and Iron Works subsection of the Industry study unit of the CRMP and the Fraternal Organizations subsection of the Social and Political study unit of the CRMP.⁹ The results of this research are detailed below and demonstrate that the limestone-clad Cleveland's Hall and Blacksmith Shop is locally significant under NR Criterion A as an excellent, highly intact, and now quite rare example of a mid-nineteenth century blacksmith shop that played a significant role in the industrial and commercial history of its locality. In addition, the Hall is locally significant under NR Criterion A because it was the principal place where public entertainment was held in the village of Attica throughout much of the last half of the nineteenth century and well into the twentieth century.

Cleveland's Hall and Blacksmith Shop is located in the unincorporated village of Attica, Wisconsin and it is now one of only three surviving historic nineteenth century public buildings in Attica and it is the most intact of the three. The Hall is first mentioned in the tax rolls and is known to have been standing in 1873 as a blacksmith shop for David C. Heathman (ca.1818-18??). In 1883, the building was purchased by Benjamin K. Cleveland (1851-1940), a blacksmith and a native of Norway who had emigrated to the United States in 1859. Cleveland took over the operation of the blacksmith shop, which occupied the first story of this two-story building, and in the same year he also had the walls of the unused second story of the building plastered and the room was then reopened for the use of the public as a dance hall and performance space called Cleveland's Hall. Cleveland continued to operate both spaces in this manner until 1898, when the building was sold to the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America, a fraternal order. Cleveland then moved to the nearby village of Albany and the first story of the blacksmith shop was converted to other uses. The Woodmen used the second

⁸ Taylor, Mary. *An Intensive Architectural and Historical Survey of Green County*. [Platteville, Wis.?]: Southwestern Regional Planning Commission, 1980, p. 39.

⁹ Wyatt, Barbara (ed.). *Cultural Resource Management In Wisconsin*. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986. Vol. 2 (Industry), pp. 13-1 - 13-8; Vol. 3 (Social and Political), pp. 5-1 - 5-12.

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Cleveland's Hall and Blacksmith Shop
Town of Brooklyn, Green County, Wisconsin

story as their lodge hall and continued Cleveland's tradition of offering it to the general public for others uses as well.

Industry

Cleveland's Hall and Blacksmith Shop is an excellent representative example of a mid-nineteenth century blacksmith shop and it is believed to be eligible for listing in the NRHP at the local level of significance because of the historic importance of the place that blacksmiths occupied in rural Wisconsin communities like Attica in the nineteenth century. Blacksmith shops were typically among the first commercial enterprises to be established in a new community in the nineteenth century and intact examples such as Cleveland's are now very rare. In addition, the enterprise they housed was one of enormous importance in the rural life of nineteenth century Wisconsin. In the days before advances in transportation and manufacturing gave farmers ready access to mass manufactured tools and agricultural implements, the local blacksmith played a critical role in keeping the farmer supplied with the tools of his trade. Cleveland's Hall is thought to have been built as a blacksmith shop in 1873 and it was operated continuously as such until 1899, 1873-1899 thus being the period of significance for this aspect of this building's history.

One of the surest ways to found a community in the days before railroad transportation became the norm was to build a flour and grist mill at a point on a river that could be dammed. Such a mill was of critical importance to the farmers that were typically an area's first settlers. The mills provided the farmer's family with an important source of food and they also converted surplus crops into an easily shipped finished product that could be used to generate income. In addition, the waterpower potential created by the damming of the river served to fuel the dreams of community founders who hoped that the availability of this waterpower would result in the establishment of additional industries.

