NPS Form 10-900 (January 1992) Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

OMB No. 10024-0018

1015

United States Department of Interior National Park Service

1. Name of Property

historic name

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Hahn, Otto Sr. and Lisette, House

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

other names/site number	r Hahn Hous	se Museum						
2. Location				و المراسي	1/			
	26 Water Street auk City code WI	county	Sauk	n Estas	code	N/A N/A 111	not for p vicinity zip code	sublication 53583
3. State/Federal Age	ncy Certifica	tion						
request for determination Historic Places and meets X meets does not meet the statewide X locally. (See Signature of certifying off	the procedural are National Register continuation sh	nd profession ter criteria. neet for add	onal requirem I recommen	nents set forth in 3	36 CFR Pa	art 60. Ir	my opinion,	the property
State Historic Preser	vation Officer	- Wisco	nsin					
State or Federal agency an	d bureau							
In my opinion, the property (See continuation sheet for			ational Regist	ter criteria.				
Signature of commenting	official/Title				Date			
State or Federal agency an	d bureau							

County and State 1.4.1 Date of Action Number of Resources within Property
Date of Action
Date of Action
Number of Resources within Property
Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)
contributing noncontributing
1 buildings
sites
structures objects
1 0 total
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions) RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum
Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
Foundation STONE walls BRICK
roof ASPHALT
other WOOD

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

Form 10-900-a (Rev. 8-86)

Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Hahn, Otto Sr. and Lisette, House Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

DESCRIPTION

The Otto Sr. and Lisette Hahn house is a very small side gable vernacular form single family residence that was built between 1850 and 1857. It was sold to the Hahns in 1866. This one-story-tall house sits on a parcel that fronts onto Water St., which is the village of Sauk City's principal historic north-south-running thoroughfare, and its principal facade faces west onto this thoroughfare. The house has a rectilinear plan, it measures approximately 22.5-feet-wide by 17.5-feet-deep, and it rests on tall stucco or cement-clad stone foundation walls that enclose a full basement story whose east-facing rear elevation is fully exposed because of the slope of the site. The exterior walls that rest on these foundation walls are solid red brick and they are sheltered by the shallow overhanging eaves of the asphalt shingle-covered gable roof that covers the house. The first story of the house contains two rooms, a parlor and a bedroom, while the basement story contains three: a kitchen, a dining room, and a space that now contains a bathroom and a modern furnace. The house was owned by the Hahn family until 1952, when they deeded it to the Village for museum purposes. Today, the building serves the village as a house museum and its very intact and well maintained exterior and interior both contribute to its architectural significance as one of Sauk City's oldest, most intact historic houses.

The historic commercial district of the village of Sauk City comprises both sides of the 700-900 blocks of Water St. and the south end of the 600 block. The Hahn house is located at the north end of this commercial district next door to the northernmost of the two surviving historic commercial buildings that are located on the east side of the 600 block of Water St. The western Water Street end of the parcel of land associated with the Hahn house is edged by a concrete curb and gutter, a narrow grass-covered parkway strip, and a concrete sidewalk. The main façade of the house abuts the east edge of this sidewalk, as do the main facades of the two historic commercial buildings that are located immediately adjacent to and south of the house.

Currently, the rear yard behind the Hahn house slopes gradually downhill to the east from Water Street to the Wisconsin River, whose north-south course roughly parallels that of Water St. The rear elevation of the house is now located some 300-feet west of the west bank of the river. When the Hahn house was first built, however, the west shore of the river was located just 30 feet east of the house and its east-facing basement story opened onto a grass-covered yard whose east end was edged by a retaining wall. This situation lasted until at least 1930, according to Sanborn-Perris Maps, but the construction of the Prairie Du Sac hydro-electric plant upstream between 1913-1915 gradually changed the width of the river downstream from the plant.

¹ The 2000 population of Sauk City was 3109.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 2

Hahn, Otto Sr. and Lisette, House Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

When it was first built, the Hahn house was a freestanding building whose north and south-facing side elevations were both exposed to view. Soon after Otto Hahn, Sr. bought the house in 1866, he constructed a clapboard-clad, one-story-tall, rectilinear plan, shed-roofed workshop for his harness-making business. This addition was constructed across the entire north side of the house and it remained in place until the Sauk City Women's Club began operating the house as a museum in 1952. The workshop addition was then demolished and the lumber was sold by the Club to raise funds for the operation of the museum. Today, the now exposed north-facing side elevation of the house faces onto a public park that contains several historic buildings that have been moved to this site. A curving footpath leads from the sidewalk down to the house's rear entrance, which is located in the basement story of the house's rear east-facing elevation. The original south-facing elevation of the house, meanwhile, remained in view until sometime between 1915 and 1930, but during this period a new commercial building was built south of and immediately adjacent to the house. This building is still extant and it completely hides the house's south elevation from view.²

Exterior

West-Facing Main Facade

The main façade of the Hahn house faces west onto Water St. and it is 22.5-feet-wide, one story tall, asymmetrical in design, and three bays wide. This facade rests on a tall stucco or cement-covered stone foundation wall. The exterior wall that rests on this foundation is of solid red brick that is two courses thick laid in common bond. The slightly overhanging eaves of the side-gabled main roof partially shelter the wall. Each of this façade's three bays contains a single flat-arched window opening that is simply enframed with wood boards that are painted white and whose head is comprised of a course of rowlock bricks. Today, these three openings are identical. Each contains a six-over-six-light double hung wood sash window. The two left hand ones provide light to the living room, while the right hand one provides light to the bedroom.³ However, historic photos show that the main façade's left-hand (north) bay originally contained the house's main entrance, which consisted of a paneled wood door that was accessed by climbing a short flight of wooden steps.⁴ The window that now fills this opening may have originally been located on the house's north-facing side elevation and

² Fire Insurance Maps of Sauk City, WI. New York: Sanborn-Perris Map Co., 1915, 1930.

³ Most of the panes in these windows are later replacements but a few of them are original and these display the imperfections that are typical of early window glass.

