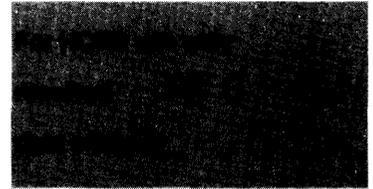


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Bishopstead
and/or common Bishop Jackson Kemper House

2. Location

street & number 153 West Oakwood Drive not for publication
city, town Delafield vicinity of congressional district
state Wisconsin code 55 county Waukesha code 133

3. Classification

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Greta B. Jackson
street & number 153 West Oakwood Drive
city, town Nashotah vicinity of state Wisconsin

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Waukesha County Courthouse
street & number 515 West Moreland Boulevard
city, town Waukesha vicinity of state Wisconsin

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date August 20, 1971 federal state county local
depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin
city, town Madison vicinity of state Wisconsin

7. Description

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Bishopstead is a simple stone and frame residence in which Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival stylistic elements are blended. The house is sited on a 3-acre parcel on the western outskirts of the City of Delafield. With only minor alterations, the house presents the general appearance it likely had during the occupancy of its original owner, Bishop David Jackson Kemper.

The western portion of the dwelling is built of local stone in small sizes, randomly laid. It is comprised of two wings. The 22' x 34' west wing is two stories plus an attic. The 19 x 19 rear wing has two stories and no attic. The principal facade is divided into four bays with 6-over-6 windows, some having working shutters. Two chimneys, at opposite sides of the wing, contribute to the symmetry. At each end of the attic is a fan window. There are very simple brackets under the eaves of the gable roofs.

The 17' x 23' clapboard-sided east wing of the house is a 2-story addition dating from c. 1851. This portion of the dwelling was done in Greek Revival style and has more detailing than the stone structure. Its south facade features an entry with sidelights covered by a pedimented arch. The pediment motif is also seen in the cap over the large first-floor French doors. There are working shutters here as well as on the 4-over-4 windows of the second story. The arch over the entry is supported by 4" x 4" pillars (not original). There are simple brackets under the eaves.

Further additions have been made to both the stone and frame portions of the house.

At the rear of the east wing is a one-story-room addition presently used as a sunporch. The appearance of this addition, and of the small frame passage which connects the frame and stone portions of the house at the rear, is compatible with the historic design.

The wooden workshop addition to the stone rear wing was built in 1980. This 17' x 18' structure, though obviously modern, suggests repetition of older elements, specifically in the use of multi-pane windows.

The interior of the house has experienced little alteration, particularly in the public rooms.

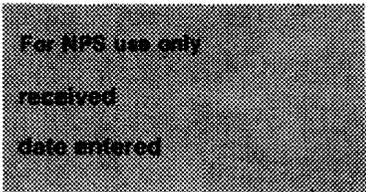
The stone portion of the house contains living room, dining room, kitchen, and stair hall on the first floor. The second floor has three bedrooms and a bathroom. There are two additional chambers in the attic level; these appear to have been finished for bedroom use c. 1910. The finishes in the stone part of the house are simple and rustic in appearance. Walls and ceilings are mainly plaster, floors are wide-plank pine. Trim is very simple, being limited to crown mouldings in the living and dining rooms and to varnished fir casings, sills, and deep jambs at windows. Both the fireplace and the staircase in this portion of the house are very plain.

The east wing is more detailed, inside as well as outside. The first floor contains the hall and staircase, the rear sunroom and the passage to the kitchen, and, most

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Bishopstead, Delafield, WI Item number 7. Description Page 1

notably, a charming parlor thought to be Bishop Kemper's study. The second floor contains two small bedrooms. The parlor and the hall are particularly interesting. The pediment motif from this wing's exterior is carried through here — each window and doorway has a pediment cap. These rooms also feature crown mouldings over picture mouldings. The walnut staircase has a turned newel post and balusters. The parlor features French doors to the outside and a prominent Gothic mantle at the fireplace. Walls and ceilings are plaster. Floors are pine, varnished on the first floor and painted on the second.

