

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 89000231

Date Listed: 4/12/89

Rural on the Crystal Hist. Dist.  
Property Name

Waupaca  
County

WI  
State

Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*Bell Boland*  
Signature of the Keeper

*4/12/89*  
Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

Item #7: Architectural Classification:

- Italianate
- Greek Revival
- Other: Gabled-ell
- Other: Front-gabled

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DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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

OMB No. 1024-0018

United State Department of the Interior  
 National Park Service

FEB 27 1989

NATIONAL  
 REGISTER

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 Rural on the Crystal Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number various, see inventory N/A not for publication

city, town Town of Dayton vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Waupaca code 135 zip code 54981

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	36	11 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	5	structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		objects
		41	11 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

No. of contributing resources  
 previously listed in the  
 National Register 1

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

2/2/89  
Date

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

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

Beth Boland

4/12/89

\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register. \_\_\_ See continuation sheet

\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register.

\_\_\_ removed from the National Register.

\_\_\_ other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions

(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions

(enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store

GOVERNMENT/city hall

AGRICULTURE/SUBS./animal facility

AGRICULTURE/SUBS./storage

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/hotel

COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store

GOVERNMENT/city hall

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials  
(enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

Other: Gabled-ell

Other: Front-gabled

foundation Stone

walls Weatherboard

Vinyl

roof Asphalt

other Brick

Wood (Shingles)

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Rural on the Crystal Historic District contains 48 buildings and five structures that make up most of the unincorporated village of Rural in the Town of Dayton, Waupaca County. Rural lies in east central Wisconsin just south of the area known as the Chain-O-Lakes. State Highway 22 runs east of the village. Old Highway 22 runs through the center of the village and is known as Main Street. The other artery running through the community is Rural Road or Potts Street and in general, it forms the southern boundary of the district. Just north of the village is a wooded hill and woods and farmland surround the other sides of the village.

The Crystal River, a clear, picturesque stream used for both trout fishing and boating, meanders through the village and much of this district. At the point where old Highway 22 crosses the Crystal, part of the river is diverted, creating a mill race that runs along Main Street in the village, then connects up with the main branch of the river and continues out of the village. There are four historic bridges that cross this river in the district; one is a two-arch stone arch bridge, two are reinforced concrete arch bridges, and one is a reinforced concrete flat arch bridge. The bridges are all contributing structures within this district.

The buildings in Rural and in this district are almost all houses and generally sit on large lots. Although the village was settled in the mid-nineteenth century, it never developed much after this time, and never was much larger than it is today. Because of this, the village lots were not entirely filled in and many property owners today own more than one lot with their buildings, and there are a number of open spaces within the district. The fact that the village is sparsely settled also accounts for the fact that the houses have somewhat irregular setbacks from the streets. Most of the lots in the village have mature trees and bushes, and in many areas of the village, there are thick groves of trees that add to the little community's charm. The terrain in the village is generally level except at the north edge of the district where it rises to form the hillside.

Most of the houses were built as urban dwellings, but one house is part of a farm complex. This farm complex is not only intact, it is a fine example of a turn of the century farmstead. Other outbuildings in the district are generally modern garages or historic garages and carriage houses.

x See continuation sheet

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There are 48 total buildings in this district. Of these 48, 22 (46%) are principal buildings and 26 (54%) are outbuildings. Of the 48 total buildings, 37 (77%) are contributing in the district, 11 (23%) are non-contributing, and there are five contributing structures (four bridges and one silo). Of the 22 principal buildings, 15 (68%) are contributing and seven (32%) are non-contributing. Of the 26 outbuildings (garages, barns, and carriage houses), 22 (85%) are contributing in the district while four (15%) are non-contributing in the district. These statistics indicate that most of the buildings within this district are historic and that there are few intrusions.

Besides the lack of non-contributing elements, another reason this district is so cohesive as a nineteenth century village is the fact that so many of the houses have a common or related architectural style or form. Most of the contributing principal buildings (10 of 15, 67%) in this district have a vernacular form with details that suggest the Greek Revival style. One building clearly expresses the Italianate style, one building is a Boomtown vernacular commercial building, one building suggests the Queen Anne style, and three buildings are vernacular forms that suggest no architectural style. Almost all of these buildings were constructed prior to 1900.

In Wisconsin today, many small Yankee villages like Rural have deteriorated from lack of maintenance and inappropriate remodeling or have grown into much larger communities and have lost their original character. Rural, however, has maintained its architectural character and its nineteenth century setting. The wealth of mature trees surrounding most buildings, the narrow roads, and the meandering stream that is crossed by historic bridges contributes to the aesthetic feeling that this is a nineteenth century village, largely unchanged by time. It is the setting, along with the strong sense of local history that both long-time residents and newcomers feel in Rural that has preserved this village and this district as a relatively intact Yankee community.

DESCRIPTION OF SELECTED BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

<u>Address</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Construction</u>
E1382 Main St.	The Rural Store	1898, moved: 1903, 1966 (1)

This one-story building is the only historic commercial building in the village.

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Originally built as a woodworking shop, it soon was moved from across the street to very near its present location and became a general store. The frame building features a standing-seam metal gable roof and a boomtown front. The boomtown front features an elaborate cornice with several pairs of scroll brackets. Vertical wood siding covers the upper portion of the boomtown front while the rest of the building is covered with shiplap siding. A semi-circular cutout in the boomtown front accents the current name of the building, "Rural Artists," and originally it decorated the old entrance to the building that consisted of double wooden doors. Two six-over-six light sash windows originally flanked the entrance. The building today, though, features a storefront consisting of a recessed entrance flanked by large, single pane show windows. These show windows are decorated with pilasters topped with delicate scroll brackets. The storefront may have been altered in 1903 when it became a general store.

The Rural Store was constructed by Herbert Radley, a local carpenter, in 1898. It sat across the road from its present location over the mill race near the old Highway 22 bridge. An historic photo illustrates how the building was set up on wooden supports over the river. Apparently Radley used the mill race as a power source for the shop. The carpenter shop was short-lived, though, and Radley moved the building across Main Street in 1903. There, he operated a general store. It remained a general store throughout much of the twentieth century. In 1916 Charles Weller rented the building and between 1916 and 1966 the Weller family owned and operated a general store in the building. In 1966 the building was moved again, slightly to the east, to make room for a new concrete block store building. At the present time The Rural Store is a retail store for local artists to present their works to the public. (2)

E1410 Main St.

Residence

c.1855 (3)

Reportedly built by local resident Aaron Hyatt, this gabled-ell frame house features a two story central gable roofed section with two one story wings projecting from each side. Across the east wing is an ell porch. The building is clad with clapboards and painted white. Some of the windows have been replaced, and others are single pane double hung sashes. The windows are decorated with non-functioning shutters. Although slightly altered, this house is a good example of the simple frame structures that dominate this village.

The original owner and exact date of construction remains unclear, although local historical sources indicate it was one of several buildings built by Aaron Hyatt in the mid-nineteenth century. Tax rolls are inconclusive prior to 1867. Between 1867

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and 1882, the house was owned by Levi Lawrence, of whom little is known. Between 1885 and 1903 the house was owned by T. E. Hartman and A. J. Barrington. Since 1903, there have been various owners. (4)

E1426 Main St. W. P. Quint House 1853 (5)

The W. P. Quint House is a fine example of a gabled-ell house with Greek Revival details. Of frame construction, the clapboard sided structure features a two story main block with a one story ell attached on the east facade. This ell extends north toward the rear of the main block. Under the eaves of the building is a simple frieze and there are narrow corner boards where the walls meet. A small multi-pane lunette decorates the gable peak of the main block. Fenestration is regular as is common in the Greek Revival style. Most windows are average-sized two-over-two double hung sashes. Other windows are single pane double hung sashes. On the front facade of the main block there is a rectangular projecting bay, probably an addition from the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. The main entrance features typical Greek Revival styling. A simple wooden door is flanked by narrow sidelights and is surrounded by a frontispiece of pilasters and a full entablature with a prominent projecting cornice. Shutters decorate windows of the house and are painted a traditional green, accenting the white building.