⁴ The same photos also show that the two window openings to the right of the entrance door were originally flanked by wooden shutters.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 3

Hahn, Otto Sr. and Lisette, House Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

then been moved to its present location on the main façade when the house's entrance was moved to the window's former location on the north-facing side elevation, where the entrance still is today. Fortunately, the exchange was made with care. Since the original entrance door opening was the same width as the house's original window openings, all that was necessary to affect the transfer was to deepen the north-facing window opening and shorten the west-facing door opening, and the brick that was removed when the one opening was enlarged was then used to fill the spandrel under the new west-facing window opening.

In addition to the first story window openings, there is also an oblong window opening located in the basement story of both the middle and right-hand bays. Both of these opening contain three-light wood sash windows with the one on the right (south) providing light to the dining room in the basement story, and the middle one light to what is now a basement level bathroom.

North-Facing Side Elevation

The north-facing side elevation of the Hahn house now faces onto a landscaped park and it is 17.5-feet-wide, one story tall, asymmetrical in design, and two-bays-wide. This elevation also rests on a stucco or cement-covered stone foundation, the exterior wall above is also of solid red brick, and the downward slope of the land through the site has resulted in much of the basement story of this elevation being exposed to view as well. There are no openings in the basement story of this elevation and there is only one in the first story. This opening contains the building's four panel wooden main entrance door. It is located on the right hand side (west) of this elevation and it too is simply enframed with wood boards that are painted white. This door is accessed by ascending five steps that are part of a small astylistic wooden front entrance porch that was built in 1989 to replace an earlier one in the same location.

The only other opening on this elevation is centered in the gable end above and it consists of a small window opening that provides light to the house's attic story and which now contains a later one-over-one-light double hung wood sash window. The only other feature of note on this elevation is a visible tar strip that spans the width of the elevation just below the attic window opening and which indicates the location of the roof line of the non-extant workshop addition that was once located next door.

⁵ The date when this exchange was affected is unknown but it appears to have occurred in the mid-twentieth century and not in Otto Hahn's lifetime. It is also possible that this was the window located in the front of the workshop, which could have been salvaged when the workshop was torn down around 1953.

Form 10-900-a (Rev. 8-86)

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 4

Hahn, Otto Sr. and Lisette, House Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

East-Facing Rear Elevation

Because of the slope of the land through the site, the entire basement story of this elevation is exposed to view, making it two stories in height. The elevation is 22.5-feet-wide, asymmetrical in design, and it rests on a tall stucco or cement-covered stone foundation. The exterior wall that rests on this foundation is of solid red brick and it is sheltered by a two-story-tall open wooden porch that spans the entire width of the elevation.

The basement story of this elevation is three-bays-wide and the center bay consists of an entrance door opening that is enframed by narrow molded wood boards and contains the house's original four-paneled solid wood door. Single window openings flank this entrance on both sides; both windows have dressed stone sills that are now painted white, and narrow molded wood boards enframe both of these openings. They also contain original six-over-six-light double hung wood sash windows.

The center bay of the upper (first) story of this elevation contains another flat-arched entrance door opening that is enframed by simple boards and which contains an original six-light over two-panel wood door. Placed to the right (north) of the entrance door opening is a single flat-arched window opening that is identical in size and design to the two window openings in the story below. This one also has a dressed stone sill that is now painted white and it is also enframed by narrow molded wood boards and contains its original six-over-six-light double hung wood sash window. In addition, lintels that consist of soldier bricks are placed above the door and window openings of this story.⁶

As noted above, a 5-foot-deep by 22.5-foot-wide, rectilinear plan, two-story-tall open rear porch shelters this entire elevation. The shed roof of this painted wooden porch consists of a downward extension of the east-facing slope of the main roof of the house and this roof is supported by four two-story-tall 4" x 4" wood posts that rest on the ground. These posts also support the porch's second story deck, which is edged by a simple wooden balustrade that is composed of a hand rail and square wood balusters.⁷

⁶ The lintels above the basement story windows and door are now covered over by a joist that helps support the rear porch.

⁷ Sanborn-Perris maps show that this house has had a wooden rear porch since at least 1915 and probably earlier. The current porch was built in 1989 and replicates the design of the then existing porch, the construction date of which is unknown.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

Hahn, Otto Sr. and Lisette, House Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

South-Facing Side Elevation

As noted previously, the entire 17.5-feet-wide south-facing side elevation of the Hahn house was hidden from view when the building next door was built.8

Interior

First Story

The first story of the Hahn house consists of two almost equal sized rooms: a parlor and a bedroom. These rooms occupy the north and south halves of this story, respectively. The rectilinear plan parlor measures 16.5-feet deep by 10-feet wide and one enters this room from the outside via the main entrance door, which is now located at the left (west) end of the north wall of the room. The room itself has its original wide board wood floor and plastered walls and ceiling, and natural light enters from two six-over-six-light double hung windows that are located on the room's west (street) wall and a single six-over-six-light double hung window that is centered on the east wall. All the wooden trim sets that enframe the doors and windows in this room and the adjacent bedroom are original and are simple in design and consist of molded casings that are edged with a back band. In addition, the bottoms of both room's walls are encased in tall original wood baseboards that are also of a simple design. A second door opening located at the extreme left (east) end of the parlor's south wall provides access to the bedroom next door and a projecting one-foot-deep by three-foot-wide portion of the wall next to this door encloses the flues of the house's centrally positioned brick chimney, which serviced all the house's original wood stoves and its basement level baking oven. Originally, both this room and the bedroom were heated by wood stoves whose exhaust was piped to a flue in this chimney. Although the iron stove that is in place in the parlor today is not original to the house, it is an excellent historic example that is of an appropriate vintage.

The adjoining rectilinear plan bedroom also measures 16.5-feet deep by 10-feet wide and one can enter this room from the parlor via the door opening in the bedroom's north wall or from the outside via an entrance door that opens onto the rear porch and which is located at the left (north) end of the east wall of the room. Here too, the floors are original and are of wide wood boards, the walls and ceiling are plastered, and natural light enters from either a single six-over-six-light double hung window that is located on the room's west (street) wall or from the nine-light fixed window that comprises the upper half of the nine-light-over two-panel porch entrance door on the room's east wall. Like the parlor, this

⁸ No historic photos showings this elevation's original appearance have been found as of yet.