The house is sited approximately 300' north of the former Delafield-Nashotah Road. Access is by a gravel drive. The 3-acre parcel is heavily wooded. There is a two-story barn plus garage shed located approximately 100' northeast of the house. While this outbuilding harmonizes with the dwelling, it appears to have been built no earlier than 1920.

The appearance of the house at present is more similar to the likely original appearance than at other times in its history. Photos held by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and tentatively identified as dating from c. 1900-1930, show a covered porch surrounding the south and east facades of the house. This porch, which appears to have been a late-nineteenth-century addition, was removed prior to 1960.

The present nomination includes the stone portion of the building (i.e., west and rear wings), and the east frame wing. Excepted from the nomination are the barn and the 1981 workshop addition.

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

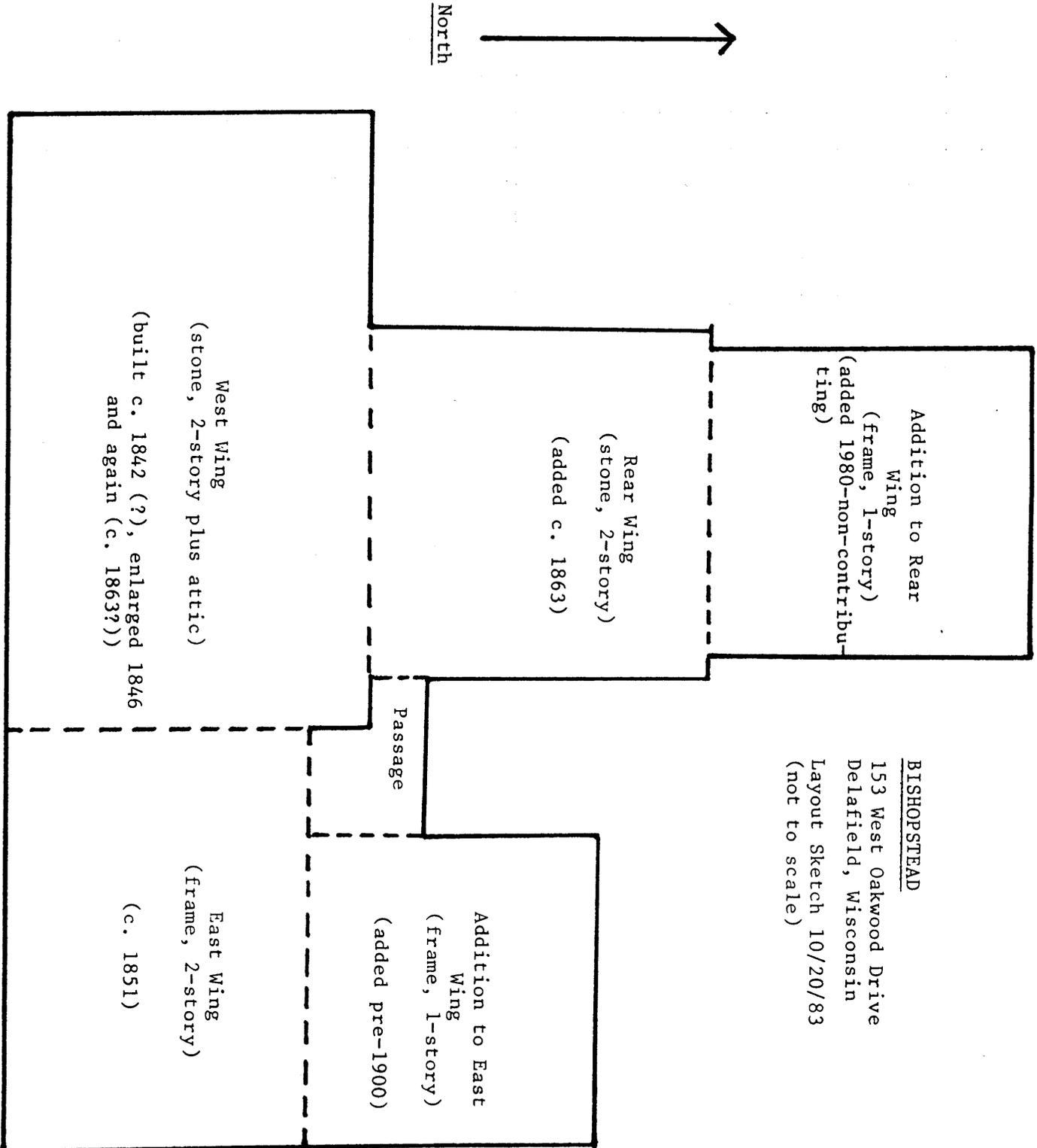
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Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7. Description