The Quint House was built by James H. Jones, first settler of Rural, to handle the overflow trade from his "halfway house" tavern and inn, located southeast of this house. It was owned by Jones' wife until around 1860 and then it was briefly owned by I. W. Horton. Between 1864 and 1903, W. P. Quint owned the house and it was part of the complex of buildings he used for his successful mercantile trade. Quint came to Wisconsin in 1852 and to Rural in 1861. He was associated with prominent merchant James McCrossen in both the local grist mill and in the mercantile business. Reportedly McCrossen and Quint made their success by providing supplies to the lumber camps in the Stevens Point area. McCrossen eventually left Rural, but Quint stayed on, becoming the most prominent merchant in the community. (6)

E1434 Main St. McCrossen-Ashmun House c.1854 (7)

This simple gabled-ell house has the massing of the Greek Revival style although few of the style's details. The house has a one and one-half story main block and gable-roofed one-story wings projecting from it. Original siding materials have been covered with new vinyl siding. Openings are generally regular and consist largely of single pane double hung sashes. There are a few windows that appear to

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be modern replacements or additions, and the double window of the second floor front facade of the main block may have been added sometime around the turn of the century. The building has a standing seam tin roof and sits on a rubble foundation. A shed-roof porch covers the west wing and features simple wooden posts.

The history of this house is probably of more interest than its architecture. Built around 1854 by pioneer merchant James McCrossen, he owned it until 1868. McCrossen was a native of Canada who lumbered in Maine and near Oshkosh before coming to Rural around 1852. He was part owner of the grist mill and owned a successful store with W. P. Quint. Between 1869 and 1874, a B. Wells owned the house, then in 1875 it became the home of the Sam Ashmun family, who owned it well into the twentieth century. Sam Ashmun was a native of New York and came to Rural in 1859. He was a brother of Jehudi Ashmun, whose house is also in this district. Sam Ashmun was a merchant in the community, and his store was a local landmark until it was destroyed by fire. Sam Ashmun lived in the house until 1915, but it remained in the Ashmun family much longer. (8)

Between 1933 and 1940, Margaret Ashmun, author and university instructor, lived in this house. Margaret was born in 1875 and graduated from Waupaca High School in 1892. She graduated from the Stevens Point Teachers College in 1902, then received a B.A. degree from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. She earned her M.A. from Madison in 1908. Between 1904 and 1906 she taught at the Teacher's College at Stout, then between 1907 and 1912, she was an English Instructor at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. She was an author; she edited English textbooks; and she wrote works for children. She died in 1940. (9)

E1441 Main St.

E. J. Dake House

c.1860 (10)

This fine example of a vernacular Greek Revival house is a two-story frame building with a front-gabled form. The building is almost entirely clad in clapboards and there is a shed-roofed addition in the rear that is similarly clad. Behind this is a one-story addition with gable roof and shiplap siding. A wide frieze runs along the length of the building, except for the one-story addition. Fenestration is very regular and consists of six-over-six double hung sashes that are undecorated. The front entrance resembles that of the W. P. Quint House across the street. It is a simple wooden door decorated with narrow sidelights and accented by a wooden frontispiece of pilasters and an entablature with a prominent cornice. A gambrel roofed carriage house-garage sits at the back of the property and is a contributing outbuilding on the site.



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Sources are inconclusive regarding the date of construction of the property, however, tax rolls indicate little activity on the lot until 1860. Between 1860 and 1862, J. J. Slater owned the property and its value suggests that a building existed at that time. Between 1864 and 1867 J. S. Jones owned the property. Between 1869 and 1907, E. J. Dake owned the house and it is locally known as the Dake house. Local sources suggest a late 1870s date of construction, but, due to the building's style of architecture and tax roll data, it was probably built around 1860.

E1449 Main St. Dayton Town Hall 1928 (11)

This simple gable-roofed frame building serves as the town hall for the Town of Dayton, Waupaca County. It is a one-story building with a front-gabled form. Built on a rusticated concrete block foundation, the hall is covered with clapboards. A very plain frieze spans the building and there are plain corner boards where the walls meet. The doors are simple and constructed of wood and glass and the windows are two-over-two double hung sashes.

The Dayton Town Hall was built in 1928. Prior to the construction of this hall, town meetings were held in individual homes and in the blacksmith shop (not extant) in the village. (12)

E1454 Main St. McCrossen-Radley House 1868 (13)

This fine frame Italianate house is two stories in height and has a square plan with a hipped roof. Topping the roof is a cupola that features a cornice and windows that match the main house. There is a small one-story addition at the rear of the house. The wide overhanging eaves of the roof are supported by massive paired pendant brackets that are attached to a plain wide frieze. The house is covered with clapboards that are painted white. The most outstanding feature of the house are the many groups of paired round arched windows. These windows are taller on the first floor than the second floor, except for the second floor front facade, where the windows in the center of the facade are much larger. The windows are primarily two-over-two double hung sashes. The main entrance features a plain wooden door that is accented by sidelights and a transom. The entrance is covered by a small front porch that has square wooden posts and a cornice with brackets that are like those on the main block of the house.

This house was built in 1868 for James McCrossen, a prominent merchant and its size and style attest to his success at the time. He owned the house briefly, and in the 1870s he became involved in lumber lands near Wausau, and in 1875 he sold the house

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to S. A. Ashmun. Ashmun owned it briefly until 1879, when it became the property of Robert McCrossen. In 1888, W. W. Radley acquired the house and it was the Radley home until the mid twentieth century. Because of Radley's long tenure in the house, it is locally known as The Radley House and currently is being used for a specialty fabric and crafts business. (14)

E1366 Rural Rd./Potts St. Jehudi Ashmun House c.1858 (15)

This house consists of a hip-roofed two story main block and a long one story gabled wing that is attached to the rear of the main block and that creates an ell on the west facade. It extends quite a distance to the east, but it is not attached to the east facade in the typical manner of a gabled-ell. It has the typical features of a two-story cube including square massing, a low-pitched hipped roof, a plain frieze under the eaves, cornerboards, and porches that feature simple square posts. The rear porch has turned spindles. The dominant feature of the house is its fenestration, consisting of many six-over-six double hung sashes with simple wooden surrounds.

Jehudi Ashmun was a native New Yorker who came to Rural in 1857. He was college educated and while boarding with the Andrew Potts family across the street, he met Ellen Jane Jones, the schoolteacher daughter of pioneer James H. Jones. They married and reported moved into this house in 1858. Local tradition states that James H. Jones built the house for the newlyweds. Although Ashmun did not come to Rural as a doctor, he was an educated man and was in the possession of medical books. He became a self-taught doctor and served the community in that capacity until he died in 1919. (16)

E1369 Rural Rd./Potts St. Andrew Potts Farmstead 1853-54, c.1890,  
1902 (17)

The Andrew Potts Farmstead includes a large farmhouse probably built between 1853 and 1854 and added to around 1890, a large dairy barn built in 1902 with an attached brick silo, and six other sheds or barns in the immediate vicinity of the main dairy barn. While the farmhouse was part of the Potts farm, it was also a city house, located along one of the main streets in Rural. It is a large, two-story frame structure that has a side-gabled form with a rear ell. The building's plan and form suggests the Greek Revival style and the addition of the second story of the ell suggests the Queen Anne style. The house is clad with clapboard siding and a plain frieze runs under the eaves around the building. A steeply-pitched gable accents the paired windows of the c.1890 second story addition to the ell. The pediment is

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shingled with sawtooth shingles. Fenestration is regular and except for the ell addition, consists of either single-pane double hung sashes or two-over-two double hung sashes. The house is painted white and the windows are decorated with green shutters. While most of the windows have flat board trim, a few have simple cornices. There are two main porches (both partially enclosed); one on the west facade and one on the north facade. The west porch stretches across most of the side and features simple square posts. The north or ell porch also spans almost the entire ell and has simple posts. It is screened.