Attica was the first community to be established in the Town of Brooklyn and like so many communities of that day it owed its existence to its proximity to a potential source of waterpower, which in this case was the Sugar River. To this end, a saw mill was built in 1843 on the Sugar River at the site of what would become Attica by a Major Downer. The first name of this place was Downer's Mill and when Chester Witter and John S. Litchfield built a grist mill nearby in early 1845, these two mills were the first in the Town of Brooklyn.¹⁰ The establishment of these mills created a natural gathering place for the farmers who were settling the surrounding territory and this resulted in the establishment of more commercial enterprises at this location. By 1845, the future village also boasted a store operated by D. D. and W. W. Day, Ben Cross and a man named Doane plied the cooper's trade,

¹⁰ Bingham, Helen M. *History of Green County, Wisconsin*. Milwaukee: Burdick & Arbitrage, 1877, pp. 242-243.

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Town of Brooklyn, Green County, Wisconsin

and Lorenzo Barnes was the community's first blacksmith.¹¹ The importance of having a blacksmith in a fledgling community like Attica at that time cannot be overestimated. A sense of this can be gained from the following, which is taken from a 1929 overview of Wisconsin's industrial history:

Another industrial development that falls into the category of serving pioneer necessity is the cross-roads blacksmith shop. Present day [1929] appraisal may not entitle the blacksmith shop to rank as a manufacturing industry. Pioneer perspective does entitle the blacksmith shop to that rank, with a heavy debt of gratitude remaining unpaid in the form of just and due credit to the smithy at the cross-roads for its contribution to Wisconsin's industrial attainments. Here the blacksmith not only shod horses and oxen but performed the important role of community metal working handy man. Here he made nails, bolts, hinges, metal parts for wagons and plows; repaired guns; made or repaired kitchen utensils; repaired in fact anything that was made of metal that was brought to his door. The pioneer blacksmith was of necessity an ingenious man of parts, and it is but natural that the cross-roads blacksmith shop with flying sparks and anvil din was the cradle in which was nurtured and fostered many of the industries that since have grown and matured through specialization and the demands of a broadening market to become large and important members of Wisconsin's industrial family today.¹²

How long Barnes remained in what would become Attica is not known but by 1849 he had either been joined or supplanted by David C. Heathman, who was also a blacksmith by trade. Heathman was born in Ohio in 1818 and his wife, Marsha, was born in 1820, but this and the fact that Heathman is recorded as having been present at the first town meeting that was held in the the Town of Brooklyn in April of 1849, are just about all that is currently known about them up to the time of their arrival in Attica. Attica, however, would be their home for the rest of their lives and by 1860, the U.S. Census of that year showed that the couple had seven children, the oldest of whom, Caroline, was 16 at the time. Heathman was also apparently successful at his trade because tax rolls indicate that in 1873 he had the limestone-clad building that is the subject of this nomination built on Main Street (today's CTH X) in Attica to house his blacksmith shop.¹³

¹¹ *History of Green County, Wisconsin*. Springfield, IL: Union Publishing Co., 1884, p. 727.

¹² Alexander, J. H. H. "A Short Industrial History of Wisconsin." In *The Wisconsin Blue Book* edited by William J. Anderson and William A. Anderson, pp. 31-32. Madison: The State Printing Board, 1929.

¹³ Town of Brooklyn Real Estate Assessment Rolls, 1872, 1873. University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Area Record Center.

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Cleveland's Hall and Blacksmith Shop
Town of Brooklyn, Green County, Wisconsin

Gradually, the small community of Attica that grew up around the mill site developed into a village and in 1874 the local Methodist Episcopal congregation built the village's first (and only) church.¹⁴ By 1877, the history of Green County that was published in that year listed the principal points of interest in Attica as follows:

Joseph Bartlett's saw and grist mills, J. Crampton's carding machine; a cheese factory, owned by a company, the stores of C.D.W. Leonard and Wm. Young; and a hotel.¹⁵

Unfortunately, by 1877, Attica's development had peaked even though the farms that surrounded it continued to grow and prosper. The reason was location and the advent of the railroad age. Attica is located in the extreme southwest corner of the Town of Brooklyn but the tracks of the Chicago & NorthWestern railroad, which was the only railroad to access the Town, had been completed through the extreme northeast corner in 1864 and had resulted in the establishment of the village of Brooklyn at that point. Consequently, from 1864 onward, commercial activity in the area gradually gravitated in Brooklyn's direction to the detriment of the businessmen in Attica.