Page 2



BISHOPSTEAD
153 West Oakwood Drive
Delafield, Wisconsin
Layout Sketch 10/20/83
(not to scale)

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | | |

period of sig.: 1846-1870 (occupancy) association with significant person

Specific dates 1842, 1846, 1851, 1863 (construction) Builder/Architect unknown

(see footnotes 8-12 for sources)
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Bishopstead possesses national significance as the home of Bishop David Jackson Kemper, first missionary bishop of the Episcopal Church in the United States. The bishop's dwelling was the center from which the organized church in the western territories, including the present states of Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska, was established during the middle decades of the nineteenth century.

The early decades of the nineteenth century were difficult ones for the Episcopal Church. The separation from England during the American Revolution and its aftermath had required major efforts in church reorganization. The church was challenged by the spread of other, vibrant protestant sects and, increasingly from the 1820's, by the appeal of Roman Catholicism to its own members. Moreover, the opening of the frontier called for vigorous efforts to expand the presence of the church in the west.

It was this field in which Jackson Kemper played such an important role during the middle decades of the century. Indeed, church historian Raymond Albright terms Kemper's work "probably the most fruitful single ministry in the history of the (American Episcopal) church."¹

(David) Jackson Kemper² was born in 1789 in Dutchess County, New York. Upon his graduation from Columbia College in 1809, he trained for the ministry in Philadelphia and was ordained in 1811. He then became assistant to Pennsylvania's Bishop William White.

In 1812, White created the Society for the Advancement of Christianity in Pennsylvania, a branch designed to aid the church organization in the then sparsely-settled western part of the state. White named Kemper as the Society's traveling agent, with the task to explore the potential for missionary work there. Under this aegis, Kemper made expeditions to western Pennsylvania and Ohio's Western Reserve in 1812 and 1814.

Kemper remained assistant to White until 1831. During this period he maintained his interest in missionary work, continuing his association with the Pennsylvania Society's work and working with the national Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (founded 1820).

After a short period as rector of St. Paul's Church in Nowalk, Connecticut in 1834, the recently widowed Kemper accepted an assignment from the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society to investigate conditions at a mission school in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Kemper's journal of this trip, on which he met explorer William Clark, Dr. William Beaumont, and James Duane Doty, has been published and is a revealing document of frontier life of the time.³

(Continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Raymond W. Albright, A History of the Protestant Episcopal Church, New York: 1964.
 George Greenough White, Jackson Kemper: An Apostle of the Western Church,
 New York: 1900.
 Robert G. Carroon, "Jackson Kemper: Frontier Bishop," Historical Messenger of the
 Milwaukee County Historical Society, XXVI, No. 2 (June 1970), 34-39.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 3.0
 Quadrangle name Oconomowoc East Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------|-------------|---------------|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | 1 6 | 3 8 4 5 2 0 | 4 7 6 9 6 8 0 | B | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| C | | | | D | | | |
| E | | | | F | | | |
| G | | | | H | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet attached.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John D. Rolling - Consultant
 organization Preservation Services date 10/20/83
 street & number 403 W. Washington Avenue telephone (608) 257-2318
 city or town Madison state Wisconsin

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Jeff Dean*

title Director, Historic Preservation Division, SHSW date JAN. 27, 1984

| | |
|--|---|
| For HCRS use only | |
| I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register | |
| <u><i>John Selous Byers</i></u> | Entered in the National Register date <u>3/1/84</u> |
| Keeper of the National Register | |
| Attest: | date |
| Chief of Registration | |

**United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Continuation sheet Bishopstead, Delafield, WI Item number 8. Significance Page 1

This trip, in conjunction with Kemper's earlier experience, also put him in good stead to promote church organization from a new and powerful position. In 1835, the General Convention consecrated him as the church's first "missionary bishop," charging him to organize the church in Indiana and Missouri.