The dairy barn was built in 1902, as indicated by a large wooden "1902" above the upper level entry doors. The barn is a large, gambrel roofed structure of balloon frame construction. It sits on a raised fieldstone foundation. The barn is sided with vertical boards and the roof is covered with standing seam tin. Two large sliding doors cover the earthen bank upper level entrance. The lower level is reached through several openings in the foundation. At the west end of the barn is a fine silo that is built of brick. While somewhat deteriorated due to lack of use, the dairy barn and silo are intact with a good level of integrity. The other six sheds or barns are small to medium sized agricultural outbuildings that could have served a number of purposes. Most are sided with vertical wood boards and are gable roofed structures. Some are in good condition, while others are deteriorated. All the outbuildings of the farmstead are painted the traditional red. The current owners, who have restored the farmhouse into a family home and bed and breakfast inn have an interest in potentially trying to restore some of the agricultural outbuildings of this complex.

Andrew Potts was born in Scotland, and he and his wife, Catherine, came to Rural in 1853. They built a small cabin in 1853 which was incorporated into the larger home they built in 1854. This larger home is the side-gabled portion of the existing structure without the second floor ell addition. The Potts' built their original 80 acre farm holdings into a farm of 370 acres, a significant agricultural operation in the nineteenth century. Their son, Andrew R. Potts was born in the Halfway House in Rural in 1853 and took over the farm from his father in the late nineteenth century. A. R. Potts was interested in dairying and stock raising, as the large dairy barn he built attests, but he was also interested in politics. A Republican, he began his political career on the school board and served for five years as the town treasurer, and three years as the Chairman of the county board. In 1910 he was elected a member of the state assembly, and re-elected in 1912. He was elected to the State Senate in 1915 and served until 1919. He is best known for introducing the county agricultural agent bill into the state legislature. Andrew R. Potts' son, Truman Potts, and his wife, Alice, lived on the farmstead throughout much of

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the twentieth century. Truman Potts was a banker at the National Bank of Waupaca, but also kept up the family farm. Because of over 100 years of ownership by the Potts family, the farm was recognized as one of the state's Century Farms. The new owners of the farmstead and thirty four acres of the Potts farmland are maintaining its identity as the Potts Farm while at the same time making it their own home and putting the historic buildings to new uses. (18)

E1426 Rural Rd./Potts St. Halfway House 1852 (19)

This gabled ell frame house was the first structure to be built in Rural. It is of one and one-half stories in height and its form and details suggest the Greek Revival style. Most of the house is covered with clapboard siding. The addition off the rear or north wing of the house was added more recently and has board and batten siding. There are two gable roofed dormers projecting from the ell and the house has a wrap around porch that spans the entire ell and wraps around the ell's west facade. The porch has simple wooden columns. The openings are generally symmetrically placed and consist mainly of six-over-six light double hung sashes. A large multi-light casement window of more recent vintage is in the ell on the first floor. The windows are decorated with very simple cornices and many have functioning shutters. Entrances are simple, consisting of plain wooden doors.

James H. Jones came to Rural in 1851 and immediately saw its potential for growth because of the Crystal River and the water power it could provide. He built this house and began operating it as an inn and tavern. It soon became known as the "Halfway House" because it was located about halfway between Stevens Point and Berlin. Local historical sources indicate that Jones built a number of other houses in the community and that he built the grist mill between 1854 and 1856 to help promote the settlement's economic growth. Jones was also a local politician and served as the Town of Dayton Justice of the Peace, Waupaca County sheriff, and clerk of courts during the pioneer era. He also published newspapers. In 1872 the railroad bypassed Rural, and with that depressing economic news, Jones moved to Wild Rose where he operated a general store. In 1880 he came back to Rural and lived there until his death in 1890. This house was placed on the National Register in 1982. (20)

Main Street Main Street Stone Arch Bridge c.1900 (21)

The Main Street Stone Arch Bridge consists of two rubble stone masonry arches over the Crystal River. A larger arch spans the main branch of the Crystal while a smaller arch spans the mill race. Both bridges are constructed of irregularly

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coursed rubble with segmental stone arches. The platform is laid rubble with an overlay of asphalt paving. Large wooden posts provide anchors for the metal railing. The bridge is in fair condition and no longer carries the traffic of State Highway 22. However, it is the main road through Rural that carries vehicular traffic and therefore is threatened with potential replacement.

Rural Rd./Potts St. Rural Road Concrete Bridges 1910 (22)

These three bridges are built from reinforced concrete. Two are arches that are dated 1910 and have a plate identifying the company that built them as the Illinois Bridge Company. Local history suggests that the middle bridge, different from the other two, was constructed much earlier by a local resident. Given the fact that reinforced concrete was not used for bridges much before 1910, the bridge was probably built shortly before the other two. It is, though, different in appearance and so probably was built by someone else.

The middle bridge is a flat arch bridge and has concrete railings. The solid railings have rectangles recessed into the sides. The railing is also constructed to give the impression of a balustrade. The other two bridges are concrete arches with concrete platforms. They have solid concrete railings that mirror the middle bridge. But the rectangular patterns of these bridges' railings are formed by the scoring of a line around a rectangular shape, unlike the middle bridge where the rectangle design is recessed into the railings. These bridges are in good condition, but carry vehicular traffic to residents' homes and to the nearby village of Parfreyville, and therefore are potentially threatened with replacement.

BUILDING INVENTORY

<u>Address</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Construction</u>	<u>Status</u>
E1389 Arbor St.	Old Veteran's Cottage	c.1900, moved c.1940(23)	NC*
E1390 Arbor St.	John C. Green House	c.1860 (24)	C*
N2027 Cleghorn St.	Partridge-Hyatt House	c.1855, c.1880 (25)	C
N2055 Cleghorn St.	Ashmun House	c.1857, moved 1956 (26)	C
E1382 Main St. (A)	Weller Store	1975 (27)	NC
E1382 Main St.(B)	The Rural Store	1898, moved 1903,1966	C
E1396 Main St.	Residence	c.1855	C
E1410 Main St.	Residence	c.1855, c. 1890 (28)	C
E1418 Main St.	Residence	c.1960 (29)	NC

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<u>Address</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Construction</u>	<u>Status</u>
E1419 Main St.	Residence	c.1965 (30)	NC
E1426 Main St.	W. P. Quint House	1853	C
E1433 Main St.	Residence	c.1878 (31)	C
E1434 Main St.	McCrossen-Ashmun House	c.1854	C
E1441 Main St.	E. J. Dake House	c.1860	C
E1449 Main St.	Dayton Town Hall	1928	C
E1454 Main St.	McCrossen-Radley House	1868	C
Main St.	Stone Arch Bridge	c.1900	C
N2015 Ashmun St.	Residence	1958 (32)	NC
E1366 Rural/Potts	Jehudi Ashmun House	c.1858	C
E1369 Rural/Potts	Andrew Potts Farmstead	1853-54, c.1890, 1902	C
E1384 Rural/Potts	Residence	c.1975 (33)	NC
E1398 Rural/Potts	Residence	c.1965 (34)	NC
E1426 Rural/Potts	Halfway House	1852	C
Rural/Potts	Concrete Bridge 1	1910	C
Rural/Potts	Concrete Bridge 2	1910	C
Rural/Potts	Concrete Bridge 3	1910	C

\* C = Contributing in the district  
 NC = Non-contributing in the district

Notes to Section 7:

(1) "Historic Sites in Rural," map tour of historic sites in Rural, Wisconsin. Rural Historical Society, Rural, Wisconsin, no date; Norma Stromberg, Rural on the Crystal, Amherst, WI: Palmer Publications, Inc., 1978, pp. 70, 86

(2) Ibid.

(3) "Historic Sites." As with many sites in this district, tax rolls were inconclusive in determining the exact date of this building but its overall form and details indicate it could have been built around 1855.

(4) Tax Rolls for the town of Dayton, Waupaca County, Wisconsin, on file at the Area Research Center, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Library, Stevens Point, WI.

(5) Stromberg, p. 15.

(6) Stromberg, pp. 15, 16, 69; Margaret Ashmun, "Notes on the Early Settlers of Rural, Town of Dayton, Waupaca County, Wisconsin," transcribed from the original by E. E. Browne in 1941, on file in the collections of the Rural Historical Society, Rural, Wisconsin.