Never-the-less, having access to a blacksmith was still of great importance to the farmers in Attica's vicinity and this would continue to be true until the end of the century. According to the U.S. Census of 1880, David Heathman was still active as Attica's blacksmith in 1880. By this time, however, he was 62, so it is therefore not too surprising that in 1883 he sold his shop on Main Street to a younger blacksmith, Benjamin Cleveland. Benjamin K. Cleveland had been born in Hollingdahl, Norway on September 11, 1851, and had come to this country in 1859 with his widowed mother and four siblings.¹⁶ Cleveland grew up in Brodhead, WI, which is located some twelve miles southeast of Attica in Green County, and he learned the blacksmithing trade in Thompson's shop in Beloit, WI, which city is located in the adjacent Rock County.

By the time that Cleveland moved to Attica he was thirty-two and he was a married man and a father. Cleveland had married his first wife, Amelia Ordell (1854-1893), another native of Norway, in Beloit in 1874, and the couple had had two daughters by the time they arrived in Attica; Grace (1876-??), and Arnettie (1878-1901). Cleveland's arrival in Attica was duly noted in a discussion of Attica that was included in a new history of Green County that was published in 1884, the year after his move there.

¹⁴ This is a small limestone-clad building that cost \$2250.00. It is still extant but has now been altered and is no longer in use as a church.

¹⁵ Bingham, Op. Cit., p, 243.

¹⁶ "Aged Pioneer Died Thursday; Masonic Rites Held Sunday." *Albany Herald*, April 18, 1940, p. 1 (illustrated). Obituary of Benjamin Cleveland, Sr. Cleveland's original name was Bjorn Knud Kleven.

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Section 8 Page 5

Cleveland's Hall and Blacksmith Shop
Town of Brooklyn, Green County, Wisconsin

The village [Attica] did not grow very rapidly, although for some years it received the trade from quite a large scope of country. In 1884 we find a good flouring mill owned and operated by Joseph Bartlett; one general store kept by S. A. Scott; a wagon shop by Joshua Clark; a blacksmith shop by Benjamin Cleveland; a hotel by Oscar Persons; a school house, one church society and a post office.¹⁷

Cleveland continued to operate his blacksmith shop in Attica until almost the end of the century and he appears to have become a well-known and respected craftsman in his new home. His life there was not without hardships, however. Another daughter, Bessie Louisa, was born in Attica in 1885 but died the next year and, in March of 1893, Cleveland also lost his wife, Amelia. Despite these losses, Cleveland continued to play an important role in the community as can be seen by a short notice that was printed in the village of Albany newspaper in 1897.

By the amount of plows around Ben Cleveland's blacksmith shop it looks as though the farmers expect to begin plowing soon.¹⁸

In October of 1897, Cleveland rented a blacksmith shop in the larger nearby Green County village of Albany and placed the following notice in the newspaper of that village in order to announce his plans:

I have rented J. S. Smith's blacksmith shop [in Albany] and will do all kinds of general blacksmithing. I have made a great study of horse-shoeing, am a great lover of horses and will not torture them by doing a bad job of shoeing. We know that there is a great difference between putting a horse's foot on irons and on a block of wood. There is a great art in horse-shoeing. I have heard farmers say that such a man did a good job of shoeing because the shoes stayed on a good many months; but at the same time those shoes may have been a great injury to the horse. Horse's heels do not contract all at once. I learned plow-work at Thompson's shop, in Beloit, where I learned my trade. I can harden a plowshare as hard as it can be hardened at any factory, and all my work is warranted.¹⁹

A week later, the Albany newspaper treated his arrival as a news item.

¹⁷ *History of Green County, Wisconsin*. Op. Cit., p. 727.

