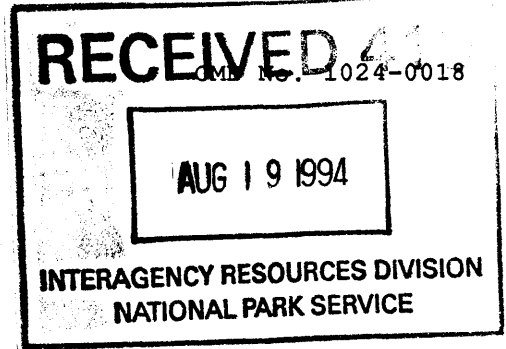


NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8/86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format (1331D)
(Approved 3/87)

United State Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register form (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only archival paper (20 pound, acid free paper with a 2% alkaline reserve).

1. Name of Property

historic name Bell, John and Margaret, House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 554 Spring Prairie Road N/A not for publication
city, town Town of Spring Prairie N/A vicinity
state Wisconsin code WI county Walworth code 127 zip code 53105

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		<u> </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total
Name of related multiple property listing:		No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register	
<u>N/A</u>		<u>0</u>	

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____
State Historic Preservation Officer-WI
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] _____ 3 August 1994 _____
Signature of commenting or other official Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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.

 removed from the National Register.

 other, (explain): _____

Edson H. Beall 9/15/94

Entered in the National Register

for _____
Signature of the Keeper Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description	
Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
Mid 19th Century	foundation <u>STONE/sandstone</u> walls <u>STONE/sandstone</u> roof <u>Asphalt</u> other <u>Wood</u>

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The John and Margaret Bell house property consists of a large two-story stone house and a frame-constructed carriage house that sit on 3.8 acres of land on the north side of Spring Prairie Road, a town road located one mile north of Wisconsin State Highway 11 in the Town of Spring Prairie in Walworth County, in far southeastern Wisconsin. The house is located about one-quarter of a mile west of the intersection of Spring Prairie Road with County Highway DD, and approximately two miles northwest of the small community of Burlington, Wisconsin. The house is an impressive hip-roofed vernacular building with minimal Greek Revival and Italianate influences. It was constructed of locally-quarried sandstone and dates from around 1850. Also on the property is a frame constructed, two-story carriage house that probably was built around the turn of the century.

At one time the Bell house property was part of a larger parcel of 80 acres in Section 23 of the Town of Spring Prairie. These 80 acres, along with additional land in other sections, formed a farm that was worked by occupants of the house until the mid-twentieth century. Even though the house today sits on only 3.8 acres of land, the house has retained its rural setting because it is still surrounded by the farmland that was once attached to the property. Adding to the rural appearance is the fact that the house is deeply set back from the road, at the end of a long, gently sloping lawn that takes up much of the current parcel. There is a long gravel driveway that leads to the west side of the house and around the house toward the carriage house. There is no formal landscaping of the property, but the mature trees that line the driveway and the shrubs around the house give the house and its lot a formal setting.

The house itself is a long two-story building constructed of locally-quarried sandstone. It has a long, low-pitched hip roof with overhanging eaves decorated with thin paired scroll brackets. Fenestration is regular and now consists of mostly single-light double-hung sashes with stone jack arches on the first story. First story windows are also slightly taller than the otherwise identical ones of the second story. While most of the openings of the house are original, most of the windows themselves are later replacements. One exception to this is the large picture type window with the flanking double-hung sashes that sits to the left of the front entrance and which was added in the early twentieth century.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: nationally statewide x locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B x C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Architecture	c. 1850 (1)	N/A
	Cultural Affiliation	
	N/A	
Significant Person	Architect/Builder	
N/A	Unknown	

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The John and Margaret Bell house is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C, architecture, and is architecturally significant at the local level because it is a fine and unusual example of stone construction using locally-quarried sandstone. While it is a vernacular house, it has the form and general massing of a Greek Revival-influenced house and some details that suggest the Italianate style. More significantly, the large size of this house is unusual for a stone house in the area. And, the way the stone walls were constructed is an unusual building method. The high level of preservation and historic integrity of this house also make it architecturally significant in the area.

