

**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 Genesee Town Hall

historic Genesee Depot Amusement Hall

and/or common Genesee Town Hall (preferred)

2. Location

street & number Genesee Street ___ not for publication

city, town Genesee Depot ___ vicinity of congressional district 9th

state Wisconsin code 55 county Waukesha code 133

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Town of Genesee, Attention: James D. Morey, Genesee Town Chairman

street & number S43 W28756 Hwy. 59

city, town Waukesha ___ vicinity of state Wisconsin 53186

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Waukesha County Courthouse

street & number 515 West Moreland Boulevard

city, town Waukesha state Wisconsin 53186

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979 ___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located on Genesee Street, the main thoroughfare of Genesee Depot, the former amusement hall sits in the midst of a fairly well-preserved group of vernacular turn-of-the-century commercial and residential buildings, something of a rarity today in Waukesha County. The hall itself represents two building periods with the main portion constructed in 1912-13. The original light wood-frame structure measures 40 x 60 feet and is clapboard-covered on a concrete foundation. The hall features a jerkin-head roof that was originally covered with cedar shingles (now asphalt). In 1929, an addition was placed at the rear of the hall, of nearly identical workmanship to the original. Sometime later, the front windows were enlarged. The interior of the hall is simple, with oak flooring and a stage area at the rear of the building. Much of the original woodwork, hardware and furnishings remain.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
1912 ¹	N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Constructed in 1912 by a joint-stock company as an amusement hall, the Genesee Town Hall has served the social, cultural, and political needs of this Waukesha County hamlet for nearly 70 years.

Genesee Depot, located in central Waukesha County, was created in 1852 with the arrival of the Milwaukee and Mississippi Railroad. Initially the area was known for sheep-raising, with wool processed at the local mill (Procter Woolen Mill), which was located just a few blocks south of the depot. Later, wheat and milk became the major agricultural commodities, these being shipped to the fast-growing cities of Waukesha and Milwaukee. Genesee Depot later evolved into the commercial center for the surrounding farms as local merchants erected their houses and business establishments around 1900, focusing on the depot.

In 1912, the amusement hall (present town hall) was built by a joint-stock company composed of 26 shareholders. Officers were T. David Edwards, president; Arthur Richards, secretary, and E. T. Carroll, treasurer. John Maher and F. W. Schwinn were directors. The cost of the amusement hall was \$4,000.² Shows, dances, receptions, and political meetings were held here throughout the years by various individuals and organizations.

For many years the hall was owned by Jim Pronold and Paul Trupke, who maintained it as both a dance hall and a rollerskating pavilion. In addition, a theatre group, "Toby and His Chore Boys," played here regularly on Saturdays with a dance following the performance. The annual Christmas program and the graduation ceremonies for the neighboring rural schools were held here as well.³ In 1946, the amusement hall was sold to the Town of Genesee, which allowed the local VFW post to operate it for some time. Today it is used for town meetings and as a polling place. The sole public building in the village, the Genesee Town Hall is well-suited in scale and simplicity of form to neighboring small frame commercial buildings and cottages. Currently there is some controversy as to the future of this Genesee Depot landmark as the town board is considering demolition of the hall, favoring a new multi-purpose community building.

¹ Waukesha Freeman, June 20, 1912, p. 6. Notice of bids wanted for construction of the amusement hall.

² Waukesha Freeman, August 7, 14, 1913, pp. 5.

³ Interviews with local elderly residents conducted by Mrs. Joseph Turzynski, October 1980.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Memoirs of Waukesha County, Thomas W. Haight, ed., Madison, Wisconsin; Western Historical Association, 1907.

Waukesha Freeman, April 25, 1912 - September 25, 1913.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property Less than 1.0

Quadrangle name Genesee, Wis.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	3	8	8	0	3	0	4	7	5	7	8	3	0
Zone	Easting		Northing											

B

Zone	Easting		Northing											

C

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D

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael R. Matucheski, Preservation Assistant, Historic Preservation Division

organization State Historical Society of Wisconsin date March 24, 1981

street & number 816 State Street telephone (608) 262-2970

city or town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

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

Richard Kenney

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

date 5/25/81

for a

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

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Genesee Depot Amusement Hall

Genesee Town Hall

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

All that part of Lot numbered Seven (7) of Block "A" of the Plat of Genesee Depot, in Section Twenty-one (21) Township six (6) North of Range Eighteen (18) East, described as follows, to-wit: Commencing at the Southwest corner of Lot Seven (7); thence running North along the west line of said Lot Seven (7), 117 feet, thence straight East across the whole width of the said Lot (7), thence South 117 feet along the east line of said Lot Seven (7) to the South line of said Lot Seven (7), thence West along the South line of said lot Seven (7) to the place of beginning.

Also all that part of Lots Seven (7) and Eight (8) in Block "A" of the Plat of Genesee Depot in Township Six (6) North Range Eighteen (18) East in Section Twenty-one (21) Town of Genesee, Waukesha County, Wisconsin, described as follows, to-wit: Commencing at a point in the West lot line between Lots Five (5) and Seven (7) and said point is one-hundred seventeen (117) feet due North of South west corner of lot Seven (7) thence running north from said point fifteen (15) feet to the North West corner of lot Seven (7), thence turning at right angles and running on the North lot line of Lot Seven (7), Ten (10) feet, thence turning at right angle and running parallel with the West line of Lot eight (8) seventy-one (71) feet to a point, thence turning east at right angle and running east parallel with the North lot line of lot (8) fifty-six (56) feet to the east lot line of lot Eight (8), thence turning at right angles and running south on the east lot line of lot Eight (8) eighty-six (86) feet to a point in the East lot line of lot Seven (7) which point is one-hundred seventeen (117) feet north of the south east corner of lot Seven (7), thence turning a right angle and continuing on a straight line parallel with the North line of lot Seven (7) to the place of beginning.