¹⁸ *The Albany Vindicator*. March 25, 1897, p. 5. The village of Albany is located about five miles southeast of Attica. Because Attica was not big enough to support a newspaper of its own, the Albany paper occasionally printed items of interest about Attica as well.

¹⁹ *Ibid*, October 14, 1897, p. 8.

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Section 8 Page 6

Cleveland's Hall and Blacksmith Shop
Town of Brooklyn, Green County, Wisconsin

Ben Cleveland, the well-known Attica blacksmith, has rented J. S. Smith's shop in this city and has been carrying on the same for a week or ten days. Mr. Cleveland is a first-class conscientious workman and work entrusted to him will receive prompt and careful attention. He will be ably assisted by Henry Heathman, also of Attica.²⁰

By late November, another news item in the paper noted that Cleveland had moved his family to Albany and that they "occupied J. L. Sherron's house opposite the creamery."²¹ Apparently, Cleveland's plans at this time were still in flux because in April of the following year another news item appeared in the Albany newspaper.

Ben Cleveland, who has been running J. S. Smith's blacksmith shop for several months, is arranging to move back to Attica and take charge of his shop at that place. Albanians will be sorry to lose him from the ranks of our businessmen.²²

Whether or not Cleveland ever completed his move back to Attica is not known. Yet another item printed a month later stated that he was then still "arranging to move back to Attica."²³ What is known is that two months later Cleveland married for a second time. His new bride was Mrs. Lena Ruehlow of Albany, (1862-19??), a widow with five children of her own.

Married. At the home of the bride in Albany, Thursday evening, July 28, 1898, Mr. Benjamin Cleveland (Attica's Tubal Cain) and Mrs. Lena Ruehlow of Albany. Rev. H. B. Brenaman tied the knot, (which no Philadelphia lawyer can sever.) Presents useful and good were in testimony. After the twain were made one the many guests sat down to a feast prepared by an expert epicurean, whose cuisine was good enough for a king.

Long live Ben, the Blacksmith. May his joys never grow less.²⁴

Apparently, this new match convinced Cleveland to stay put in Albany because in October, another news item appeared in the paper that showed that he had finally made up his mind.

²⁰ *The Albany Vindicator*. October 21, 1897, p. 8. Henry Heathman was the youngest son of David C. Heathman, the former Attica blacksmith who was still a resident of Attica at this time.

²¹ *Ibid*, November 25, 1897, p. 1.

²² *Ibid*, April 7, 1898, p. 1.

²³ *Ibid*, May 19, 1898, p. 1.

²⁴ *Ibid*, August 4, 1898, p. 1. Tubal Cain was a descendant of the biblical Cain and he was associated with metal work.

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Cleveland's Hall and Blacksmith Shop
Town of Brooklyn, Green County, Wisconsin

Ben Cleveland of Attica has purchased C. Sherman's building and will convert it into a blacksmith shop. He expects to be ready for business in two or three weeks.²⁵

Having finalized his move to Albany, Cleveland then sold his shop in Attica to the Attica chapter of the Modern Woodmen of America, a fraternal order, in 1900, and with this sale, blacksmithing activity in Cleveland's Attica shop came to an end.²⁶ After their purchase, the Woodmen rented out the first story where the shop had been located and for many years it housed a feed store that was patronized by local farmers and it also served for a time as a garage. For at least the first twenty-seven years of its existence, this shop played an essential role in Attica's commercial life. Indeed, the importance of blacksmithing in the pioneer period of Wisconsin's history can scarcely be overstated. As the CRMP states:

Blacksmiths were among the first craftsmen to ply their trade in the newly opened areas of settlement in pioneer Wisconsin. Blacksmith shops quickly joined the flour mills and saw mills in establishing businesses in the small crossroads communities that dotted the countryside. Able to manufacture and repair a wide range of farm tools, machines, and wagons, the smith promptly began to provide an indispensable service in the local community.²⁷

Consequently, it is believed that Cleveland's Hall and Blacksmith Shop is eligible for listing in the NRHP at the local level of significance. The Hall is an excellent, highly intact, representative example of the kind of buildings that were built in Wisconsin's smallest communities in the second half of the nineteenth century to house the highly important workshop of the local blacksmith. Such shops played crucial roles in the life of Wisconsin's pioneer communities and Cleveland's shop, like David Heathman's before him, was also of great importance in the history of the village of Attica.