Historical Background

The first settlers in the Town of Spring Prairie, Walworth County, Wisconsin came in 1836. Among them was Palmer Gardner, the first to till the land in the town. In 1837, a nurseryman by the name of John Bell came to Spring Prairie from Michigan and began leasing land from Palmer Gardner for his new nursery business. While John Bell was an early settler, his official association with this property did not come until 1852, although his nursery business was right across the road in what was known as "Gardner's Prairie." (2)

The first recorded owner of this property was Captain Charles Dyer, another early settler in Spring Prairie. The first recorded deed to the property is dated 1840 and records the transfer of the 80-acre parcel that this property was once a part of from Charles Dyer to his son, William Dyer. The next deed for this property was

 x See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

 x See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

 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:
 x State Historic preservation office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 3.8 acres

UTM References

A	<u> 1/6 </u>	<u> 3/9/1/1/2/0 </u>	<u> 4/7/2/8/0/8/0 </u>	B	<u> 1/6 </u>	<u> 3/9/1/2/1/0 </u>	<u> 4/7/2/8/0/8/0 </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u> 1/6 </u>	<u> 3/9/1/1/2/0 </u>	<u> 4/7/2/7/9/2/0 </u>	D	<u> 1/6 </u>	<u> 3/9/1/2/0/0 </u>	<u> 4/7/2/7/9/2/0 </u>

 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

 x See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

 x See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Carol Lohry Cartwright, Consultant
organization prepared for the owners date May 13, 1993
street & number W7646 Hackett Rd. telephone (414) 473-6820
city or town Whitewater state WI zip code 53190

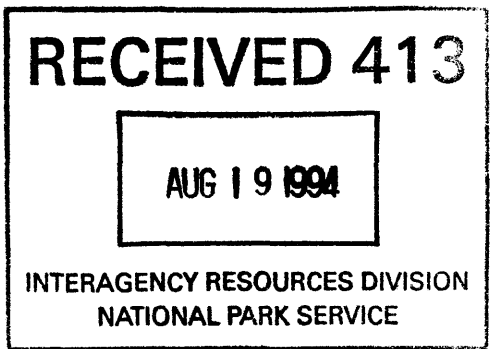
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Approved 2/87

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The stone walls of the house are constructed of very narrow, almost shale-like, sandstone blocks in an irregularly coursed ashlar pattern. The walls of the house are very thick, thicker than those in many stone-constructed houses. In the basement, cistern walls have been exposed showing that thin stone blocks were laid up in a double thickness to make these walls. This method of construction may have been applied to the main walls of the house and would explain their unusual thickness. A slightly raised stone watertable encircles the building just above the basement story window heads. The foundation is constructed like the main walls of the house and is punctuated with windows on the front and side elevations. The window openings are now filled with glass blocks and have stone jack arched lintels.

The main entrance on the south facade consists of a wood panel and glass door covered with a screen door and decorated with sidelights and a transom. The entrance is covered with a later porch that has a hip roof supported by square posts. There are two other entrances to the house. One is at the far northwest corner of the west elevation and enters into the enclosed back staircase. The other entrance is in the west end of the rear elevation and is covered by an enclosed porch. An early entrance in the east end of the rear elevation was, at some later date, converted into a window.

The exterior of the Bell house is in good condition, considering it is almost 150 years old. The soft quarried stone exterior shows some wear and some mortar joints have been or need to be tuck pointed, but these signs of age do not detract significantly from the overall high level of preservation of the house. At one time a two-story frame ell was connected to the rear wall. This ell reportedly contained space for carriages on the first floor and sleeping rooms above.

The main entrance is not centered on the facade, but is positioned just to the right of center. This entrance is enframed by sidelights and a transom and it leads into the main first floor hallway, which also includes the front or main staircase to the second floor. The east wall of this hallway is one of two interior walls that are constructed of stone in the same manner as the exterior walls of the house. There is no evidence to suggest that these were once exterior walls; rather, because of the unusual length of this house, these walls were constructed in this manner to provide structural stability. The other wall constructed in this manner is the one separating the dining room from the kitchen and library room.

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The walls of the main hallway are plastered and trimmed with wide, curved crown moldings. A decorative console bracket is attached to this molding on one side of the hall. Simpler architrave moldings frame the main entrance and doorways leading to other parts of the house. All of the moldings are painted. The floor in this area is covered with narrow oak boards, probably laid over the original pine flooring seen elsewhere in the house. A pendant light fixture hangs from the plaster ceiling in the center of a circular decoration.