(7) "Historic Sites."

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- (8) Stromberg, pp. 61-69; Ashmun, "Notes on Early Settlers."
- (9) Stromberg, pp. 128-131.
- (10) Tax Rolls, field observation.
- (11) Stromberg, p. 105
- (12) Ibid.
- (13) Tax Rolls.
- (14) Stromberg, pp. 61-62, Tax Rolls.
- (15) Stromberg, p. 30.
- (16) Stromberg, pp. 28-32.
- (17) Stromberg, pp. 21-22, datemarker on barn.
- (18) John M. Ware, ed. History of Waupaca County, Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1917, pp. 411-413.
- (19) National Register of Historic Places nomination form for the Halfway House, Rural, Waupaca County, Wisconsin, 1980-82.
- (20) Ibid.
- (21) The date of construction for this bridge was determined from information in Jeffrey A. Hess and Robert M. Frame III, Historic Highway Bridges in Wisconsin, Vol. I Stone and Concrete Arch Bridges, Madison: Wisconsin Department of Transportation, 1986.
- (22) Date on two of the bridges. Since the third bridge seemed slightly older than the other two and since concrete bridges were not commonly seen much before 1910, it was determined that this bridge was probably built around the same time as the other two.
- (23) This was a cottage at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at nearby King. According to the National Register nomination for the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King, this type of cottage would have been built between 1890 and 1925. Other cottages of this type were moved and razed around sometime after the 1930s, so it is probable that this cottage was moved here sometime after that.
- (24) Tax rolls indicate that this house was in existence at least as early as 1860, but an exact date of construction is unknown.
- (25) Tax rolls show that this house was in possession of M. M. Partridge prior to its long ownership by the A. P. Hyatt family and later by Herbert Radley. It has been remodeled so that its original mid-nineteenth century appearance is masked.
- (26) Stromberg indicates that Jehudi Ashmun may have built this house right before he moved into the Jehudi Ashmun house. The 1857 construction date matches the style of the house. The former owner reports that the house was originally located across the road from Ashmun's long-time home in the district, but it was moved to its present location in 1956 to make room for new construction.
- (27) Stromberg, pp. 70, 86.
- (28) "Historic Sites."

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- (29) Field Observation.
- (30) Ibid.
- (31) Tax Rolls.
- (32) Stromberg, p. 103.
- (33) Field Observation.
- (34) Ibid.



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   x   A      B   x   C      D

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

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1852-1928 (1)

Significant Dates

N/A

Ethnic Heritage-Other: Yankee

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Jones, J. H. (2)

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

The Rural Historic District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C. It is being nominated under criterion A for local history under the category Ethnic Heritage-Other: Yankee because it is a largely intact early Yankee settlement, built by primarily American-born pioneers. Yankees were responsible for much of the early white settlement in Wisconsin's communities. But after only a few years, many Yankees continued to move west, and the communities they founded grew larger and the Yankee influence was overshadowed by other ethnic immigrants. Where Yankee communities still exist in the state, most have suffered greatly in integrity. Because of these factors, the survival of Rural as an extant Yankee town is significant.

The district is also being nominated under criterion C because it contains a fine concentration of vernacular forms that reflect both the Greek Revival and Italianate architectural styles. Since the integrity and level of preservation is so outstanding in this district, it has a very strong identity as a Yankee village. The district also contains four historic bridges that are good local examples of stone arch and reinforced concrete construction and contribute to the overall significance of the district.

  x   See continuation sheet

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Historical Background

The first settlers in the town of Dayton came in 1850 and settled on the Crystal River in Section 7. Soon after, in 1851, James H. Jones came to section 10 of the Town of Dayton to the area of the Crystal River where Rural is located today. Like many early settlers in Wisconsin, he was attracted to the site because of its potential for water power for milling. In 1852, Jones built his frame home known as the Halfway House (E1426 Rural/Potts). It was built along a trail that led from Berlin to Stevens Point and Jones' house was about half way between these communities. (3)

Jones, who was born in New Jersey of Welsh heritage, was the first of the Yankee, Canadian, and British settlers who came to Rural in the 1850s. These early settlers included James McCrossen, a Canadian who built his first house (E1434 Main St.) around 1854; W. P. Quint, another Canadian who moved into the house J. H. Jones built (E1426 Main St.) in 1853; Andrew Potts, from Scotland, who built his farmhouse (E1369 Rural/Potts) between 1853 and 1854; Jehudi Ashmun, a New Yorker, who moved into another house that J. H. Jones built (E1366 Rural/Potts) around 1858; and Aaron Hyatt, a New Yorker, who reportedly built several houses in the community (E1396 Main St., E1410 Main St., N2027 Cleghorn St.).

Other Yankees who came later to the community included John C. Green, who built his house (E1390 Arbor St.) around 1860; W. W. Radley, who was a descendant of Yankee parents who moved into his house on Main St. (E1454 Main St.) in 1888; and E. J. Dake, another descendent of Yankee parents, who lived on Main Street (E1441 Main St.) between 1869 and 1907. All of these Yankee and British residents left their physical stamp on Rural. And, because many of the families intermarried, they left a firm Yankee stamp on their descendants and on the village of Rural.

Like many communities in Wisconsin in the 1850s and 1860s, Rural hoped to become a successful industrial and commercial center. The first step toward that goal was taken by James H. Jones, who built a grist mill between 1854 and 1856. A sawmill was also erected on the Crystal River during the pioneer era. And, by the end of the Civil War, Rural had a successful commercial base. They had at least two general stores, a blacksmith shop, a wood shop, two inns or hotels, and other businesses that residents operated out of their homes. No one in the community gained immense wealth, but, James McCrossen and W. P. Quint did become successful and prominent in their business of providing supplies to the lumbering camps in central Wisconsin. (4)

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Rural was ready and waiting for the economic boom that would come with the railroad in the early 1870s. Most residents just assumed that the railroad would follow the well-traveled road between Berlin and Stevens Point--the road that came right through Rural. But, when the line came through, it bypassed Rural in favor of Waupaca, and Rural did not have the subsequent boom it had hoped for. The loss of the railroad line was a blow to some in the village, and both James H. Jones and James McCrossen left to seek their fortunes elsewhere. But others in the village stayed on, content to continue to provide services to the neighboring farms and lumber camps. And, while economic growth was slow, a few residents achieved prominence and monetary success, such as W. P. Quint, who continued to operate a retail business; Andrew and A. R. Potts, who were very successful farmers and in the case of A. R., a successful state politician; and Jehudi Ashmun, who became an institution as the village's self-taught physician. (5)

But the fact that the village did not experience economic growth left its mark on the physical make-up of this district. New residences were not built after the 1870s, and no new commercial or industrial buildings joined the aging mills and the already existing commercial buildings. There was also little remodeling done on existing houses. The lack of economic growth in the community is one factor in explaining why this district has a nineteenth century appearance.

In the twentieth century, there was further deterioration of the economic base of the village. Ashmun's store burned in 1913, and the sawmill met its end in the 1920s. The grist mill continued to operate into the 1920s, but the building gradually deteriorated and was demolished in 1958. Only The Rural Store, operated by the Weller family, continues to serve the community up to the present time, first in the old wood shop, moved to the store location in 1903, and now in a new building. (6)

Between the end of World War II and the present time, when other tiny villages in the state have been physically altered beyond repair, Rural has remained a picturesque nineteenth century village. Some new housing has been built in the village, but the historic buildings have been largely preserved or renovated. There are still many families in the village who have roots that go back to the pioneers. A number of "newcomers" have also made a home in Rural, in new housing and in the historic buildings. In recent years, several businesses have sprang up in the community, such as the Rural Artists shop in the old Rural Store, and the fabric and folk art shop in the McCrossen-Radley house, known locally as The Radley House. An antique store and a bed and breakfast inn have also added to the commercial activity in the community. And, Rural has become somewhat of a tourist attraction to the

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many boaters who take the scenic trip down the Crystal River, and to others who are attracted to the nearby Chain-O-Lakes recreation area. The picturesque little village attracts many who like to see the restored homes along the Crystal River. In fact, just recently, over 900 people attended the historical society's house tour. This influx of tourists is a mixed blessing to the village whose residents have to juggle the issue of maintaining the quality of their community while reaping the economic benefits from the tourists. In any event, Rural is an island of nineteenth century ambiance in central Wisconsin, and unlike other villages with no industry and little commercial activity, it is seemingly economically healthy.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture

The Rural Historic District is significant for architecture because it contains a fine concentration of mid-nineteenth century vernacular forms that reflect the popular Greek Revival and Italianate styles of the mid-nineteenth century. More importantly, this concentration of architecture represents the physical development of a Yankee community in mid-nineteenth century Wisconsin since the historic buildings of the district were built by Yankees or Yankee descendants. While there has been no intensive survey of potential Yankee communities still extant in Wisconsin, it is thought that few such potential communities exist that have as high a level of integrity as Rural does. That makes this district an important artifact in the study of Yankee settlement in Wisconsin.