²⁵ *The Albany Vindicator*. October 6, 1898, p. 1.

²⁶ Cleveland's subsequent career would be associated with the village of Albany, where he died in April 11, 1940, at the age of 89. See: "Aged Pioneer Died Thursday; Masonic Rites Held Sunday." *Albany Herald*, April 18, 1940, p. 1 (illustrated). Obituary of Benjamin Cleveland Sr.

²⁷ Wyatt, Barbara (ed.). *Op. Cit.*, Vol. 2 (Industry), p. 13-1.

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Cleveland's Hall and Blacksmith Shop
Town of Brooklyn, Green County, Wisconsin

Entertainment/Recreation

Besides its significance as a resource associated with the history of Industry in Attica, Cleveland's Hall and Blacksmith shop is also believed to be eligible for listing in the NRHP at the local level of significance for its role in the cultural and social life of the village and the surrounding area. When Benjamin Cleveland purchased the building from David C. Heathman in 1883 he remodeled the second story of the building into a hall that he then opened to the public. In the years that followed, this hall became the principal place where public events were held in Attica. When Cleveland sold the building to the Attica camp of the Modern Woodmen of America in 1900, the Woodmen used this space as their own meeting place and they continued to offer the second story hall for use as a public space. Cleveland's Hall was first opened to the public in 1883 and it appears that it was operated continuously as a public meeting hall from 1883 until the Attica chapter of the Woodmen was disbanded ca.1930, 1883-ca.1930 thus being the period of significance for this aspect of the building's history.

As noted earlier, the second story of the Hall consists of just a single large room whose walls have been plastered over. Because the date "1883" is inscribed into the plaster of the west wall of this room, this strongly suggests that the room was remodeled in that year. Just why Cleveland did this is unknown. Cleveland's first story blacksmith shop would itself have been an important center of commercial life in a small village like Attica in a time when the blacksmith's forge was an absolute necessity for a rural community. Consequently, it would also have been a *de facto* gathering place for those seeking the blacksmith's services and for those who were meeting with persons waiting for these services. Perhaps Cleveland saw an opportunity to derive some income from the second story of his building or perhaps he just saw a need for such a space in a community which otherwise had practically no other public spaces. Whatever his motivation, the fact remains that in the years that followed, the second story of the Hall became the principal place in Attica where non-religious celebrations were held.

Because Attica was never large enough to support a newspaper of its own, only a few documented instances of activities in the Hall have been found. Surviving evidence suggests that events that took place there were a mix of informal, spontaneous affairs and more formal and more organized ones. It is also clear from some of this evidence that the Hall was used by Attica's local Pearl Camp

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Cleveland's Hall and Blacksmith Shop
Town of Brooklyn, Green County, Wisconsin

No. 1207 of the Modern Woodmen of America for some years before it was actually purchased by the Camp.²⁸ One of the earliest pieces of evidence that mentions activities in the Hall is an invitation to a Grand Woodmen's Ball held in Cleveland's Hall in Attica on March 1, 1895 which featured Ballou's Orchestra. Another presumably less formal event was noted in the village of Albany's newspaper two years later:

There will be a dance in Cleveland's Hall next Monday night. Everybody cordially invited.²⁹