Kemper's mandate was broad, and the resources slim. There were few organized Episcopal congregations in these new territories, and fewer clergy to serve them. The job called for almost constant travel. Kemper baptized and confirmed, met with communities to build churches, and worked to convert and/or retain members of his far-flung flock. Most importantly, Kemper worked to regularize church life in these areas by soliciting young clergymen out from the east.

Kemper measured his success by his ability to create permanent dioceses in the west, to be headed by their own regular bishops. In 1844, Missouri became a permanent diocese, followed by Indiana in 1849. But in 1838, Kemper was given additional territory, including the present states of Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa. In 1856, Kemper's jurisdiction was expanded to Kansas and Nebraska.

Kemper retained his office until 1859. During the 24 years of his episcopacy, Kemper was indeed successful in organizing an Episcopalian presence in the west. When he began, there were only two formal parishes in the territory. By 1859, there were six separate dioceses (Missouri, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Kansas) served by 172 clergymen.⁴

During the early years of Kemper's episcopate, he was in near constant motion. Even through the 1850's he spent more time traveling than at home. Kemper was an inveterate diarist. His journals are an excellent source of information on frontier conditions as well as on his own activity.⁵

In the 1840's, Kemper established his headquarters in Wisconsin. In 1842, Kemper had established a religious community near Delafield. This community, known as Nashotah House, soon became the church's western seminary; it remains today an important center for training the clergy. Nashotah House held special importance for the bishop, so he chose to locate his own home in the area.⁶

In early 1846, Kemper bought land approximately 2 miles east of Nashotah. This was to become a homestead for himself and the family (two sons, a daughter, and two unmarried sisters) he now brought out from the east. Originally, Kemper planned to build a rather grand residence on the shore of Lake Nemahbin; his fear of debt, however, moved him to expand an existing building on the property.⁷

This existing building, which is said to date from 1842 and which Kemper jokingly referred to as "The Palace," was a two-story structure 20 feet in length and 10 feet deep. From Kemper's description and from the physical evidence of the structure, it appears that this is the core of the present west wing. By November, Kemper had added a one-story addition at the rear of the building and had taken up residence there.⁸

(continued)

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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Continuation sheet Bishopstead, Delafield, WI Item number 8. Significance Page 2

Later additions enlarged the house considerably. Unfortunately, the record is not clear as to the exact dating of these. In 1846, Kemper had considered extending the addition further west to create space for a study.⁹ It does not appear that he did so at this time, however, for his diary entries for 1850 show preparations for a new study addition.¹⁰ This addition may not have been made until 1851; it was in early 1852 that Kemper recorded expenses for furnishing a study.¹¹ This study appears to have been the present frame wing. While tax records do not mention this 1851 addition, they do indicate that a new structure was added in approximately 1863;¹² the new structure referred to here is likely the north stone wing.

While the precise sequence in which the building evolved may never be known, all accounts agree that the house existed in its basic present configuration during Bishop Kemper's lifetime. In Kemper's later years, he cut down on his responsibilities only relatively; having resigned as missionary bishop in 1859, Kemper retained his title as Bishop of Wisconsin, and remained involved in national church affairs, until his death in 1870.

Bishop Kemper is associated with other extant buildings. Among these number the early Nashotah House structures, the Blue House (b. 1842 as the lodging for the community), the Red Chapel (a simple Greek Revival structure b. 1843), and the grand Chapel of St. Mary the Virgin (a limestone building in Gothic Revival style b. 1859-1866). The National Register-listed St. John Chrysostom Church, a Gothic Revival board and batten chapel in Delafield, built c. 1851-1853 and attributed to Richard Upjohn, was likely stimulated by Kemper.

