

**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 Tuttle, A. G., Estate

historic Tuttle House; Baraboo Valley Nursery

and/or common Tuttle, A. G., Estate (preferred)

2. Location

street & number N. Elizabeth Street, R.F.D. #1 — not for publication

city, town Baraboo — vicinity of congressional district Second

state Wisconsin code 65 county Sauk code 111

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Heirs of Charlotte Tuttle, Ralph Tuttle, Representative

street & number R.F.D. #4

city, town Baraboo — vicinity of state Wisconsin 53913

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sauk County Courthouse

street & number 515 Oak Street

city, town Baraboo — vicinity of state Wisconsin 53913

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1977 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison — vicinity of state Wisconsin 53706

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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

The A. G. Tuttle Estate occupies a hilltop site in the Town of Baraboo, overlooking the Baraboo River Valley and the City of Baraboo proper to the south. No longer cultivated, the former nursery beds (now open fields) and buildings are enclosed by a ridge of trees to the north. Neighboring houses to the east and west are set off from the estate by the contours of the hill and the road, respectively. Although the site is no longer as rural as it originally was, thanks to screens of vegetation to the north and the contours of the hill, enough of the pastoral character of the area remains to suggest the drama and tranquility of the setting that Tuttle chose.

Most prominently situated on the open site on the hill is A. G. Tuttle's Gothic Revival cottage. The original condition of the house, inside and out, is remarkably well-preserved. The cross-plan gabled design is covered with board-and-batten siding, accented with contrastingly-painted wood corner boards. The peaks of the steep gables on all four facades are accented by small wood finials; diamond-pierced bargeboards still fill the eaves. Thin wood label moldings frame the first-story windows; steep wood triangles top the second-story openings. Louvred-filled diamond-shaped openings mark the attic story. A double-columned open wood porch decorated with dropped wood pendants surrounds the projecting front gable on the south. A secondary entrance in the angle of the cross plan on the west side is covered by a similar section of porch. On the north end of the west gable, a projecting ground-story bay is trimmed with flat wood corbel tables. A paneled brick chimney marks the center of the ridge of the principal east-west gable. A second plainer chimney marks the northern end of the one-story cross gable to the north. A small, one-story lean-to was added to the rear (east) side of the house.

Among the remarkable features of the interior are intricate, profiled coved moldings throughout; a still-life and landscape (with the Tuttle House pictured) mural over the dining room (now living room) bay, flanked by painted "marble" columns; an ornate plaster rosette on the parlor ceiling; an open string stair with paired turned-wood balusters and ornamental brackets; and red etched glass panes in the overlight and sidelights framing the front door. The rarest extant piece of the original decoration is the trompe l'oeil "cut stone" painting on the walls of the front stair, with a naive Venus painted into a "niche" at the turn in the stair. Rotting plaster and peeling paint threaten the existence of the whole wall.

Also included in the nomination is a double-stalled cross-gabled Gothic Revival outhouse. The same diamond-cut bargeboards, finials, and board-and-batten siding found on the house are repeated in miniature in the design. Other outbuildings include a small toolshed at the far end of the south lawn, a weathered board-and-batten barn to the north, and a gable-roofed one-car garage (1920s) just east of the house.

The former grafting house to the southeast of the property is now a private residence. In 1905, the cold storage building was removed, and several years ago, the old cider mill, capable of crushing up to two hundred bushels per day (for cider, vinegar, and apple butter), was also demolished as a safety precaution.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1869¹ **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The A. G. Tuttle Estate in Baraboo is both an historic and architectural asset of Sauk County. One of the rare types of nineteenth century design, rarer still because of its susceptibility to deterioration, the striking "Carpenter's Gothic" house retains its original appearance. In its pastoral setting, with matching double-stall outhouse, the site retains the original character as depicted in Canfield's Outline Sketches of Sauk County. Further, the integrity of the site strengthens the association with Baraboo merchant and nurseryman A.G. Tuttle, the original owner, who gained area prominence through his experiments in pomology.