Obviously, there is a great deal about the history of Cleveland's Hall that is unknown at this time. Never-the-less, what *is* known strongly suggests that the Hall was very much the social center of this very small community. Perhaps the greatest event that the Hall hosted occurred in August of 1910, ten years after Attica's Woodmen purchased the Hall. In that month, the Woodmen decided to sponsor a picnic and sell dinners to raise money for their treasury. The picnic was held on the banks of the Sugar River to the east of the Hall and the culminating event was a dance held in Cleveland's Hall that night at which music was furnished by George Kittelsen on guitar and Sever Gaarder on violin. By all accounts the event was a huge success since an article that described that day and night ended by stating that those who were the last to leave "were a part of the largest crowd to ever celebrate together in Attica and they estimated close to 3000 people enjoyed the day."³⁰

By 1954, Attica had a population of just 28, Attica's Modern Woodmen camp had long since passed out of existence, and the days when the Hall's walls rang with music and laughter were over.

For nearly fifty years, Cleveland's Hall played an important role in the secular cultural and social life of Attica and the surrounding area. Attica was never large enough to have a multiplicity of public places. Its now altered one-room school and the still extant but also altered Methodist Episcopal church being

²⁸ The Modern Woodmen of America was founded in 1883, and like so many other later nineteenth century fraternal orders, it was a men's social and service organization that also had a fraternal benefit arm that provided insurance for its members. The Modern Woodmen of America is still a highly active organization today and has lodges (called camps) across the country.

²⁹ *The Albany Vindicator*. October 14, 1897, p. 8.

³⁰ *Ibid*, August 25, 1910.

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Cleveland's Hall and Blacksmith Shop
Town of Brooklyn, Green County, Wisconsin

the only buildings in the village that would have been available for public events other than the Hall. Attica was also apparently too small to support more than one fraternal organization. Never-the-less, its Modern American Woodmen camp appears to have played a highly important role in the social life of the village. Consequently, it is believed that Cleveland's Hall played an important role in the social and cultural life of this small rural community and that this role endured as long as the Hall was in use as such. It is therefore believed that Cleveland's Hall and Blacksmith Shop is of local significance for its role in the social and cultural life of Attica and that it is eligible for listing in the NRHP for its significance in the area of Entertainment and Recreation. It is also believed that the building retains sufficient integrity to faithfully portray this significance.

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Cleveland's Hall and Blacksmith Shop
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Section 10 Page 1

Cleveland's Hall and Blacksmith Shop
Town of Brooklyn, Green County, Wisconsin

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary consists of a 100-foot-deep by 75-foot wide rectangle that encloses Cleveland's Hall and Blacksmith Shop. The boundary begins at a point that corresponds to the southwest corner of the larger parcel of land that is associated with the Hall, this being a point that also corresponds to the northeast corner of the intersection that is formed by meeting of CTH C and CTH X. The boundary line then proceeds in a northerly direction from this point along the east edge of CTH X for a distance of 75-feet, then turns 90 degrees and continues east 100-feet, then turns 90 degrees and continues south a distance of 75-feet to a point that is located on the north edge of CTH C. The line then turns 90 degrees and continues west 100-feet along said north edge to the POB.

These boundaries enclose a portion of the larger 3.66-acre parcel that is associated with this property, which is described as being a part of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 31, T4N-R9E, Town of Brooklyn, Green County, Wisconsin; to-wit: Commencing at the S $\frac{1}{4}$ Corner said Section 31; thence West, 641.73 feet; thence N 15 degrees 08'17"W, 508.93 feet; thence S 50 degrees 06'28"W, 143.48 feet; thence N 70 degrees 29'32"W, 61.00 feet; thence N 89 degrees 39'32"W, 157.13 feet; thence S 00 degrees 27'43"E, 445.64 feet; thence S 89 degrees 45'23"E, 100.40 feet; thence N 75 degrees 08'03"E, 103.58 feet; thence S 89 degrees 45'23"E, 253.52 feet to the point of beginning. Subject to easements and dedications of record and an easement over the westerly 33 feet thereof for road purposes.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries enclose the land that has historically been associated with the Hall and the amount is believed to be sufficient to enclose and create a setting for the building. The remaining acreage is considered to be extraneous for the purposes of this nomination.