To the right of the main hallway is the entry into the living room. Floor boards and other physical evidence suggest that this space was once divided into two rooms, one larger than the other. However, the living room is all one large room today. The focal point of the room is a large fireplace built in the early twentieth century. It features a massive stone mantel and overmantel. The rest of the room consists of plastered walls, a wide curved crown molding, simple architrave moldings around windows and doors, and a combination narrow oak and wide pine board floor. The moldings are all painted. The oak and pine floors of this area appear to be laid over the rough original pine floor boards that are seen in other areas of the house. The plaster ceiling features decorative circles around light fixtures like the one in the main hallway.

To the left of the main hallway is the large dining room. This room features wall paper over plastered walls and painted moldings that are similar to those of the living room. Through an arch in the dining room wall that reveals the thickness of the stone interior wall in this location is a small room used as an office/library. This room features plaster walls and moldings similar to those in the rest of the first floor. There are some built-in bookshelves along one wall and wide pine flooring. The kitchen is adjacent to this room and is accessed through a door in the same dining room wall as the archway to the office/library. It has been somewhat modernized with a suspended ceiling of fiberglass panels and a tile floor. Behind the dining room and main hallway are three small rooms. They include a pantry, a remodeled bathroom, and another room of unknown function. The room with the unknown function still has its original wide pine floorboards. At the back of the kitchen is an enclosed staircase that leads to the second floor. An exterior door at the foot of this staircase was used as a private entrance for a short time when part of the second floor was used as a separate apartment. All of the interior doors on this floor and the second floor are four-panel (two tiers of molded panels) wooden doors with brass hardware.

The main staircase is an open-string stair with undecorated steps. Its walnut balustrade consists of a handrail, turned balusters, and a large turned newel. At the second floor landing the balustrade continues along the second floor hallway. Originally, the balustrade turned the corner of the L-shaped hallway, but this open area is now enclosed with a wall and doorway. The hallway has plastered walls and ceilings, simple moldings, and wide pine flooring that is probably original to the house.

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The second floor is separated into two main sections off of the main hallway like the first floor. To the east of the main hall are two large bedrooms. They are simply decorated with plastered walls and ceilings, simple moldings, and wide pine flooring that is probably original to the house. At the end of the hallway is a complex of several inter-connected rooms. The first is a large bedroom that has features similar to the other bedrooms previously mentioned. To the north of this room are two rooms, a storage room and a bathroom. At the far west end are two rooms with modern paneled walls and tile floors. The enclosed rear staircase is accessed through the room in the northwest corner of this floor. This complex of rooms was used at one time as a separate apartment.

The house features a full basement that has exposed stone walls and a concrete floor. The basement has several rooms that contain utilities for the house. Part of the basement also consists of a large stone-constructed cistern, and an opening cut into one of its walls has revealed the unusual double wall construction that may also have been used in the exterior and interior stone walls of this house.

The interior of the house is currently undergoing renovation and restoration. The house is in good structural condition and most of the renovation has consisted of upgrading utilities and restoration of original features. The high level of historic integrity of this house, both inside and out, speaks well of the maintenance the owners have given this property over the years. The house is a local landmark and the present owners take pride in the prominence of its early owners. They plan to continue a restoration of the house that is in keeping with its historic appearance and character.

Also on the property is a carriage house. It is two stories in height with a steeply-pitched gable roof. The carriage house is covered with shiplap siding. In the front wall of the carriage house are two modern garage doors, one larger than the other. There are other openings in the carriage house that are enclosed with wood or glazing. The carriage house is in poor condition, although most of its historic features are intact.

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recorded in 1846, when William Dyer sold the 80 acres and an additional 20 acres to Norman C. Dyer. By 1849, the earliest tax roll on file, the 80-acre parcel this property was part of was valued at \$600 with \$350 in improvements. (3)

Tax Rolls and Deeds indicate that Norman C. Dyer sold the 80 acres, plus the additional 20 acres, for \$1,600 to John Bell in 1852. This value, more than the assessed value indicated in the tax rolls for that year (\$335), suggests that the property had improvements, but it is unclear that these improvements included this house. The tax rolls for the rest of the 1850s are also unclear as to whether a house this substantial was constructed. Local sources attribute the construction of this house to John Bell, but whether the house was built by the Dyer family or by Bell, it was probably constructed a few years before or after 1850. (4)