Most of this district's buildings are vernacular forms that overwhelmingly suggest the Greek Revival architectural style in their details. According to Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan, the Greek Revival style was the first national style to have wide ranging impact on building in Wisconsin. Specifically, it came with the Yankees as they moved west during the first half of the nineteenth century. The style emphasizes formal, orderly, and symmetrical massing and details. Porticos, pilasters, heavy moldings, and classical details are often seen on Greek Revival buildings. In Wisconsin, the style is seen not just on frame, clapboard structures, but on brick and stone buildings as well. Large and heavily detailed Greek Revival houses are not often seen in Wisconsin, but rather, vernacular forms that display some Greek Revival details are quite common. In Rural, the Greek Revival-related buildings are vernacular forms that suggest the style rather than decisively stating it, however they are so well constructed and have such a high level of integrity, they are outstanding as a group. (7)

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It can be seen that Rural has a fine concentration of Greek Revival related buildings by reviewing some the best representatives in the district. Probably the most stylistically "pure" of these houses in Rural is the E. J. Dake house (E1441 Main St., c.1860). This house is unusual within the district because it consists only of a central block with no wings. It is very formal and symmetrical and its fine frieze and entrance decoration well represent the style. Best of all, it has traditional six-over-six light sashes; a detail that is so typical of the style, yet so often missing on 130 year old houses. Painted white like almost all the other historic homes in the village, and accented with black shutters, it is a very fine example of how well the style suits even simple houses.

The W. P. Quint house, across the road (E1426 Main St., 1853), is another fine example of a vernacular form with Greek Revival details. Unlike the Dake house, its broad main block sits under a much lower pitched roof. The house exhibits the formal, orderly, and symmetrical details of the style. The entry here, too, has a fine classical frontispiece. The only feature that detracts from the house is the box bay and other windows that while historic, are probably not the originals. The building, painted the traditional white, and with green shutters, is a good example of the influence of the Greek Revival on vernacular building traditions in the district.

There are two other fine examples of vernacular forms expressing the Greek Revival style. And, while they are not stylistic, they are outstanding in their quality of construction and level of preservation. The Halfway House (E1426 Rural/Potts, 1852) and the Andrew Potts Farmhouse (E1369 Rural/Potts) are both gabled ells that suggest the Greek Revival style. The Halfway house is the more diminutive of the two and is unusual in that it has an exceptionally long ell in proportion to its main block. Its fine details include most of its original six-over-six light sashes, its green shutters, and unusual veranda-like ell porch. The fact that this house's owner and builder, James H. Jones, reportedly built several other structures in the community, may account, in part, for the quality and cohesiveness of the village's architecture.

The Andrew Potts farmhouse sits at an angle on its site, and it has a slightly more refined appearance than the Halfway House. The two-story main block has a very substantial appearance, and the porch that runs across the front of this block is an unusual detail. The second floor of the ell is a later addition, but it's suggestion of the Queen Anne style does not greatly detract from the composition of the building. The porch in the ell is typical of a gabled ell house. But, best of all, this recently restored building exhibits a high level of preservation.

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Finally, another house reportedly built by James H. Jones, the Jehudi Ashmun house (E1366 Rural/Potts, 1858) is a two story cube that reflects the Italianate style. Yet, some of its details are Greek Revival, and the building's form strongly suggests the classical Greek Revival rather than the picturesque Italianate. Here, too, the best detail is the original symmetrical fenestration of six-over-six light sashes. While the house is the only historic building in the district that is not painted white, it is one of the finest.

The influence of the Greek Revival style on the village was very strong. Historic photos show that the grist mill, Ashmun store, church, and school (all no longer extant except for the school which has been greatly remodeled), all important buildings in the community, were built to reflect the Greek Revival style. Even the Dayton Town Hall, built in 1928, does not exhibit a style popular at that time, but was built in a vernacular manner that illustrates the tenacity of traditional building forms in the community. In fact, it looks very much like a nineteenth century town hall or school. The design could have been simply the result of frugality on the part of the town, but its size, scale and building materials fit in so well with the mid-nineteenth century buildings surrounding it, it appears to have been planned.

While most of the district's buildings are vernacular forms that reflect the Greek Revival architectural style, there are two that exhibit Italianate details. According to Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan, the Italianate style is seen in great numbers throughout Wisconsin. Most examples of this style were built between the 1850s and the 1870s and the style commonly featured wide eaves, brackets, low-pitched hipped or gable roofs, and square plans. Details of the style also included window hoodmolds or round arches, and bays. Examples are seen with clapboard, brick, or stone exteriors. (8)

The McCrossen-Radley house (E1454 Main St., 1868) is a fine and interesting example of the Italianate style. It is a very large square block that is of frame construction which is interesting because often, large Italianate blocks such as this are constructed of brick or stone. Its outstanding details include a finely executed cupola with details that mirror the main block, bracketed eaves, and paired round arched windows. It is unusual to see so many pairs of windows of this type, and the overall condition of both the windows and the entire building makes the McCrossen-Radley House an outstanding individual example of the style.

The late Victorian Italianate Rural Store (E1382 Main St. (B), 1898) is a simple but attractive boomtown commercial building. It is a good example of how Victorian

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commercial buildings continued to utilize Italianate details long after the use of the style ended for residences. The building is an especially interesting example, because such frame buildings of such modest size and scale are not commonly found anymore, or have lost considerable integrity. The Rural Store, then, is an important architectural element of the district.

While the above discussion concentrates on the importance of the stylistic elements of this district, the architectural significance extends beyond the style and form of the individual buildings. Because this district's historic buildings were built by Yankees in styles and forms known to have been popular with Yankee settlers in Wisconsin, the architecture of the district represents the transfer of Yankee building traditions to Wisconsin. There has been no systematic study of extant Yankee villages in Wisconsin and therefore, no generalizations can be made about Rural's importance beyond the local level of significance. But on the local level, Rural is indeed unusual and exists as an example of Yankee settlement in north-central Wisconsin.

This district's architectural significance lies primarily in its important concentration of mid-nineteenth century buildings and the fact that this concentration represents an architecturally intact Yankee community, but there are several other elements of the district that contribute to its architectural significance. These elements are the dairy barn and silo of the Andrew Potts farmstead and the historic bridges over the Crystal River.

The Potts dairy barn and silo are good and representative examples of dairy barn and silo construction. They were built at the height of the transition of Wisconsin's farmers from cash crop farming to dairying, the agricultural staple of the twentieth century. It has been documented that Andrew R. Potts, son of pioneer Andrew Potts, was a proponent of modern agriculture at the turn of the century. As a State Senator, he introduced the legislation to establish county agricultural agents. He also took an active interest in stock raising. This interest in modern agricultural practices, no doubt, resulted in the construction of this fine barn and silo. It is a large barn, larger than many of its type, and features the typical elements that make up a dairy barn, including a gambrel roof and a fieldstone foundation. While it has suffered from some deterioration from lack of use, it has a good level of integrity.