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Cleveland's Hall and Blacksmith Shop
Town of Brooklyn, Green County, Wisconsin

Section photos Page 1

Items a - d are the same for photos 1 - 12.

Photo 1

- a) Cleveland's Hall and Blacksmith Shop
- b) Town of Brooklyn, Green County, WI
- c) Timothy F. Heggland, May 2008
- d) Wisconsin Historical Society
- e) General view looking SE
- f) Photo 1 of 12

Photo 9

- e) First story interior, view facing WNW
- f) Photo 9 of 12

Photo 2

- e) General view looking SE
- f) Photo 2 of 12

Photo 10

- e) Second story interior, view facing W
- f) Photo 10 of 12

Photo 3

- e) North-facing Side Elevation, view looking S
- f) Photo 3 of 12

Photo 11

- e) Second story interior detail, view facing WNW
- f) Photo 11 of 12

Photo 4

- e) Rear Elevation, view looking W
- f) Photo 4 of 12

Photo 12

- e) Second story interior, view facing ESE
- f) Photo 12 of 12

Photo 5

- e) General view looking NW
- f) Photo 5 of 12

Photo 6

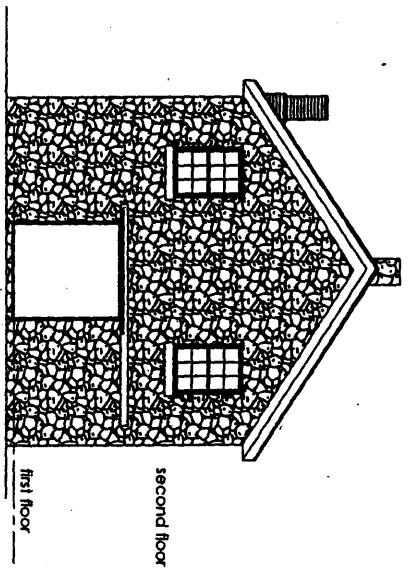
- e) South-facing side elevation, view looking N
- f) Photo 6 of 12

Photo 7

- e) West-facing main façade, view looking E
- f) Photo 7 of 12

Photo 8

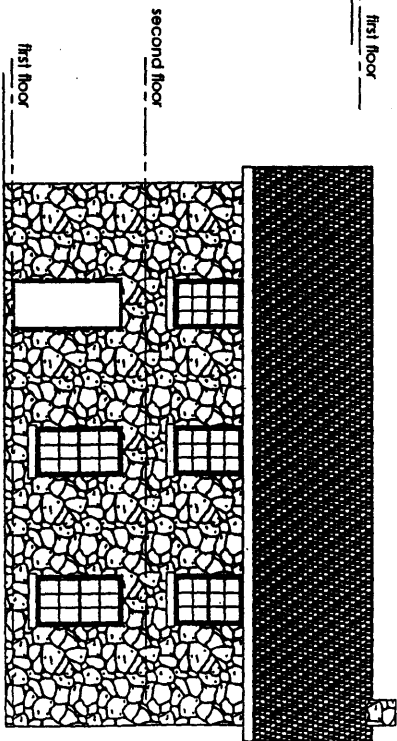
- e) First story interior, view looking ESE
- f) Photo 8 of 12