John and Margaret Bell were the most prominent and the longest owners of this house and the 80 acres of the original parcel. They owned and occupied the property for nearly 50 years, between 1852 and 1902. In 1904, the Bell heirs officially sold this parcel, along with the rest of the farm, to Horace and Anna Bell Cocroft. Anna Bell was a daughter of John and Margaret, and she and Horace Cocroft kept the property in the family until 1914. In that year, the farm was sold to Joseph and Annie Forge. After Joseph's death, Annie Forge sold the farm to Benjamin Lord of Chicago for \$1.00, indicating that Lord may have been a family member of the Forge's. Robert and David Stowell acquired the property from Lord's estate for their nearby farm and parcelled off this house and three acres from the rest of the farm. They sold the house and the three acres to Eugene Baumann, who sold it to current owners Alan and Margaret Sullivan. (5)

John Bell was born in 1807 in Scotland, where he was educated in general studies and in math and land surveying. He came to Canada in 1832 and found employment as a farm worker. But he soon left this work and came into the Michigan territory and began working for E. D. Lay in Ypsilanti. Lay had come to Ypsilanti in 1832 from Rochester, New York, bringing along about 25,000 fruit tree cuttings which he used to begin a nursery business there. Known as an early, if not the earliest, nurserymen in Michigan, Lay employed Bell for around four years. In 1837, Bell, in partnership with Lay, came to Wisconsin to establish a nursery in this new and growing territory. (6)

It is unclear why Bell settled in the Burlington area, as many areas of southern Wisconsin were being settled during this era. It may have been the proximity to

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harbors of Racine, Kenosha, and Milwaukee, which provided an important transportation link for his business. Or, it may have been the fertile land on Palmer Gardner's farm, known as "Gardner's Prairie," and the willingness of Gardner to lease land to him, perhaps as an advantageous price that made him begin his nursery in Spring Prairie. Or, it may have been a combination of all of the above. In any event, Bell leased around 10 acres of Gardner's farm and began his nursery by transferring 400 trees from Lay's operation in Michigan to Spring Prairie. (7)

Bell's nursery account books (which were in the possession of Bell's great-grandson in the 1970s; their present location is being researched) begin in 1839, two years after he came to Spring Prairie. The first entry was a sale of 75 apple trees, 15 pear trees, 10 plus trees, two grapevines, and three currant bushes. These entries indicate that Bell had a large inventory of fruit species. The account books also indicate that for a number of years, E. D. Lay of Ypsilanti was his major supplier of nursery stock. The exact location of Bell's nursery prior to his acquiring this property is not known, although an 1857 map, drawn at the end of Bell's nursery operation, shows trees on both this property and across the road and slightly east on Palmer Gardner's land. (8)

While the 1882 Walworth County history book indicates that Bell had up to 250,000 items of nursery stock, this may be an exaggeration. However, his account books indicated that he often sold his stock in amounts of 100 to 200 at a time, which suggests that he did have a large inventory. But, the account books also show sales of as few as one plant, so he was not exclusively a wholesaler. He handled many common fruit species, but also offered such exotics as dahlias, cactuses, and hops. He also handled items that have either been renamed or have been long forgotten, such as bladder linny, white houtlais, boynets, and abercaceous. He had customers from Burlington, of course, but also from Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha, Waukesha, Whitewater, and Beloit. In 1843, he even sold plants to Governor James Duane Doty, of territorial Wisconsin political fame. (9)

Bell married Margaret O'Connor in 1844 and they eventually had a family of five girls and two boys. In 1852, he acquired the property this house sits on today, and either moved into the house that already existed there, or, as local sources indicate, built this substantial house for his family. In 1853, the State Agricultural Society awarded him a medal for the 10 best apple varieties and six best pear varieties grown in the state. But this was to be the apex of Bell's nursery career. A pest known as the "bark louse," began killing his nursery stock, and it either destroyed his plants or he destroyed them in an effort to control the problem. In any event, by 1858, he was apparently out of business. He turned to

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farming his land and was known as a prosperous resident of the county during the later years of his life. But, it is unclear whether his money was made in his nursery business or as a farmer. (10)