Form 10-900-a (Rev. 8-86)

Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 6

Hahn, Otto Sr. and Lisette, House Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

room was also originally heated by a wood stove whose exhaust pipe fed into the chimney that is located on the bedroom's north wall, although this stove is no longer in place. Other features of this room include a rectilinear opening in the ceiling that is filled with a board door that provides access to the attic that occupies the space under the eaves above this room and the parlor, and there is also a staircase located in the southeast corner of the room that descends to the parlor/bedroom in the basement story below. This narrow, steep staircase has a straight run and the rectilinear opening in the bedroom floor that provides access to it is encircled by a modest balustrade that is composed of a handrail and turned balusters.

Basement Story

The basement story of the Hahn house is divided into three rooms. The largest of these occupies the south half of this story. This is a rectilinear plan parlor/dining room/bedroom that measures 16.5-feet deep by 10.5-feet wide. One enters this room from the outside via the rear entrance door, which is located at the left (north) end of the east wall of the room, or from the internal staircase that occupies the southeast corner of this room and which ascends to the bedroom in the first story. The floor of this room is of the same wide boards found in the first story rooms and the ceiling and the north, east, and west walls of this room are plastered. The south wall, however, is exposed brick, but it is not known whether this wall has always been exposed in this way or if it too was once plastered. In addition, the bases of all four walls are covered by tall, simple original wood baseboards. Natural light enters this room from a six-over-six-light double hung window centered on the room's east wall and from a small two-light oblong fixed window that is located high up on the west wall and which looks out onto the street. A door opening located at the extreme right (east) end of this room's north wall provides access to the kitchen next door and a covered circular opening placed high up on this wall next to the kitchen doorway shows that this room was also once heated by a now non-extant wood stove.

The north half of the basement story is divided into two spaces. The smaller of the two is the kitchen, which measures 9-feet-wide by 8-feet-deep and occupies the east portion of this space. This room also has plastered walls and a plastered ceiling but its floor now consists of poured concrete. Natural light enters this room from a six-over-six-light double hung window centered on the room's east wall and there are two door openings in the walls as well, one of which is located to the left (east) on the kitchen's south wall and opens into the parlor/dining room/bedroom, and the other of which is located to the right (north) on the west wall and opens into the rear space that contains a bathroom and furnace room. The most impressive feature of this room, however, is the house's original brick baking oven, which is built into the room's south wall. The exterior of this oven projects slightly from the main wall

Form 10-900-a (Rev. 8-86)

Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 7

Hahn, Otto Sr. and Lisette, House Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

surface, its surface is plastered over, and it has two arched openings set into the wall that are superimposed over one another, the lower one of which also has a projecting dressed stone sill.

The larger western portion of the north half of the basement story measures 11-feet-wide by 10-feet-deep and its floor is composed of flagstone while its north and west walls are two of the foundation walls of the building and are of stone that has now been painted. This space's east and south walls, however, are internal bearing walls that are of red brick that is unplastered on these sides, and the corner where the two walls meet comprises one side of the baking oven. It is believed that this portion of the basement has always been used for utilitarian purposes and the house's modern furnace and its air conditioning and water treatment equipment is now hidden from view in a 4-foot-wide by 6-feet-deep portion of this space that is enclosed by vertical board walls. In addition, the 3-foot-wide by 10.5-feet-deep southern third of this space is now used as a bathroom and it contains a modern sink and toilet and its north wall is plastered.

While the building has been altered over time, with the change of the location of the entrance and with the addition of modern facilities in the back room of the basement, the house retains many of the original features dating from its initial construction in the 1850s. As such, it is a rare intact survivor from the state's early history and is located on its original site on Sauk City's main thoroughfare.

⁹ The other sides of these walls face into the kitchen and the parlor/dining room/bedroom and they are plastered.

Name of Property

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

(Mar	icable National Register Criteria k "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria fying the property for the National Register listing.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) Architecture	
_ A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.		
_B	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.		
<u>x</u> c	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	Period of Significance 1850-1857	
_D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates Ca.1856	
	eria Considerations k "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	X-DOLA	
Prope	erty is:	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)	
_ A	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	N/A	
_B	removed from its original location.		
_C	a birthplace or grave.	Cultural Affiliation	
_ D	a cemetery.	N/A	
_E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.		
_ F	a commemorative property.	Architect/Builder	
_G	less than 50 years of age or achieved	Unknown	

Narrative Statement of Significance

significance within the past 50 years.

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

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 1

Hahn, Otto Sr. and Lisette, House Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

Significance:

The Otto Sr. and Lisette Hahn, House is believed to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) for its local significance under National Register (NR) Criterion C (Architecture). Research designed to assess the house's potential for eligibility was undertaken using the NR significance area of Architecture, a theme that is also identified in the State of Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP). This research centered on evaluating the house by utilizing the Side Gable Vernacular Form subsection of the Architectural Styles study unit of the CRMP. The results of this research are detailed below and demonstrate that the very small, red brick Hahn house is locally significant under NR Criterion C as an excellent, highly intact, and very early example of the Side Gable form as applied to a residential design. It also is an excellent early example of the small permanent residences that housed many of Wisconsin's early artisans. The period of significance corresponds with the home's construction.

Sauk County courthouse records show that Edward Tappan sold the land associated with what is now known as the Hahn house to Francesca Pesther in 1850 for the sum of \$30.00 dollars. Pesther subsequently sold this property to Michael Brendler for \$1050.00 in 1857. 11 It can therefore be assumed that the house was built sometime during this period. Even so, this price seems quite high for so small a house at this time in Wisconsin's history, so perhaps the selling price reflected other financial considerations and, perhaps, the rampant speculation that was so much a part of the real estate scene during those years. Whatever the truth may be, by the time that Otto Sr. and Lisette Hahn purchased the house from Pesther in 1866, the price had fallen to \$590.00, which was still a high price for so small a building, but a more plausible one. Otto Hahn Sr. (1829-1913), who was a saddler and harness maker by trade, then moved in with his wife, and their three children and soon thereafter he built a now non-extant clapboard-clad one-story shop for himself that he attached across the northfacing side elevation of the house. Otto Hahn Sr. and his descendents continued to own this very intact house until 1952, when the Hahn family sold the house to the Village of Sauk City for one dollar with the stipulation that it be used as a museum. Thanks to the efforts of local history enthusiasts, the house became a house museum in 1956, and it is still in use as such today. Its very intact exterior and interior have remained in a largely unchanged state throughout its 150+ year history. Consequently, both the interior and exterior of the Hahn house are of architectural significance today as fine and highly intact Wisconsin examples of early Side Gable form residential design.