WEST ELEVATION

scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

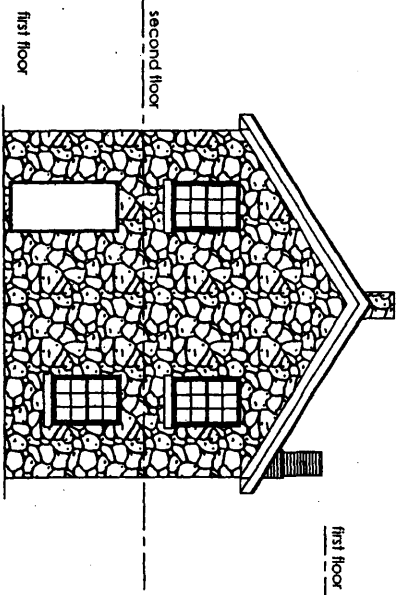
EXISTING STRUCTURE



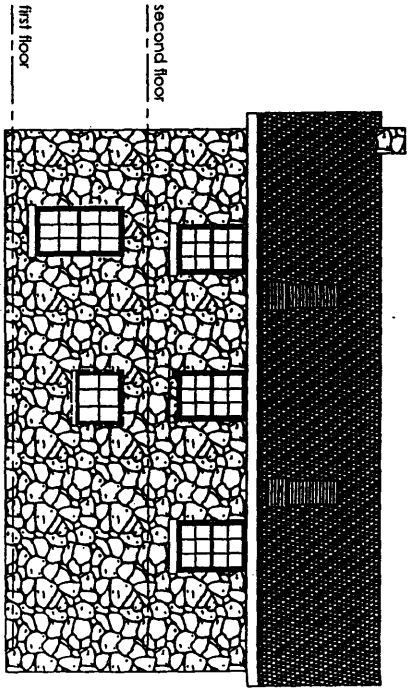
SOUTH ELEVATION

scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

FIGURE 1:
CLEVELAND'S HALL AND
BLACKSMITH SHOP
 N7302 COUNTY TRUNK HIGHWAY X
 TOWN OF BROOKLYN
 GREEN COUNTY, WISCONSIN



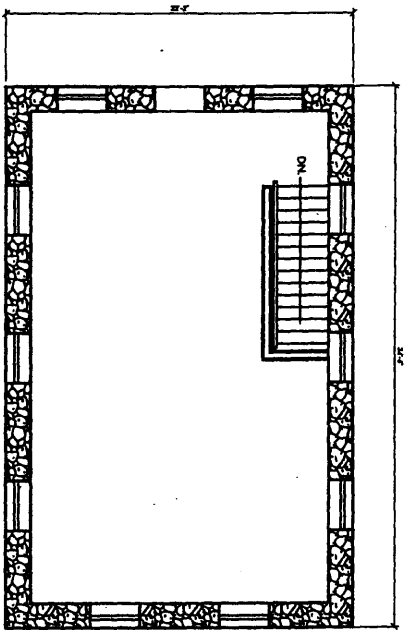
scale 1/8" = 1'-0"



scale 1/8" = 1'-0"

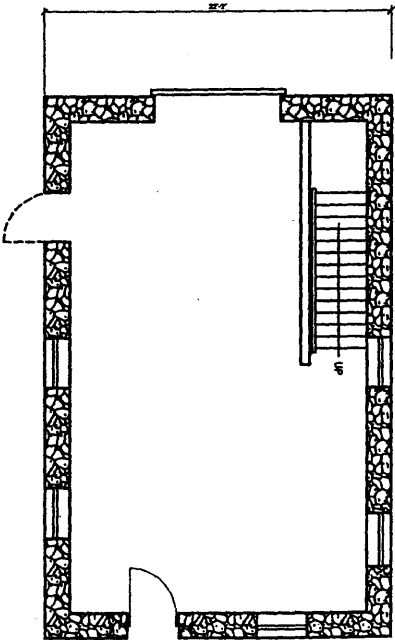
EXISTING STRUCTURE

FIGURE 2:
CLEVELAND'S HALL AND
BLACKSMITH SHOP
 N7302 COUNTY TRUNK HIGHWAY X
 TOWN OF BROOKLYN
 GREEN COUNTY, WISCONSIN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

scale 1/4" = 1'-0"



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

EXISTING STRUCTURE

FIGURE 3:
CLEVELAND'S HALL AND
BLACKSMITH SHOP
 N7302 COUNTY TRUNK HIGHWAY X
 TOWN OF BROOKLYN
 GREEN COUNTY, WISCONSIN