John Bell died in 1884 at the age of 77. His younger wife continued to live on until 1902. The various Bell heirs sold their interest in the Bell farm to a sister, Anna Bell Cocroft, in 1904, and the Cocrofts lived on the farm until 1914, when it left family hands. As stated earlier, the house and three acres of land were parcelled off from the farm in the mid-twentieth century. Unfortunately, there are no physical resources - such as a greenhouse, barn, sheds, or orchards - that relate to Bell's nursery on this property, with the exception of the house, from which he probably did business. But the setting of the house behind a long sweep of lawn, and the many tall, mature trees, some of which may have been planted by Bell, still gives the impression that this was no run-of-the-mill farm, but the home of someone of prominence in the area. (11)

The historical significance of John Bell and his nursery in pioneer Wisconsin is difficult to ascertain. He is locally known as the "first nurseryman" in the state, and this may be the case, although this claim cannot be proven at this time. An attempt to find a historical context for John Bell was made, but a search for historical resources related to early nurserymen was unsuccessful. Since such information is lacking, it is difficult to place John Bell into an historical context. He was certainly an early pioneer in the field, but how his business compared with other early nurseries in the state cannot be determined at this time. Therefore, an area of significance for this historic theme was not developed as part of this nomination. Further primary research into this topic could yield information that may make this property historically significant for John Bell's career as a nurseryman.

Architecture

The John and Margaret Bell house is architecturally significant at the local level because it is a fine and unusual example of a vernacular stone house that features details that suggest the Greek Revival and Italianate architectural styles. More importantly, the house is significant for its method of construction. It is an unusual stone house because of its form and massing and is not typical of early stone houses in the area. It is built of locally quarried sandstone taken from a quarry originally opened by an offshoot Mormon group, the Strangite Mormons, who built a small community near Burlington in the 1840s.

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According to Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan, the Greek Revival style was the first national style commonly seen in Wisconsin. It was popular between 1830 and 1870 in the state. Greek Revival buildings are formal, orderly, and symmetrical. Although most Greek Revival style buildings are of frame construction, in Wisconsin, the style was used to adorn brick, fieldstone, and quarried stone buildings. While Wisconsin has a number of high-style Greek Revival buildings, the style is seen more commonly on vernacular houses in the form of symmetrical massing, regular fenestration, simple cornices and returned eaves, and entrances decorated with a transom and/or sidelights. (12)

The Italianate style was very popular in Wisconsin between 1850 and 1880. Early Italianate houses generally have square plans, low-pitched hip roofs, wide eaves with brackets, tall windows with round arches or label moldings, and often, a cupola. Like other styles, the Italianate style in Wisconsin is seen on many buildings only in their form and massing or in their use of brackets under roof eaves or window moldings. (13)

The Bell house is locally significant under criterion C for its method of construction. The house is a distinctive example of mid-19th century stone building. The building is constructed of rubblestone with a distinctive raised mortar joint laid over the stone to create the appearance of squared ashlar construction. This raised joint is found on the main and side elevations and gives the building a more formal and regular appearance. The building is exemplary in the size and scale of its construction and the fine detail of its mortar joints. The regular fenestration and main entry details are typical of plain Greek Revival houses in Wisconsin, although the off-centered main entrance in this house is unusual. The tall windows of the first story and the use of brackets under the eaves are typical of the details often seen on plain or transitional Italianate houses.

The architectural significance of this house is primarily derived from the building's fine and unusual method of stone construction. The fact that the walls are unusually thick may be related to an unusual method of construction as seen in the basement cistern walls. That is, these walls were made up of two thicknesses of thin sandstone laid up in mortar. If this is the case, the method of construction of this house is very unusual and significant.

Also significant is the building's size and form. It is much larger and longer than most stone buildings of the area. A short distance from this house are several

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stone buildings that are still extant from the 1840s Strangite Mormon community that grew up just west of Burlington (along State Highway 11). These houses are more typical of early stone houses in the area. They are relatively small, low buildings that do not compare to the size and quality of this house. Even if there were other large stone houses in the area, the size and unusual length of this house still make it distinctive.