But most closely associated with Kemper remains his own home of 24 years. The present-day building retains much of the feeling it had during Kemper's lifetime. The property has been continuously occupied by Kemper's descendants and still contains mementoes of Bishop Kemper, including his portrait hung in his parlor.

NOTES

¹Raymond W. Albright, A History of the Protestant Episcopal Church (New York, 1964), p. 218.

²Biographical sources on Kemper include George Greenough White, Jackson Kemper: An Apostle of the Western Church (New York, 1900); Ellis Baker Usher, Wisconsin: Its Story and Biography 1848-1913 (6 vols; Chicago and New York, 1914), VI, pp. 1468-1479; and Robert G. Carroon, "Jackson Kemper: Frontier Bishop," Historical Messenger of the Milwaukee County Historical Society, XXVI, No. 2 (June 1970), pp. 34-39; and Albright, pp. 193ff.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

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Continuation sheet Bishopstead, Delafield, WI Item number 8. Significance Page 3

- ³ Jackson Kemper, "Journal of an Episcopalian Missionary's Tour to Green Bay, 1834," Wisconsin Historical Collections XIV (1898), pp. 394-449.
- ⁴ The above statistics on church growth under Kemper's leadership are from Usher, p. 477, Carroon, p. 38, and Albright, p. 225.
- ⁵ These diaries are contained in the Jackson Kemper Papers, State Historical Society of Wisconsin Archives, Wis. Mss. G. In addition to the published 1834 journal cited above, Kemper's account of his first trip through Wisconsin as bishop (1838) has been published in The Wisconsin Magazine of History, VIII (1925), pp. 423-445.
- ⁶ Kemper wanted a western seminary to provide a pool of priests trained for frontier conditions. It is notable that Kemper encouraged the admission of Indian and Scandinavian seminarians for service to those communities. See Donald H. V. Hallock, "The Story of Nashotah," Historical Magazine of the Protestant Episcopal Church, XI, No. 1 (March, 1942), pp. 1-17.
- ⁷ See Kemper's 8/3/1846 letter to his daughter, Elizabeth Kemper, in the Kemper Papers, SHSW, Wis. Mss. G, Vol. 31, document #41.
- ⁸ See Kemper's description of "The Palace" and his plans in his letters to Elizabeth Kemper, 8/12/1846 and 8/17/1846 in Kemper Papers, SHSW, Wis. Mss. G, Vol. 31, documents #43 and 46.
- ⁹ See Kemper's letter to his daughter of 8/17/1846 cited above.
- ¹⁰ Diary entries for 3/19/1850 and 3/25/1850 in Kemper Papers, SHSW, Box 2, Vol. 112.
- ¹¹ Diary entries for February and March 1852 in Kemper Papers, SHSW, Box 2, Vol. 114.
- ¹² Waukesha County Treasurer, Tax Rolls for Town of Delafield, 1864, records a \$700 change in valuation "added for new structure." Records for the early 1850's, however, show no significant valuation adjustment. These tax rolls are held at the Milwaukee Area Research Center, UW-Milwaukee General Library.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Continuation sheet Bishopstead, Delafield, WI Item number 10. Geographical Data Page 4

Boundary Description

Beginning at a point in the center of the Oconomowoc and Delafield Road which bears North 47.75 degrees West, 1334.9 feet from the center post of Section 18, Township 7 North of Range 18 East; thence North 38.75 degrees East 352 feet; thence North 51.25 degrees West 33 feet; thence North 38.75 degrees East 82.5 feet; thence North 5.25 degrees West 241 feet; thence South 41.75 degrees West 417.5 feet to a point in the center of the above-mentioned road; thence South 47.5 degrees East along the center of said road 295.4 feet to the place of beginning, containing 3 acres more or less.