Architecture. As a New England emigrant, it is not surprising that Albert G. Tuttle would choose to construct his Wisconsin home in the Gothic Revival Style which rose to its peak in the eastern United States in the mid nineteenth century. Popularized by American architect Calvert Vaux and Andrew Jackson Downing as expressing man's kinship to nature when set in properly landscaped surroundings, the style was all the more fitting a selection for a nurseryman and pomologist. Given that Downing published his Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening (1841), Cottage Residences (1842), and The Fruit and Fruit Trees of America prior to Tuttle's construction of the house and nursery, it may well be that Tuttle was familiar with those works. During its completion, the house was noted in the August 18, 1869 issue of the Baraboo News as "...one of the largest and handsomest, as it is also one of the costliest, most thoroughly built and convenient residences about Baraboo...." The site was described as "...scarcely to be matched for the extent of beauty of the scenery it overlooks."² A sketch of the house and brief biographical consideration of the owner appeared in William H. Canfield's serial Canfield's Outline Sketches of Sauk County.³

Agriculture. A. G. Tuttle (1814–1905) came to Wisconsin as a representative of a New York City firm to trade with the Indians, but he quickly moved on into endeavors of his own. After running a general store in Baraboo, Tuttle bought in 1853 some 80 acres of land northeast of the city and began farming.⁴ In 1860, he began to devote the majority of his enlarged land holdings to the nursery business. The nurturing of new and better agricultural strains had begun in the Sauk County area as early as 1844, but Tuttle was to become the true pioneer in the field; he was particularly skilled in adapting apples, pears, plums and other fruits to the shorter growing season and cooler air of Wisconsin. Tuttle's most significant contribution was the introduction of a hardy variety of apple from Russia, which he had secured through an arrangement with Cassius M. Clay, the American ambassador to the court of the czar.⁵ Tuttle's success earned him an acclaim that drew customers from across Wisconsin as well as Minnesota, and he served for a number of years as president of the Wisconsin Horticulture Society. Tuttle's own farm, the Baraboo Valley Nursery, was a model for the fruit growers of central Wisconsin; the property was retained and the business continued by Tuttle's heirs after his death in 1905.⁶

(continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Baraboo News

William H. Canfield, Outline Sketches of Sauk County and Old Settlers, Baraboo, 1861-1874.

H. Coles, History of Sauk County, Madison, 1914.

August Derleth, Sauk County: A Centennial History, Baraboo, 1948.

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 2.75

Quadrangle name Baraboo, Wisconsin

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	6	2	7	8	9	8	0	4	8	1	7	9	1	5
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing			

C

Zone		Easting				Northing			

D

Zone		Easting				Northing			

E

Zone		Easting				Northing			

F

Zone		Easting				Northing			

G

Zone		Easting				Northing			

H

Zone		Easting				Northing			

Verbal boundary description and justification

North 55 rods of SE 1/4 of SW 1/4 of Section 25, Town 12 North, Range 6 East (Town of Baraboo), Sauk County, Wisconsin.

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Clark Wilkinson, Local Survey Coordinator		
organization	Sauk County Historical Society	date	8/30/79
street & number	525 Fourth Avenue	telephone	608/356-3502
city or town	Baraboo	state	Wisconsin 53913

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 M. Muey*
 title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 8/28/80

For HCPS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<i>W. Ray Luce</i> Keeper of the National Register	date 11/7/80
Attest: <i>Russa Hint McClelland</i> Chief of Registration	date 11.8.80

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A. G. Tuttle Estate, Baraboo, Wisconsin

Continuation sheet

Item number 8, 11

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Footnotes

- 1) Baraboo News, August 18, 1869.
- 2) Ibid.
- 3) William H. Canfield, Outline Sketches of Sauk County, p. 14-15.
- 4) Sketches of Tuttle's life are in the Baraboo News, July 26, 1905, and H. Coles, History of Sauk County, p. 680-681.
- 5) Baraboo News, April 10, 1898, April 10, 1902. The first nursery stock for the Sauk County apple industry was nurtured in 1844 by the Canfield family. See August Derleth, Sauk County: A Centennial History, p. 27.
- 6) Canfield, p. 31; Coles, p. 681-682.

11. FORM PREPARED BY (continued)

Diane H. Filipowicz, Architectural Historian, Historic Preservation Division

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

June 13, 1980

816 State Street

608/262-2970

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Terry L. Shoptaugh, Historian, Historic Preservation Division

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

June 16, 1980

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