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

¹¹ Sauk County Deeds Volumes. Sauk County Register of Deeds, Baraboo, WI. Historic Sauk County real estate tax rolls for the nineteenth century did not survive a fire that destroyed the county courthouse in Baraboo in 1904.

Form 10-900-a (Rev. 8-86)

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 2

Hahn, Otto Sr. and Lisette, House Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

History

The first Euro-American settler to claim land that is now part of Sauk City was Berry Haney, a wagon driver who plied a route from Mineral Point to Portage that took him along the Wisconsin River in the mid-1830s. When the U. S. government and members of the Ho-Chunk Nation signed a treaty in 1838 and the land on the west side of the river was ceded to the U. S. and was opened for settlement, Haney quickly entered ten acres on the west side of the river at a point where he planned to operate a ferry to serve the newcomers who were seeking to settle the newly opened territory. By the end of 1839, perhaps a dozen or so new settlers had joined Haney in staking a claim at this place. However, Sauk City really owes its start to the arrival on the scene of a Hungarian aristocrat, Agoston Harazsthy, in 1840. Agoston Harazsthy (ca.1812-1869) immediately saw potential of all kinds in this river valley location and after a trip to Milwaukee to raise capital, he purchased Haney's claim and soon thereafter had the first plat of the village drawn and recorded, which he named "Harazsthy." Blessed with abundant energy, Harazsthy promptly set about turning his new purchase into a real community, while at the same time he was also busily engaged in a half dozen other pursuits, including planting the first grape vines in the state on a hillside opposite Sauk City on the eastern Dane County side of the river. Is

Harazsthy planted the first hop yard in Wisconsin, and at Sauk City operated a brick yard, a Wisconsin River ferry, and headed the local emigrant society. In 1845 he opened a store in Baraboo. One of the most colorful characters in central Wisconsin, Harazsthy was popularly known as "the Count." 14

In 1842, Harazsthy bought his wife and children and his parents to his new village and they remained here until early 1849, when the news of the gold rush in California caused him to pull up stakes and head west, where he would, among other things, become one of the most important figures in the development of California's wine industry.

On March 19, 1849, just prior to his removal to California, Harazsthy sold Edward A. Tappan many of the lots in his plat, including lots 2, 3, 4, and 5 in Block 41. These lots were all located on the east side of Water St., they fronted on this street and had the west bank of the Wisconsin River at their rear, and they were all vacant at the time of the sale. A little more than a year later, on August 6, 1850, Tappan sold Lot No. 2 to Francesca (a.k.a Franciska) Pesther for the sum of \$30.00 and also the adjacent Lot

¹² Harazsthy would subsequently be called Westfield, and then, upon incorporation in 1854, Sauk City.

¹³ This is the NRHP-listed Kehl Winery, now known as the Wollersheim Winery.

¹⁴ Dictionary of Wisconsin Biography. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1960, p. 158.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 3

Hahn, Otto Sr. and Lisette, House Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

No. 3 for the same price. No other information has yet been found that tells what happened to this land in the next few years but on August 2, 1855, Pesther sold Lot No 3, less the south 10 feet of the same, to Nicholas Miller for \$570.00, and on November 11, 1857, she sold Lot No. 2 and the south 10 feet of Lot No. 3 to Michael Brendler for \$1050.00. These prices may partially reflect inflated values associated with speculative activities, but it is believed that the very large rise in the value of the property sold to Brendler is at least partly accounted for by the construction of the building that is now known as the Hahn house, which would have been built sometime between 1850 and 1857. Less than a year later, Brendler resold the property back to Pesther for the identical sum of \$1050.00 and Pesther apparently retained title of this property for another eight years, during which period she was widowed and remarried a man named Kalschied and was subsequently known as Franciska Kalschied.

On May 24, 1866, Franciska Kalschied sold Lot No. 2 and the south 10-feet of Lot 3 to Otto Hahn, Sr. and his wife, Lisette, for the sum of \$590.00. 18 Otto Hahn Sr., the new owner of the building on this lot, was born in Eisenach, Germany, on July 31, 1829, and after attending school, he learned the harness making trade. Hahn emigrated to the United States and to Milwaukee in March of 1849, where he worked for two years before moving to Sauk City in 1852, which was then and would remain for decades afterwards a predominantly German and German-speaking community. Once settled there Hahn opened a harness shop and on July 24, 1856, he married Lisette Nentz (1835-1871). In the years that followed, Hahn became known locally as "saddler Hahn," a reference to his special skills as a leather worker, and by 1866, his trade had expanded to the point where he needed a new shop for his work. Nor was his trade the only thing that had grown during this period. By the time the Hahns moved into their new 750-square-foot home they had three children: Otto W. Hahn Jr.; Gustav C. Hahn; and Hortense Julia Hahn.

Soon after the move, Hahn built himself a one-story, clapboard-clad, shed-roofed, rectilinear plan workshop that he attached to the north side of his new house. This shop measured about 10-feet-wide by 25-feet-deep, according to Sanborn-Perris maps. Surviving historic photos show that it had a single entrance door facing the street that was flanked on the right by a six-over-six-light wood sash, double hung window that was itself flanked by wood shutters.¹⁹

¹⁵ Sauk County Deeds, Volume C, p. 384. Sauk County Register of Deeds. These lots contain the land that are now and have historically been associated with the Hahn house (All of Lot 2 and the South 10-feet of Lot 3). Franciska Pesther was the wife of Franz Pesther and they had a son, John Pesther.

¹⁶ Ibid, Volume T, pg. 274.

¹⁷ Ibid, Volume V, pg. 287. Franciska Kalschied died on March 21, 1869.

¹⁸ Ibid, Volume 11, p. 193.