This house is constructed from locally-quarried sandstone. A quarrying operation in the old Mormon Quarry, just west of Burlington, in 1934 indicated that near the surface of the quarry was "flagstone [that] . . . peeled away like a child eats layer cake." Under this stone was found a harder limestone, and under this was an almost marble-like stone which the quarry owners were taking out and selling to builders in many large cities in the United States. (14)

It is of interest that the surface stone was like flagstone that peeled away in layers. It appears that this is the type of stone that was used for the Bell house, as the sandstone blocks of the exterior walls are unusually narrow, almost shale-like. The use of such stone, particularly if it was laid up in a double thickness, was time-consuming for the stone mason and probably more costly to the building owner. And, it seems to have provided a high-quality building that after 150 years is still structurally sound and in good condition.

The Bell house was the subject of two large articles in the Burlington newspaper in 1973. One of these articles strongly suggested that the Bell house be given a state historical marker to honor the career of John Bell. And, while the Bell family has long ago vacated this property, this house is considered a landmark for local residents because of its architecture and its long and illustrious history. The Bell house is architecturally significant and eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as a fine example of locally-quarried sandstone construction and because its overall form and massing, along with its popular style elements, makes the house stand out as one of Walworth's County's important architectural landmarks.

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Notes to Section 8:

(1) Tax Rolls for the Town of Spring Prairie, on file in the Area Research Center of the Library of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Whitewater, Wisconsin; Deeds, on file in the Walworth County Registrar of Deeds Office, Walworth County Courthouse, Elkhorn, Wisconsin. A more complete analysis regarding the construction and history of this house is given in the Historical Background section later in this nomination.

(2) Ibid.; C. W. Butterfield, History of Walworth County, Wisconsin, Chicago: Western Historical Co., 1882, pp. 890-893.

(3) Deeds, Vol. 1, p. 385; Vol. 7, p. 481; Tax Rolls.

(4) Deeds, Vol. 14, pp. 463-64; Tax Rolls.

(5) Deeds, Vol. 111, p. 293; Vol. 128, p. 220; Vol. 220, p. 285; "Time to Honor Spring Prairie Man Who Endowed Frontier With Fruit," Burlington Standard Press, 5 November 1973, p. 4.

(6) "John Bell Our Own Johnny Appleseed," Burlington Standard Press, 29 October 1973, p. 1(?).

(7) Ibid.; John G. Gregory, ed., Southeastern Wisconsin: A History of Old Milwaukee County, Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1932, p. 732.

(8) "Time to Honor Spring Prairie Man;" Plat Map for Walworth County, 1857, on file in the Archives of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

(9) "Time to Honor Spring Prairie Man."

(10) Ibid.; Gregory, p. 732.

(11) Ibid.

(12) Barbara Wyatt, ed., Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, Vol. II, Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, Architecture, p. 2-3.

(13) Ibid., p. 2-6.

(14) "Ancient Quarry of the Mormons Yielding Limestone, Dolomite in Pastels and Cash," newspaper article from 1934, in the possession of the owners.

ARCHEOLOGICAL STATEMENT

Historical sources indicate that there was considerable Native American activity in the town of Spring Prairie. There was also important historical activity related to the Strangite Mormons nearby. An archeological study was beyond the scope of this nomination, but, due to the fact that this house sits on over three acres of land, there is the potential for hidden archeological resources related to either pre-historic or historic activity in this area of Walworth County.

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BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the intersection of the east lot line of the property and the south lot line that runs along the north right-of-way line of Spring Prairie Road, then north 651.35 feet along the east lot line to the north lot line, then west 258.02 feet along the north lot line to the west lot line, then south 637.33 feet along the west lot line to the south lot line, then east 256 feet along the south lot line to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This 3.8 acre parcel includes the historic buildings of the old Bell farm along with its historic setting. It is also the current legal description of the property.
(See Figure 1)

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JOHN AND MARGARET BELL HOUSE, Town of Spring Prairie, Walworth County, Wisconsin.
Photos by C. Cartwright, March, 1993. Negatives on file at the Division of Historic
Preservation, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin. Views:

- 1 of 14: Site view, from the south.
- 2 of 14: South wall, from the south.
- 3 of 14: East wall, from the east.
- 4 of 14: West wall, from the west.
- 5 of 14: North wall, from the north.
- 6 of 14: Interior, main entrance.
- 7 of 14: Interior, main staircase.
- 8 of 14: Interior, dining room.
- 9 of 14: Interior, living room.
- 10 of 14: Interior, second floor hallway.
- 11 of 14: Interior, second floor bedroom.
- 12 of 14: Interior, second floor bedroom, living room of separate apartment.
- 13 of 14: Interior, second floor bedroom, kitchen of separate apartment.
- 14 of 14: Carriage house, view from the southeast.