Dairy barns are, of course, common in Wisconsin. However, the consolidation of farms and the replacement of farm buildings by prosperous modern farmers, have taken their toll on Wisconsin's agricultural buildings. The Potts dairy barn is of interest

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for its fine construction and as a representative of a fast disappearing building type in the state. The silo is also of interest for its unusual brick construction, since most extant silos in the state are of concrete, tile, or stone construction. The Potts dairy barn and silo add to the architectural importance of this district because they are good examples of their type of construction and because the farmhouse and the intact farm outbuildings create an intact historic farm. The four historic bridges add to the architectural significance of the district, because they are good examples of another vanishing resource, stone and concrete arch bridges. According to a study on stone and concrete arch bridges in Wisconsin, the largest concentration of extant stone arch bridges is in Brown, Calumet, Outagamie, and Waupaca counties. The study indicated that stone arch bridges generally were built of quarried granite, fieldstone, limestone, and sandstone. In Wisconsin, most stone arch bridges in rural areas were built between 1900 and 1913. They were typically constructed of rock faced rubble masonry and had one or two segmental arches averaging 18 feet in height and with an average width of 20 feet. (9)

In Waupaca County, eight bridges were surveyed by the researchers who prepared the above study for the Department of Transportation. Of the eight that they surveyed, six were of rubble masonry construction, and two were of coursed ashlar construction. All were dated to the era 1900-1908, although the first known stone arch bridge in the county was built in 1895 (not extant). Between 1899 and 1908 stone arch construction accounted for 57 percent of all bridges built with county aid. But, after 1908, reinforced concrete bridges became dominant. In fact, the demise of stone arch bridges is directly related to the time when the state highway department began to prepare plans for state-aided bridges and began forcing the use of reinforced concrete and uniform construction techniques. (10)

The two arch stone bridge over the Crystal River in Rural was not included in the report the above information is based on. Therefore, while the report is not the definitive context for evaluating stone arch bridges, it is the best information available. By using this information to evaluate the Rural stone arch bridge, it can be stated that the Main Street Stone Arch Bridge is typical of its type, although it is somewhat unusual in that the two arches are not of the same size, due to the fact that they span the wider main branch of the river and the narrow mill race. What the survey does reveal is that while Waupaca has one of the largest concentrations of these bridges in the state, there are few examples still extant. The survey counted only 33 known extant stone arch bridges in the state, and while the survey is apparently incomplete, it illustrates the relative rarity of the resource.



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The Rural Road concrete bridges are also significant in the district as good examples of another type or method of bridge construction. Reinforced concrete became common in bridge construction during the early twentieth century. There are three elements in reinforced concrete: the binder which is usually cement, the filler which is usually sand and gravel, and the reinforcement which is usually steel rods or bars in various forms and shapes. The earliest incidence of reinforced concrete bridge construction in the United States occurred in the late nineteenth century. After 1910, reinforced concrete bridges became the preferred bridge type in the state. Between 1917 and 1930, the way concrete bridges were designed and constructed was refined and standardized in Wisconsin. And, with the rise of the power of the state highway department through the state aid to bridges program, bridge design and construction methods became dictated from the department engineers. (11)

The three small concrete bridges over the Crystal River on Rural Road are important because they are early examples of reinforced concrete construction and were built before the era of standardization for such structures. Therefore, they may be unusual or even unique in their design. The stone and concrete arch survey report cited above concentrates on the large examples of reinforced concrete bridges. So, there is little information on which to put these bridges into a context. There is also no available information on the Illinois Bridge Company. But, given the early date of construction of these bridges, and the fact that it was evident they were constructed to match in design, and their high level of integrity, the bridges unquestionably contribute to the district. And, because other bridges of their type may be fast disappearing, these bridges are even more important.

The historic buildings in the Rural Historic District are a fine concentration of mid-nineteenth century buildings. They include both stylistic houses and vernacular forms that suggest styles, but because they all exhibit common characteristics and form, they exist as a cohesive unit within the village and the district. The fact that this commonality among individual structures can be related to the buildings' origins with Yankee settlers makes the district even more significant. The level of preservation of the historic buildings is unusually high, especially since many of the houses are over 130 years old. There is a clear sense that the members of the village desire to maintain the charm and historic character of the community. Rarely does one find a group of people voluntarily working to preserve the architectural character of their community. The addition of the historic farm outbuildings and the four historic bridges only adds to the architectural significance of the district. Because there are good examples of architectural styles, forms, and constructions types in this district, it is significant and

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eligible for the National Register for architecture.

Ethnic Heritage - Other: Yankee

The Rural Historic District is significant for local history under the category Ethnic Heritage - Other: Yankee because it was built almost exclusively by Yankees from the eastern United States. Yankees were generally the first white settlers in Wisconsin communities. They rarely congregated in great numbers and did not, therefore, create any large, distinctively Yankee communities. Rather, they tended to be the community leaders, helping establish American government and traditions and they were often the successful business leaders in the community as well. After profiting from land deals or cash crop farming, many Yankees moved further west to reap new rewards from the frontier. Those Yankees who stayed behind often blended into the homogeneous community that was created by other European immigrants who came after them.

The first settler in Rural, James H. Jones, was born in New Jersey. All the other founding families in Rural from the McCrossens to the Quints, Potts, Ashmuns, and Hyatts, and the families that came later like the Radleys and the Dakes, were either Yankees from New England or their descendants, or Canadians who all had roots in Great Britain. This pattern of settlement in Rural was typical of the experience all over the state. Where it differs is in what happened after the Yankees arrived and settled.

Unlike many communities, no wave of other European immigrant groups came to Rural. And unlike many communities, only a few of the Yankees moved on. The vast majority of the founding families stayed in Rural and intermarried with other founding families. Even today, descendants of these families still live in Rural. So, the community had little pressure from other immigrant groups to change its appearance, and the intermarriage of the founding families created a close-knit, homogeneous community that lasted until well into the twentieth century. Because the railroad bypassed Rural, the community had little incentive or ability to grow in size, and that, along with the other factors mentioned above, resulted in a village that changed very little over time. Even in recent years, when new pressures have been placed on the community by new construction in the village, by new residents from outside of the community, and by the increase in the tourist industry, the community has maintained its historic buildings at a level not usually seen in communities with these types of pressures. The result is that there is still a strong sense of this village as a mid-nineteenth century community.

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The importance of this type of community to the study of pioneer Wisconsin is invaluable. Historians have intensively studied the transfer of the "cultural baggage" of European immigrant groups to the United States and to Wisconsin. And, it is known that European immigrants often brought their cultural and building traditions with them when they came to America. It is known that individual Yankee settlers built homes that reflected the architectural styles they were familiar with in the east and that these Yankee settlers brought with them their "cultural baggage" from the eastern United States. In Rural, it can be seen that this phenomenon occurred not just on an individual basis, but as a group.

Rural is significant because it illustrates what a mid-nineteenth century Yankee community was like. It provides some of the evidence on which to make assumptions about Yankee settlement and the "cultural baggage" of Yankees and other English-speaking settlers in Wisconsin. There are many resources that document the early settlement of other ethnic groups in the state, and some communities, in particular have unusual resources that relate to their ethnic heritage. In many communities, except for an occasional house, church, or town hall, the Yankee influence in Wisconsin has been diminished because resources related to Yankee settlement have been demolished, remodeled, or deteriorated. And, while we often refer to communities as German, Norwegian, Irish, or Polish, there are very few communities that can readily be described as Yankee. Because the Rural on the Crystal Historic District so strongly reflects its past as a Yankee community, and because Yankee settlement was significant in Wisconsin's pioneer history, this district is significant for Ethnic Heritage - Other: Yankee.

Notes to Section 8:

(1) This period encompasses the most significant historic development in the district.

(2) James H. Jones has been credited with the construction of several homes in the district by local historian Norma Stromberg in her book, Rural on the Crystal, Amherst, WI: Palmer Publications, Inc., 1978.

(3) Stromberg, pp. 11-13; John M. Ware, ed. History of Waupaca County, Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1917, pp. 397-400.

(4) Stromberg, pp 24-59.

(5) Ibid.

(6) Ibid., pp. 101-104.

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

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

(9) Jeffrey A. Hess and Robert M. Frame III, Historic Highway Bridges in

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Wisconsin Vol. I Stone and Concrete Arch Bridges, Madison: Wisconsin Department of  
Transportation, 1986, pp. 15, 35.