¹⁹ Sauk Prairie Historical Society. A Pictorial History of the Sauk City - Prairie Du Sac Area. Sauk City: 1976, p. 23.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 4

Hahn, Otto Sr. and Lisette, House Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

On March 11, 1868, a fourth child was born to the Hahns, this being Helen Martha Hahn, and on October 23, 1871, a fifth child was born. Sadly, tragedy followed the last birth; late in the evening of November 11, 1871, a deeply depressed Lisette Hahn took her new child with her to the Sauk City bridge and threw herself and her child into the river and both were drowned. Thereafter it was left to Otto Hahn to raise his children alone and by all accounts in this he was successful. Otto Hahn Jr. (1858-1949) became a respected businessman and banker in Sauk City and something of a political leader in the village, having twice served as president of the Village Board, while Gustav went to Milwaukee and pursued a business career. Hortense Hahn married Monroe Guett and moved with him to Hartford, Connecticut, while Helen Hahn (1868-1943) remained single and continued to live with her father. Otto Hahn Sr., meanwhile, continued to work at his trade in Sauk City until he retired in 1895 and he and his daughter continued to live in the house on Water Street until his accidental death in June of 1913 at the age of 83.20 In his obituary it was noted that he was survived by his four children, his six grandchildren, and his many friends. The writer further noted that after the death of his wife in 1871, "the father's entire love had been concentrated toward his children for which he was rewarded by their kindness and mutual love, making the declining years of his life happy and peaceful."21

The four children jointly inherited the Water Street house and the three oldest then sold it to Helen Hahn for one dollar.

For a time Helen lived alone in the tiny Hahn house. She was of a reserved nature and had little social life but lived behind the windows of her home where she could watch the passing parade of humanity. In her later years she moved in with her brother [Otto W. Kahn Jr.] and the Hahn house was rented to others.²²

In 1917, Helen Hahn sold the house to her Connecticut-based sister, Hortense Hahn Guett. It is not known if Helen Hahn continued to live in the house after 1917, but an interesting historic footnote published in the local paper in 1932 shows that the house was sometimes rented out in subsequent years on a seasonal basis. For example:

²⁰ "Otto Hahn Sr. Accidentally Drowned." Sauk County News: June 12, 1913, p. 8.

²¹ Sauk County News. June 19, 1913, pg. 8.. Obituary of Otto Hahn Sr.

²² Sauk Prairie Historical Society Newsletter. Vol. V, Number 3, August, 1979, p. 1.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 5

Hahn, Otto Sr. and Lisette, House Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

August Derleth and Mark Schorer have rented a building on Water St. across from the Lachmund Lumber Co. Yards for a studio in which they can write during the summer.²³

This building was the Hahn house and these two Sauk City-born authors would subsequently go on to have distinguished careers in Wisconsin and American letters. In 1932, however, they were both at the earliest stages of these careers.

They [Derleth and Schorer] kept writer's hours there, scribbling notes, pecking on a typewriter, visiting with friends, and soaking up the life experience of the village that was the foundation of their work.

Derleth, was, of course, the quintessential chronicler of small town life. He found great meaning in seemingly small events and discovered that the truths of human experience may be discovered on village byways as well as on urban boulevards.

The work of Mark Schorer was also closely tied to small town life. His study of Sinclair Lewis, the Nobel prize winning author whose work focused on the life of small town America, remains the premier study of the subject.

Schorer, who went on to a distinguished academic career, enjoyed his first success as a writer in the Hahn House in 1932. With Derleth's help, he started to sell stories to the popular pulp magazines that summer.²⁴

In 1934, Hortense Hahn Guett sold the old family house on Water Street back to her sister, Helen, for the sum of one dollar, and Helen Hahn continued to own the house until her death on June 20, 1943, after which it was inherited by Hortense Guett's daughter, Bertha. Finally, on July 11, 1952, Bertha L. Guett sold the house to the Village of Sauk City for the sum of one dollar on the condition that:

The above described property is to be used exclusively for park purposes, provided, however, that the brick building presently located on said premises or any new building subsequently erected thereon may be used for a museum.²⁵

²³ Sauk City: Pioneer Press, July 28, 1932.

²⁴ Goc, Michael J. Lives Lived Here: A Walk Through the History of Sauk City. Compiled by Myrtle Cushing; written by Michael J. Goc. Friendship, WI: New Past Press, 1992, p. 132. Three years later, in 1935, Derleth published a volume of short stories entitled Place of Hawks, which was the first volume in his Sac Prairie Saga, the collection of work for which he is now best known.

²⁵ Warranty Deed Volume 233, pg. 477. Sauk County Register of Deeds.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 6

Hahn, Otto Sr. and Lisette, House Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

The first caretaker of the Hahn house was the Sauk County Women's Club. Members of this Club had been gradually acquiring Sauk City-related historic memorabilia to furnish a house museum since 1940 with the goal of creating a museum dedicated to the history of Sauk City. Once the Hahn house became Village property the Club petitioned the Village to turn the building into a museum and in this they were ultimately successful; the Sauk City Museum was opened to the public in 1956. In 1961, the Sauk City Historical Society was formed to continue the operation of the museum and a year later this organization was incorporated as the Sauk Prairie Historical Society, Inc., whose charge was to "preserve, advance and disseminate knowledge of the Sauk-Prairie area," which includes both Sauk City and the neighboring village of Prairie Du Sac. Today, the Sauk City Historic Preservation Commission operates the Hahn House Museum and it is open to the public as a house museum.

Architecture

The Otto Hahn, Sr. and Lisette Hahn, House was built between 1850 and 1857 and it is believed to eligible for listing in the NRHP because it is a very early, very small, and very intact residential example of the Side Gable Vernacular Form and it is now the most intact pre-Civil War house in the village of Sauk City. Finding early examples of this vernacular form in Wisconsin's older communities is not uncommon even today because, as the CRMP notes:

The side gable form is probably one of the earliest, most pervasive, and universal house forms found. Spanning centuries and continents, in Wisconsin it has been built in all periods of white settlement, of a variety of materials, and by various ethnic groups. The form was also applied to commercial and public buildings, but side gable buildings were built predominately as houses.²⁷

As a result, it is not unexpected that a number of early Side Gable form houses would be found in a community as old as Sauk City. Indeed, the computerized database of the State of Wisconsin's Division of Historic Preservation lists ten mostly stone or brick examples in this village (including the Hahn house) that were built prior to the Civil War. What sets the Hahn house apart from its fellows and gives it heightened significance is its very small size and its superb condition and very high degree of integrity.