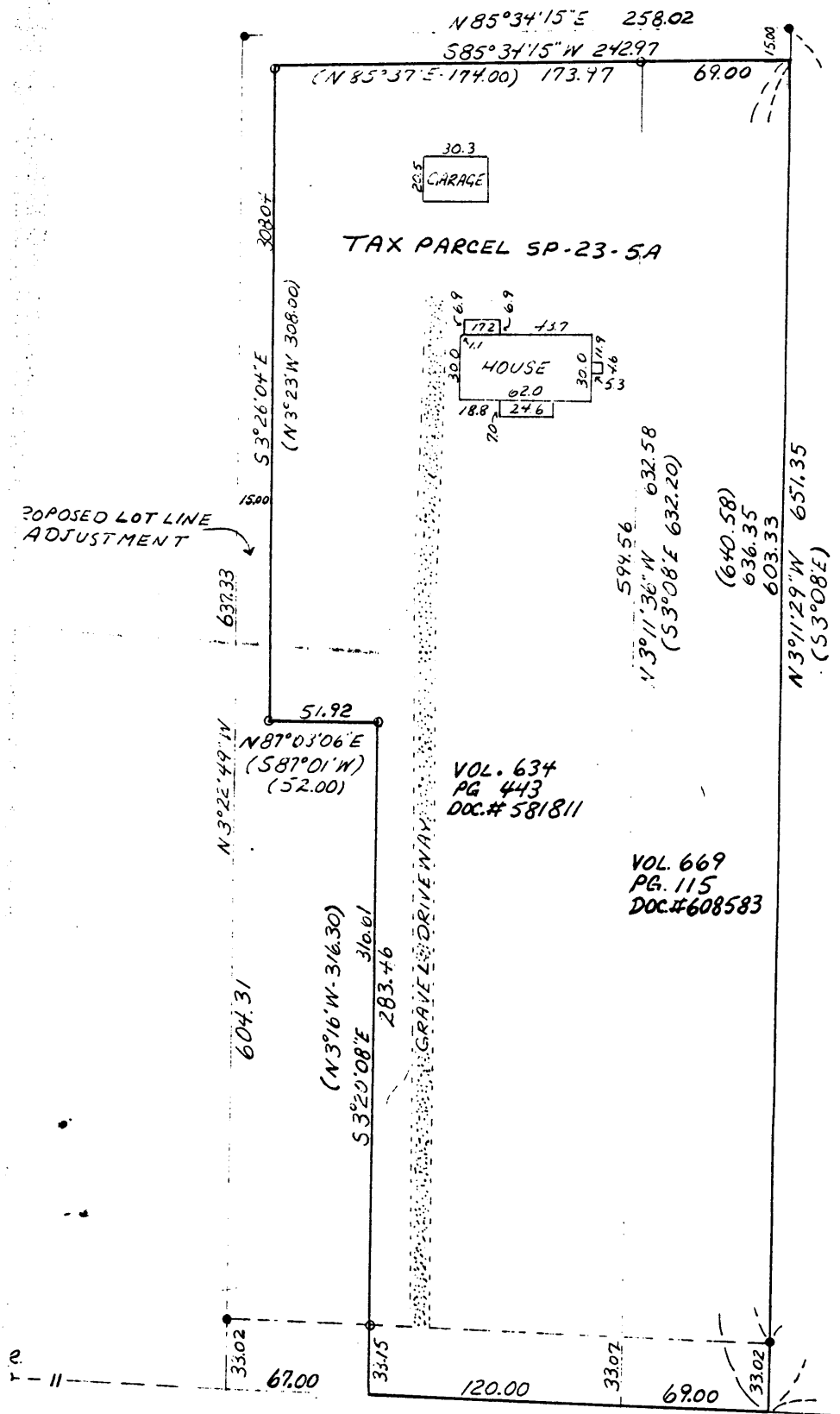


FIGURE 1
 SITE MAP
 BELL, JOHN AND MARGARET HOUSE
 TOWN OF SPRING PRAIRIE, WALWORTH CO., WI