(10) Ibid., pp. 51, 93, 99-100.

(11) Ibid., pp. 93, 99-100, 187, 198-207, 217.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATION B (EXCEPTIONS)

There are two buildings that are exceptions under criteria consideration B. The first property is the Ashmun House (N2055 Cleghorn St.), moved from its original location on Main Street near the mill pond in 1956. While this building is not in its original location, it sits on a site that is similar in setting to its original location and it retains most of its mid-nineteenth century appearance in its new location. The Rural Store (E1382 Main St. (B)) has been moved twice, however, the moves have only been a short distance, the last one being only a matter of yards. The current setting of this building is similar to its original location and its architectural qualities remain the same as they were in its original location.

ARCHEOLOGICAL STATEMENT

Significant archeological artifacts have been found in Waupaca County, especially near the Chain-O-Lakes and historical sources indicate that archeological resources exist in this region, and in the Town of Dayton. One historic Menominee Indian campsite (WP-171) has been recorded within the boundaries of this district. Since the community has not had extensive building and rebuilding, it is likely that any hidden archeological resources are still largely intact. Therefore, although no archeological surveys were undertaken for this nomination, this district has considerable potential for the existence of archeological resources.

PRESERVATION ACTIVITY

This nomination was initiated by the Rural Historical Society, which is involved in local historical and historic preservation activities. There are also important individual preservation efforts that have gone on in this community for many more years than the society has existed. These individual efforts and the work of local women's organizations and the historical society have resulted in the high level of preservation that exists in the village today. The local historical society promotes preservation by featuring it in their meetings and by sponsoring a house tour. The local press has featured Rural's historic character in a number of articles, as well.

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

Acreeage of property 17 acres

UTM References

A	<u>1/6</u>	<u>3/2/7/7/0/0</u>	<u>4/9/0/8/5/0/0</u>	B	<u>1/6</u>	<u>3/2/8/1/8/0</u>	<u>4/9/0/8/6/1/0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>1/6</u>	<u>3/2/8/1/8 0</u>	<u>4/9/0/8/7/4/0</u>	D	<u>1/6</u>	<u>3/2/7/7/4/0</u>	<u>4/9/0/8/8/0/0</u>

   See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

  x See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

  x See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title	<u>Carol Lohry Cartwright, historian</u>	date	<u>October 20, 1988</u>
organization	<u>Prepared for Rural Hist. Society</u>	telephone	<u>(414) 473-6820</u>
street & number	<u>Rt. 2, 5581A Hackett Rd.</u>	state	<u>WI</u>
city or town	<u>Whitewater</u>	zip code	<u>53190</u>

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Atlas of Waupaca County, 1889. On file at the Archives of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

Benedict, F. M. "Map of the Chain-O-Lakes," 1896. In possession of Eugene and Lois Sorenson, E1369 Rural Rd./Potts St., Rural, Wisconsin.

Tax Rolls for the Town of Dayton. On file at the Area Research Center, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Library, Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

Secondary Sources

Ashmun, Margaret. "Notes on the Early Settlers of Rural, Town of Dayton, Waupaca County, Wisconsin." Transcribed from the original by E. E. Browne in 1941. In possession of the Rural Historical Society, Rural, Wisconsin.

"Historic Sites in Rural." Map Tour of the village of Rural. In possession of the Rural Historical Society, Rural, Wisconsin.

National Register of Historic Places nomination form for the Halfway House, 1980-82. On file in the Historic Preservation Office of the State Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin.

Stromberg, Norma. Rural on the Crystal. Amherst, WI: Palmer Publications, Inc., 1978.

Wakefield, J. History of Waupaca County. Waupaca: D. L. Stinchfield, 1890.

Ware, John M., ed. History of Waupaca County. Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1917.

Hess, Jeffrey A. and Frame, Robert M. Historic Highway Bridges in Wisconsin: Vol. I. Madison, WI: Wisconsin Department of Transportation, 1986.

Wyatt, Barbara ed. Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin. Madison, WI: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the intersection of the south edge of roadway (EOR) of Arbor St. and the west EOR of Radley St., then west along the south EOR of Arbor St. to a north-south line running 10' east of E1390 Arbor St., then north along this line to the east-west line running 10' north of the outbuilding of E1390 Arbor St., then west along this line to a north-south line running 10' west of E1390 Arbor St., then south along this line to the south EOR of Arbor St., then west along this line to the east EOR of Cleghorn St., then north along this line to a line running 50 feet north of 2055 Cleghorn St., then west along this line to a line running 50 feet west of N2055 Cleghorn St., then south along this line to a line running 50 feet south of N2055 Cleghorn St., then east along this line to the west EOR of Cleghorn, then generally south along this line to a line running 50 feet north of N2027 Cleghorn St., then west along this line to a line running 100 feet west of N2027 Cleghorn St., then south along this line to the Crystal River, then southeast along the river to the west EOR of Main St., then southwest along this line to a line running 50 feet from the westernmost outbuilding of E1369 Rural/Potts, then south along this line to a line running 100 feet south of the dairy barn of E1369 Rural/Potts, then east along this line to a line running 50 feet east of E1369 Rural/Potts, then north along this line to the south EOR of Rural/Potts, then east along this line, including the entire bridge structures, to the east lot line of E1426 Rural/Potts, then north along this line to the south lot lines of E1441 and E1449 Main St., then east along this line to the west EOR of Radley St., then north along this line to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This boundary was drawn to include as much of the historic village of Rural as possible while excluding as many non-contributing elements as possible. The result is that the boundary encompasses the bulk of the historic village of Rural. Specific boundary decisions were made as follows. The eastern boundary marks the end of the historic construction along Main Street. The southern boundary is roughly drawn along Rural/Potts St., a natural boundary that separates the historic village from new construction and farmland to the south. The west boundary was drawn for the exact same reasons. The northern boundary draws out the new construction on the hillside where the historic village stopped. The boundary was specifically drawn in the northwest corner to "grab" two historic structures that related to the historic nature of the village.

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Rural on the Crystal Historic District,  
Town of Dayton, Waupaca County, Wisconsin. Photos by C.  
Cartwright, September, 1988. Negatives on file at the Historic Preservation Office  
of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

Views:

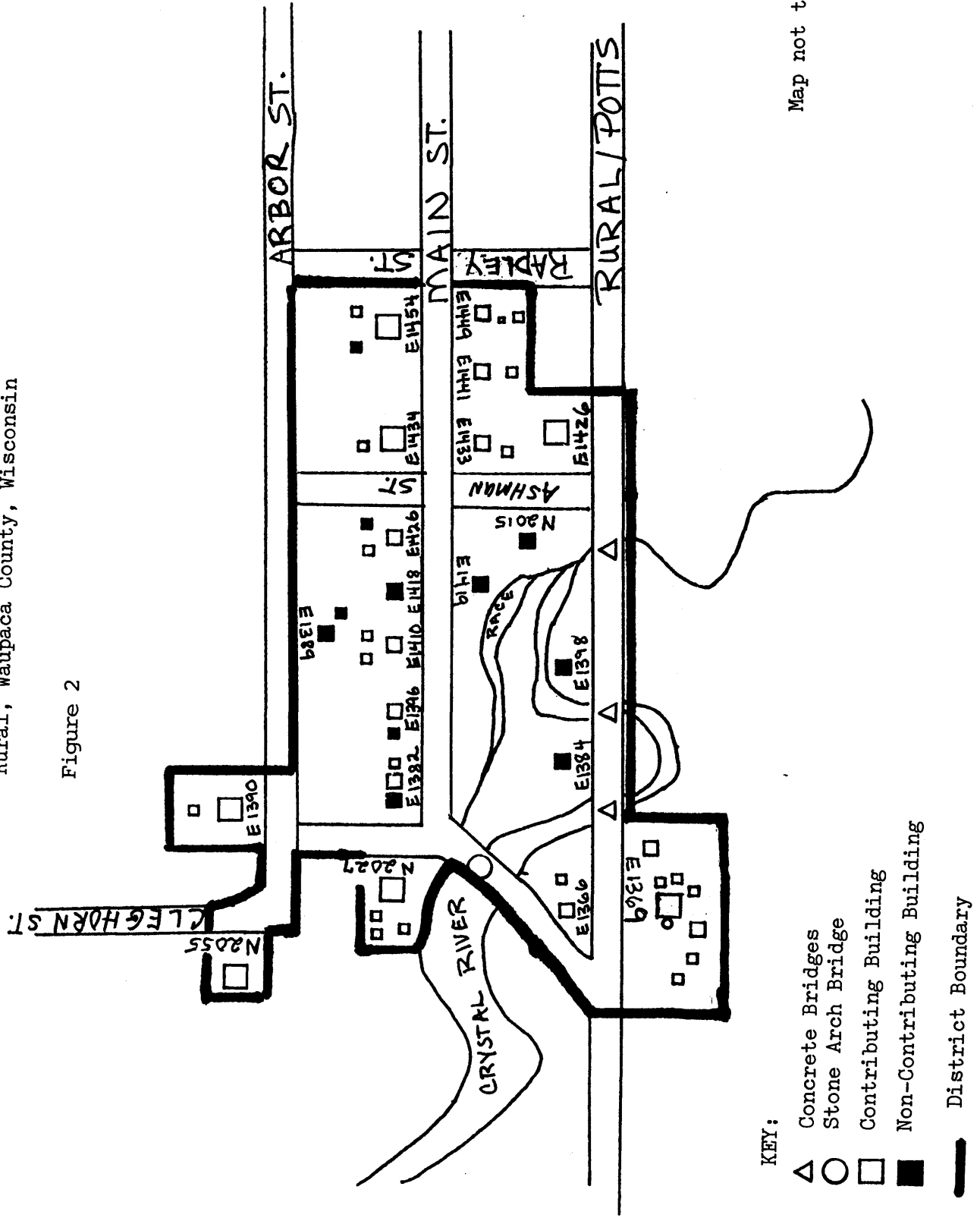
- 1 of 28: Intersection of Rural/Potts and Main, view from the east.
- 2 of 28: E1369 Rural/Potts, dairy barn and outbuildings, view from the north.
- 3 of 28: E1369 Rural/Potts, view from the northwest.
- 4 of 28: North side of Rural/Potts, view from the southwest.
- 5 of 28: Rural/Potts, view from the west showing the three bridges.
- 6 of 28: Concrete arch bridge on Rural/Potts, view from the north.
- 7 of 28: E1426 Rural/Potts, view from the southwest.
- 8 of 28: West of E1426 Rural/Potts, view from the southwest.
- 9 of 28: N2015 Ashmun St., view from the east.
- 10 of 28: Main and Ashmun, view from the west, looking out of the district.
- 11 of 28: E1433 Main St., view from the north.
- 12 of 28: E1441 Main St., view from the northeast.
- 13 of 28: E1449 Main St., view from the northwest.
- 14 of 28: E1454 Main St., view from the southwest.
- 15 of 28: E1434 Main St., view from the southeast.
- 16 of 28: E1426 Main St., view from the southeast.
- 17 of 28: E1418 Main St., view from the southwest.
- 18 of 28: E1419 Main St., view from the northeast.
- 19 of 28: E1410 Main St., view from the south.
- 20 of 28: E1396 Main St., view from the south.
- 21 of 28: E1382 (A and B), view from the southwest.
- 22 of 28: E1389 Arbor St., view from the northwest.
- 23 of 28: E1390 Arbor St., view from the southeast.
- 24 of 28: N2055 Cleghorn St., view from the northeast.
- 25 of 28: N2027 Cleghorn St., view from the east.
- 26 of 28: Main St. stone arch bridge, view from the northeast.
- 27 of 28: E1366 Rural/Potts, view from the southeast.
- 28 of 28: Intersection of Rural/Potts and Main St., view from the southwest.



RURAL ON THE CRYSTAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Rural, Waupaca County, Wisconsin

Figure 2



Map not to scale

**RURAL ON THE CRYSTAL HISTORIC DISTRICT**

Rural, Waupaca County, Wisconsin

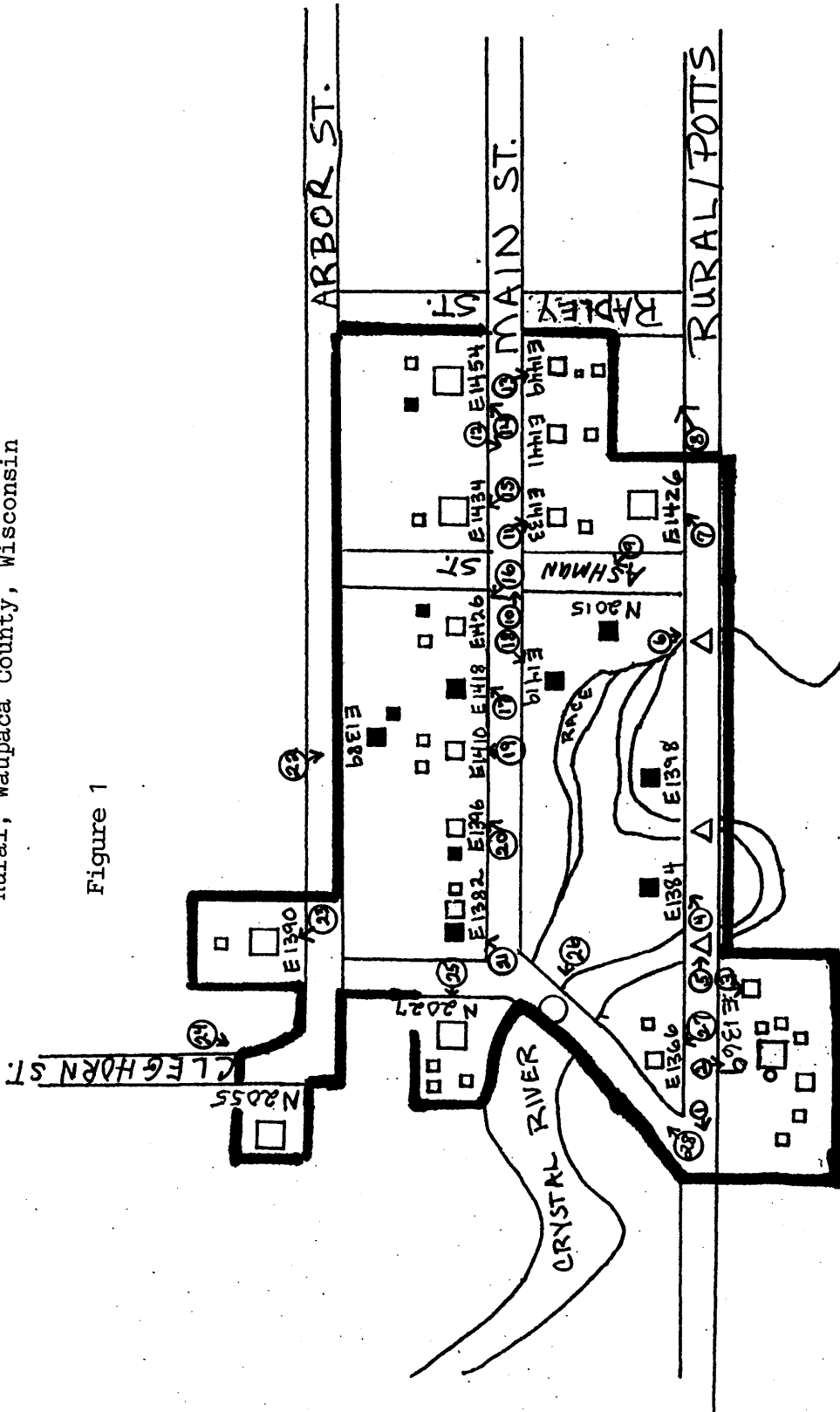


Figure 1

**KEY:**

- △ Concrete Bridges
- Stone Arch Bridge
- Contributing Building
- Non-Contributing Building
- District Boundary
- ① Photo Codes

Map not to scale