The CRMP states that examples of the Side Gable form were built in Wisconsin from c.1840 to 1940 and it describes its salient features as follows:

²⁷ Wyatt, Barbara (ed.). Op. Cit.

²⁶ Sauk Prairie Star. September 13, 1956.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 7

Hahn, Otto Sr. and Lisette, House Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

Hallmark features [of the Side Gable form] are a rectangular plan and a gable roof, usually gently pitched. The major façade is in the long wall, with gables oriented perpendicular to the street. From one to three stories, the form is particularly adaptable to half story versions, and the one-and-a-half-story version may well be the most common.

The side gable form is as plain as the other vernacular forms in Wisconsin. The ubiquitous front porch, entirely or partially spanning the front façade, may have the only touch of embellishment, with small brackets or turned posts. Generally, the porch roof is not an extension of the main roof, but is a separate shed, flat, or hipped roof. The form is generally low to the ground, particularly in early examples, with only a few steps leading to the porch. Sometimes the foundation is barely perceptible. Window openings are usually regularly spaced, although sometimes a stair light is offset on a side wall. Doorways are almost always centrally placed, reflecting a symmetrical floor plan. ²⁸

Examples of this form are characteristically covered with clapboard, but fieldstone, cut stone, and brick examples are also found. Very early versions may be of timber-framed, half- timbered, or even of log construction. Early versions are generally narrower and shorter than later examples and wings extended off the rear of the main block were popular, both as original features and as later additions.

The one-story-tall Hahn house is an excellent early representative example of the Side Gable form that features both solid brick exterior walls and solid brick interior partition walls. This house is rectangular in plan, has a shallow-pitched gable roof whose gable ends are perpendicular to the street, and the window openings on both its front and rear elevations are regularly spaced. In addition, each of its two stories also features a symmetrical two-room floor plan. However, limitations imposed by the site and by the small size of the house – it measures just 17.5-feet x 22.5-feet – mean that some features that are typically associated with the Side Gable form appear here in a slightly different guise or not at all. The "ubiquitous front porch" mentioned in the CRMP, for instance, is in this case found on the rear east-facing elevation of the house rather than on its main façade due to the fact that the main façade abuts the back edge of the concrete sidewalk that edges the street, leaving no room for such a porch.²⁹ Likewise, the "centrally placed doorway" mentioned in the CRMP was, in this instance, positioned in the center of both the basement and first story levels of the rear elevation of the house rather than on the main façade. The architectural significance of the Hahn house is further enhanced by its simple but highly intact interior. Here too, all of the original detailing has survived as has the house's original floor plan. Still intact are the house's original plastered walls and ceilings, its

28 Wyatt, Barbara (ed.). Op. Cit.

²⁹ Placing the porch across the rear of the house also gave the occupants views out over the Wisconsin River.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 8

Hahn, Otto Sr. and Lisette, House Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

original wide board floors, original door and window casings, original wooden baseboards, and original doors and windows, some of which still retain their original glass.

What sets the Hahn house apart from other surviving early examples of the Side Gable form in Sauk City, however, is its integrity and its ability to accurately depict the life that the small town craftsman and his family lived in mid-nineteenth century Wisconsin. Thanks to the ninety year period of ownership of the Hahn family and the care that has gone into the house's maintenance since it was first opened to the public in 1956, the house that visitors see today is still very much the same house that Otto and Lisette Hahn purchased in 1866. Its survival is all the more important because so few houses of a similar size and history now survive in an urban setting. Such houses were once a fairly common site in nearly every nineteenth century Wisconsin community. For instance, the 1915 Sanborn-Perris Fire Insurance Map of Sauk City shows that at that time there were three small wooden houses of a similar size located just to the north of the Hahn house on the east side of Water Street and an early photo shows that the house that was located closest to the Hahn house was an almost equally small clapboard-clad Greek Revival style-influenced Side Gable form house. 30 None of these other houses are now extant, which is not surprising when one considers how few twentieth and twenty-first century families would have been or would be happy to live in a 787.5-square-foot two story house. Fortunately, this was not true in the nineteenth century, when manufactured materials such as brick and milled lumber were expensive and could be hard to obtain, especially in the years before the railroad arrived.³¹ For the nineteenth century artisan, space was a luxury, and while those who wanted a house of their own might have wished for a larger house, they were not too proud to live in whatever they could afford. Certainly this was true of the five members of the Hahn family when they moved into their Water Street house. While they are tiny by modern standards, houses such as this were commonplace in the years before the creation of balloon framing, cheap milled lumber, and railroad transport made it possible for even a relatively poor family to have adequate space in which to live. And, of course, once new houses such as these became readily available and affordable, houses such as the one owned by the Hahns became obsolete, and since most of them were too small to be readily adapted to other non-residential uses they were typically demolished to make way for newer and larger buildings.

As a consequence, the intact survival of the Hahn house is of importance because of the information that it can provide about what life was actually like for the average citizen in mid-nineteenth century Wisconsin. As a local Sauk City writer noted in an article written about the Hahn house:

31 The first railroad to enter Sauk City arrived in December 1881.

³⁰ Sauk Prairie Historical Society. A Pictorial History of the Sauk City - Prairie Du Sac Area. Sauk City: 1976, p. 23.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 9

Hahn, Otto Sr. and Lisette, House Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

As a museum it is small, but as an illustration of the lives of people who made our communities it is priceless. From mansions, one can see evidence of the wealthy in earlier days of our state; some are sad reminders of obscenely accumulated riches, and are not at all typical of the style of living of their times. At the Hahn House one can see how life was like for the backbone of our community, the hard working craftsman, the ordinary folks.³²

The Otto Sr. and Lisette Hahn house is thus believed to be locally significant under National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an excellent, highly intact, early example of Side Gable form residential design. The Hahn house was built between 1850 and 1857, it possesses most of the typical features that are associated with early examples of the Side Gable form, and its largely original and highly intact interior adds considerably to the overall significance of the house. In addition, the Hahn house is of significance because it is a representative example of a house type that was historically associated with early urban settlement in Wisconsin. Intact examples of the houses that were owned and occupied by artisans in mid-nineteenth century Wisconsin are rare today and are becoming rarer as time goes on.

⁻

³² Anderson, Sheila. "The Hahn House." Sauk Prairie Area Historical Society Annual Meeting, January 23, 2000. The article that Anderson wrote for this meeting includes the accompanying quote, which is from an article on the house that was written by Ray Bayley in 1990.

. Maior I	ame of Property		County and State		
3	Bibliographic F	References			
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April 20, 2010 608-795-2650

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city or town

6391 Hillsandwood Road

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 1

Hahn, Otto Sr. and Lisette, House Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

Major Bibliographical References

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 1

Hahn, Otto Sr. and Lisette, House Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary corresponds to the historic legal parcel for the property: Original Plat of the Village of Sauk City. N59' of Lot 2, S10' of Lot 3, Block 41.

Boundary Justification:

These boundaries enclose all the land that was historically associated with the Otto Sr. and Lisette Hahn. House during the period of significance and the historic boundaries correspond to the dimensions of the original parcel, which extended to the retaining wall behind the house, as is shown on historic Sanborn Perris maps of the community. Because of the construction on the Prairie Du Sac hydroelectric facility and dam in 1911-1914, this land actually now extends for a considerable distance further east behind the Hahn House, but this additional land was added to the parcel after the period of significance and it is not included within the historic boundary. These same maps also show that a small office building was once located on this parcel as well, but this building was not standing on this parcel during the period of significance and it is no longer extant.

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title

organization Street & number city or town

state

date telephone zip code

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section photos Page 1

Hahn, Otto Sr. and Lisette, House Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

Items a - d are the same for photos 1-9.

Photo 1

- a) Hahn, Otto Sr. and Lisette, House
- b) Sauk City, Sauk County, WI
- c) Timothy F. Heggland, January 2010
- d) Wisconsin Historical Society
- e) General View, View looking NE
- f) Photo 1 of 9

Photo 2

- e) Main Facade, View looking E
- f) Photo 2 of 9

Photo 3

- e) General View, View looking SE
- f) Photo 3 of 9

Photo 4

- e) North-facing Side Elevation, View looking S
- f) Photo 4 of 9

Photo 5

- e) East-facing Rear Elevation, View looking W
- f) Photo 5 of 9

Photo 6

- e) Parlor, View facing SE
- f) Photo 6 of 9

Photo 7

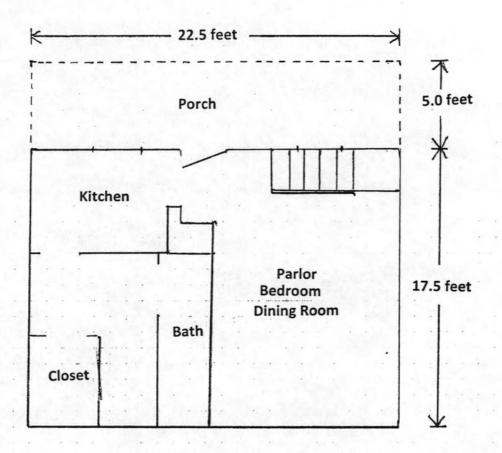
- e) Bedroom from Parlor, View looking S towards Bedroom
- f) Photo 7 of 9

Photo 8

- e) Bedroom, View looking SW
- f) Photo 8 of 9

Photo 9

- e) Kitchen Baking Ovens, View looking SSW
- f) Photo 9 of 9



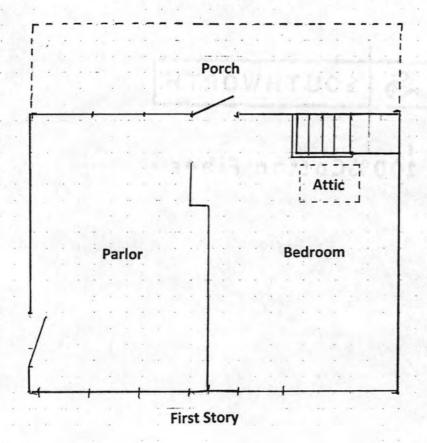
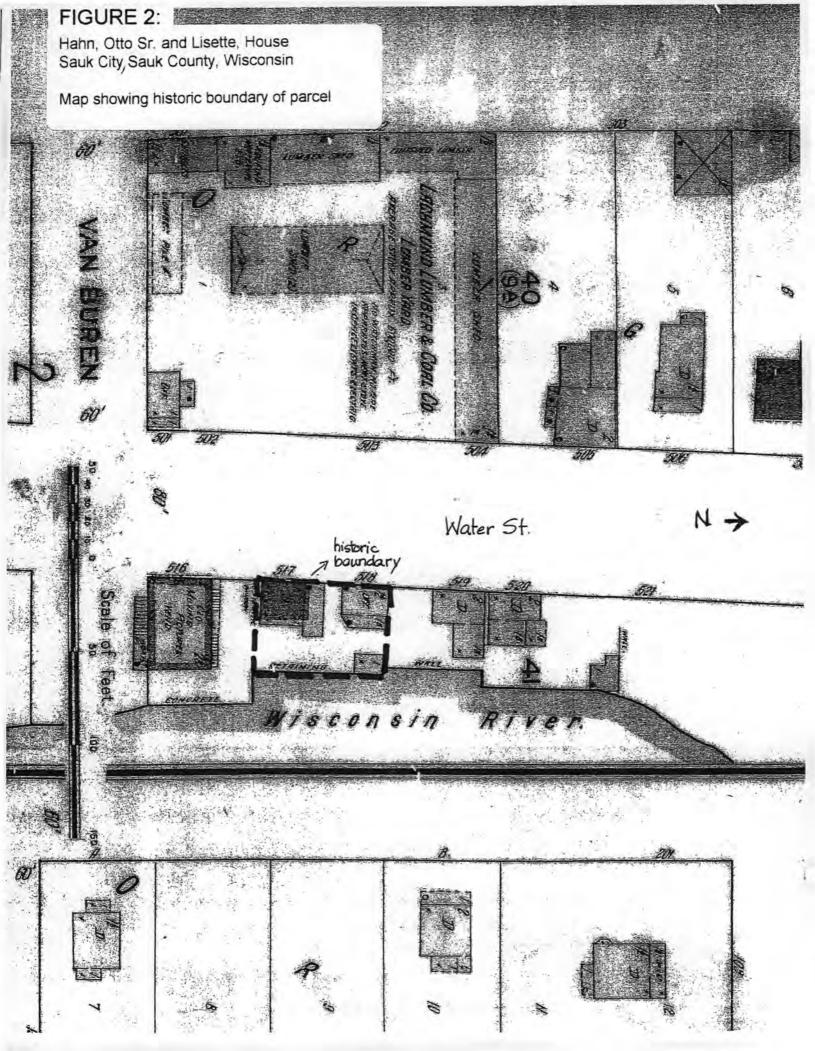


FIGURE #1:

Hahn, Otto Sr. and Lisette, House Sauk City, Sauk County, WI



Not to Scale



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION	
PROPERTY Hahn, Otto Sr. and Lise NAME:	ette, House
MULTIPLE NAME:	
STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Sauk	
DATE RECEIVED: 11/25/11 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/03/11 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:	DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/16/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/10/12
REFERENCE NUMBER: 11001015	
REASONS FOR REVIEW:	
APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDS OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIO REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR	SCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N DD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N
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Hahn, Otto Sry + Lisette, House Saut City, Saut Co., WI

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Hahn, Otto S.F., and Lisette, House South City, South Co., WI

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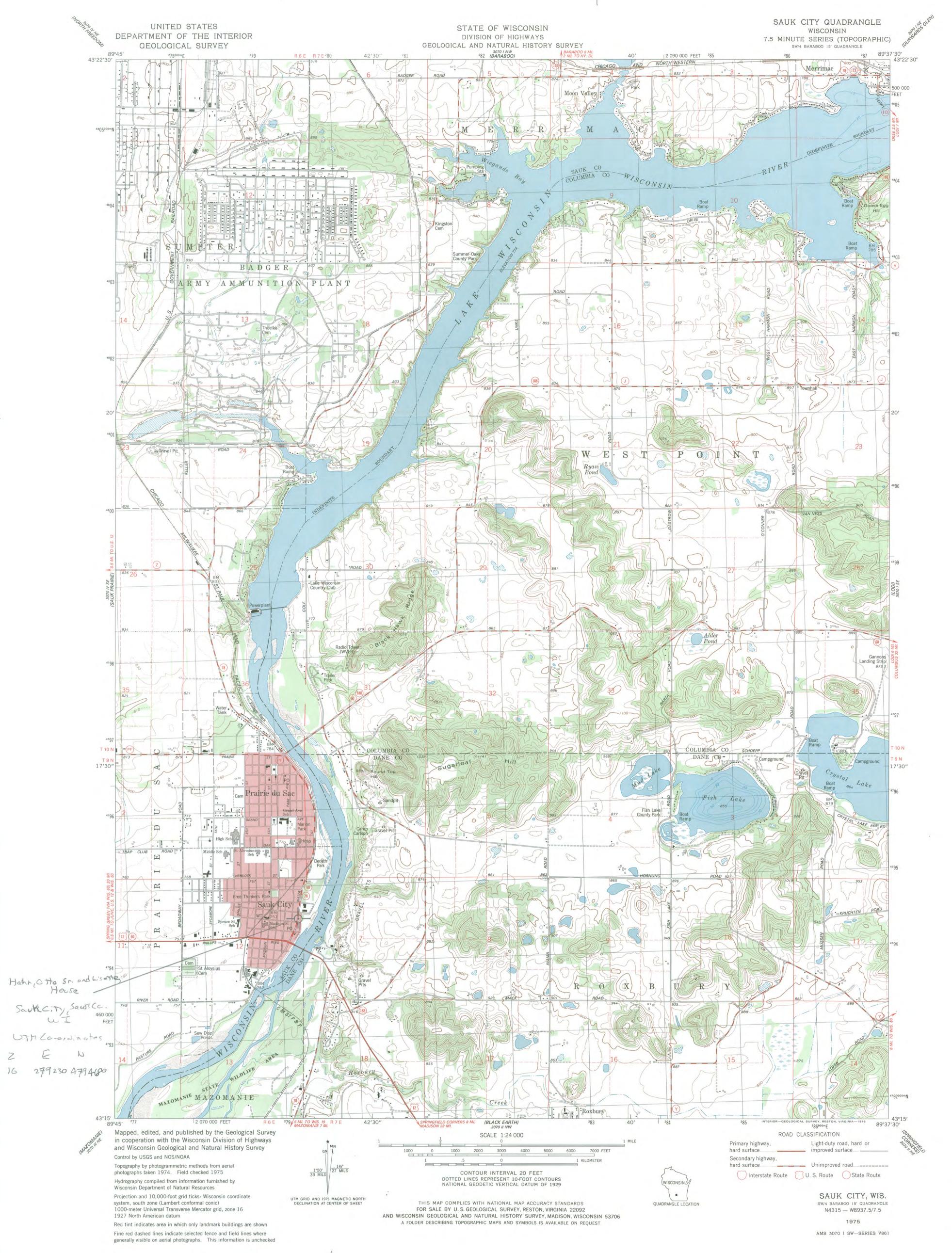
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Hahn, Otto Sr., and Lisette, House Soute City, Soute Co., UI 8 of 9



Hahr, Otto Sr., and Cisette, House Soute City, Soute Cor, WI 9 of 9









TO:	Keeper
	National Register of Historic Places
FROM:	Daina Penkiunas
SUBJECT:	National Register Nomination
	g materials are submitted on this <u>23rd</u> day of <u>November 2011</u> , on of the <u>Hahn, Otto Sr. and Lisette, House</u> to the National Register of ees:
1	Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form
	_ Multiple Property Nomination form
9	_ Photograph(s)
	_ CD with electronic images
1	_ Original USGS map(s)
2	_ Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)
	_ Piece(s) of correspondence
	_Other
COMMENT	S:
	_ Please insure that this nomination is reviewed
	This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
	The enclosed owner objection(s) do do not
	constitute a majority of property owners. Other: