

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

For NPS use only

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

received FEB 14 1985

date entered MAR 14 1985

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

**1. Name**

historic Hiram Smith Hall and the Hiram Smith Annex

and/or common Hiram Smith Annex a.k.a. Dairy Annex, Soil Science Annex

**2. Location**

street & number 1545 Observatory Drive (University of WI Campus) not for publication

city, town Madison vicinity of

state Wisconsin code 55 county Dane code 025

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input 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 University of Wisconsin, Board of Regents

street & number 1860 Van Hise Hall

city, town Madison vicinity of state Wisconsin 53706

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Dane County Courthouse

street & number 201 Monona Avenue

city, town Madison state Wisconsin

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Madison Campus Architectural,  
title Historical & Archaeological Survey has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_X no

date 1978 \_\_\_X federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Dept. of Planning and Construction  
University of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

## 7. Description

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

Hiram Smith Hall, located at 1545 Observatory Drive on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus, is a Queen Anne building measuring 103 feet along the east and west facades and fifty-six feet on the north and south facades. The foundation and the ground floor are constructed of cream brick in running stretcher bond, while the upper stories are of frame, applied with half-timbering and a pebble finish. Hiram Smith Hall has an irregular silhouette and consists of a main rectangular block three-and-one-half stories in height, north of which are two consecutive, flat-roofed rectangular additions. The northernmost, a non-contributing structure built after 1908, is one story tall. Its companion, a contributing addition erected in 1901 with rooms for pasteurizing, buttermaking and refrigeration, is one-and-one half stories. On the northeast corner of the main block is a two-story contributing addition with a gabled red tile roof, built in 1899 to accommodate cheesemaking activities; a non-contributing one-story frame shed with a gabled roof of red tile and a single door appears on the east facade, and was erected post-1908. There is a single door at ground level on the north face of the one-story north addition, and a second above in the addition to the rear. A four-story tower with a pair of coursed, rock-faced sandstone buttresses three stories in height dominates the west (main) facade. Set with a stone panel whose raised letters read "Hiram Smith Hall," the tower is capped with a wide-eaved pagoda-like roof of red tile. At the base of the tower a one-story enclosed porch with sandstone piers, double doors, and a gabled red tile roof marks the main entrance. South of the tower is a cross gable, creating a screened porch at the third floor level. Dormers accent the red tile gabled roof of the main entrance. South of the tower is a cross gable, creating a screened porch at the third floor level. Dormers accent the red tile gabled roof of the main block. On the west facade north of the tower a series of four segmental arches with deep voussoirs are supported by coursed, rock-faced sandstone buttresses, each arch framing a set of three double-hung sash windows surmounted by fixed panes, spaced irregularly. While Hiram Smith Hall has undergone exterior alterations in the form of additions on the north and east facades, the building's picturesque character has been retained.

The publication unit of the Department of Agricultural Journalism has been in residence in Hiram Smith Hall since 1952. In this capacity the interior has been modified with the installation of modern lighting and in some areas, dropped acoustical tile ceilings and asphalt tile floors. The plan consists of a wide central hall, dominated by a wood open newel staircase with turned balusters and paneled newel posts, opening into a series of rooms with paneled door jambs and brick relieving arches. On the first floor the hall has red tile flooring, while the other areas have asphalt tiles. Above the first story, wood floors predominate. The walls are exposed brick, the ceilings are wood. The entrance porch has a paneled wood ceiling and flooring of black and red tiles.

The Hiram Smith Annex, situated ten feet east of Hiram Smith Hall, is a rectangular two-story picturesque building designed to harmonize with its neighbor, measuring eighty feet along the north and south facades, and forty-five feet on the east and west facades. The foundation is of poured concrete, and the walls of cream brick in Flemish double stretcher bond, the upper story applied with a stucco finish and half-timbering. A non-contributing low one story flat-roofed cream brick addition, with a trio of doors



## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input 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 checked="" 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** 1892<sup>36</sup>; 1909<sup>37</sup> **Builder/Architect** (George Bowen) Ferry & (Alfred Charles) Clas (Hiram Smith);<sup>38</sup> Arthur Peabody (Smith Annex)<sup>39</sup>

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Period of Significance: 1892-1935

The University of Wisconsin College of Agriculture was established in 1889,<sup>1</sup> and has earned an international reputation for excellence in many fields. The development of the College of Agriculture can be divided into two periods, the first associated with Dean William Arnon Henry, the second with Dean Harry Luman Russell. Henry was appointed first dean of the College of Agriculture in 1889.<sup>2</sup> His administration represents the pioneering era in the development of the college. During this era, research and extension were emphasized, and the college gained prominence in dairy science, agricultural physics, and horticulture. Research quickly became the basis of the university's contribution to agriculture, combining scientific investigations with practical applications in an effort to gain the confidence of the state's farmers. Extension served to disseminate the information gathered, through the Farmers' Institutes, highly popular two-day traveling workshops. Henry also initiated the Short Course in Agriculture (1886) and the Dairy Course (1890), each a twelve-week winter session, held during farming's slowest season to enable farmers to attend the university.<sup>3</sup> Both courses were influential, attracting farm youth from all over the state, and were much imitated throughout the United States and abroad. The success of the courses demonstrated that in order to attract students, agricultural education needed to be practical, and geared toward the interests of farm youth. This experience led Dean Russell to reorganize the four-year Bachelor of Science course, which had suffered from a lack of students during Henry's tenure. Russell was appointed dean in 1907.<sup>4</sup> Under his administration, the construction of buildings for the College of Agriculture diminished, while extension was enlarged, research diversified, and the teaching program grew steadily, with the addition of many new subjects and departments. New ground was broken in such fields as bacteriology, plant pathology, genetics, and the economic and social aspects of farming. Through Russell's efforts, the modern College of Agriculture was established.

Currently only one building associated with the College of Agriculture is listed on the National Register; the Agricultural Dean's Residence (1897). Eight others are in the process of being nominated; six from Henry's administration, and two from Russell's. These buildings are Hiram Smith Hall (1892), King Hall (1894), the Dairy Barn (1897), the Horse Barn (1899), the Agricultural Heating Station (1901, also known as the Agricultural Bulletin Building), Agriculture Hall (1903), the Stock Pavilion (1908), and Agricultural Chemistry (1912, also known as Biochemistry).

Hiram Smith Hall is of national significance in the fields of Education and Agriculture. Both Hiram Smith Hall and the Hiram Smith Annex were built to house the first permanent dairy school in the United States, which was opened at the University of Wisconsin in January of 1890. Hiram Smith Hall in particular is associated with the university's internationally renowned agricultural scientists Stephen Moulton Babcock and Harry Luman Russell. The contributions made by these men, in concert with the University of Wisconsin Dairy School, firmly established the prominence of the Wisconsin dairy

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

- Curti, Merle and Vernon Carstensen. The University of Wisconsin: The History 1848-1925. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1949.
- Glover, Wilbur H. Farm and College, Madison, WI: The University of Wisconsin Press, 1952.
- Thwaites, Ruben Gold, ed. The University of Wisconsin: Its History and Alumni. Madison: WI: J.N. Purcell, 1900, pp. 197-203.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one

Quadrangle name Madison West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

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

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

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D 

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H 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** Part of the southwest  $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 15, township 7N, Range 9E, City of Madison, Wisconsin. A parcel of land on Observatory Drive beginning at a point 225' east of the southeast curb at the intersection of Babcock and Observatory drives and 90' south. Proceed 180' east, then south 133', west 180', and north 133' to point

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries** of origin.

state code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title E. L. Miller, Research Technician

organization Historic Preservation Division, SHSW

date September 1984

street & number 816 State Street

telephone 608/262-2971

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title DIRECTOR OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

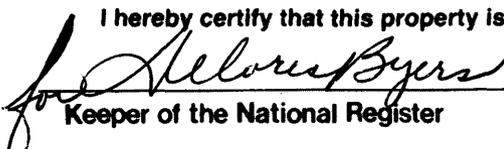
date JAN. 29, 1985

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 3-14-85

for   
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

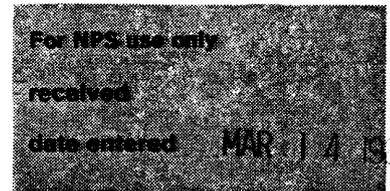
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industry. Hiram Smith Hall also has architectural significance, locally, as one of the few Queen Anne educational facilities on the Madison campus, and an unusual example of that style, as well as the only educational building on campus designed by the Milwaukee firm of Ferry and Clas. The Hiram Smith Annex is of local architectural significance, and was designed by Arthur Peabody, University of Wisconsin Supervising Architect and first State Architect of Wisconsin.

Education and Agriculture

The University of Wisconsin Dairy School, located in Hiram Smith Hall from 1892 until 1952,<sup>5</sup> was the first permanent school of its kind in the nation.<sup>6</sup> Begun in January of 1890 as a twelve-week winter course in butter- and cheesemaking,<sup>7</sup> the dairy school was both influential and popular, drawing students from all over the state. Hiram Smith Hall quickly became a busy processing plant, providing practical training for the students. Cheddar cheese, fancy print butter, and pasteurized cream and milk were produced. In 1894 the Department of Dairy Husbandry was organized,<sup>8</sup> allowing plant operations in Hiram Smith Hall to continue year round, and increasing the opportunity for research on the part of the staff. Many of the notable investigations undertaken by Stephen Moulton Babcock and Harry Luman Russell in the field of the chemistry and microbiology of cheesemaking were carried out in Hiram Smith Hall.<sup>9</sup>

Stephen Moulton Babcock (1843-1931) was born in Bridgewater, New York and graduated from Tufts College in 1866.<sup>10</sup> Babcock was Instructor of Chemistry at Cornell University from 1875 to 1882, taking a brief hiatus for study at the University of Gottingen, from which he earned his Ph.D. in 1879.<sup>11</sup> In 1882 Babcock was hired as chief chemist at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva, departing that post in 1887 to become Professor of Agricultural Chemistry and chief chemist of the Agricultural Experiment Station at the University of Wisconsin.<sup>12</sup> His greatest achievement, carried out prior to the construction of Hiram Smith Hall, was the development of the Babcock Butterfat Test in 1890.<sup>13</sup> No other single invention had a greater influence on dairy manufacturing. For nearly two decades following its introduction, the Babcock test served as a factory standard. The immeasurable value of the test to the dairy industry and Babcock's steadfast refusal to patent the process won wide acclaim for both the man and the university. As a follow up, working in Hiram Smith Hall, Babcock calculated tables for figuring butter yields from milks of varying richness, and developed a formula for determining the quantity of solids other than butterfat in milk.<sup>14</sup> During Babcock's distinguished career, he also demonstrated the existence of Fibrin in milk, and conducted a series of animal nutrition experiments which provided the basis for the discovery of Vitamin A.<sup>15</sup> In addition, the first sound film for the United States Department of Agriculture, featuring Babcock demonstrating the butterfat test, was filmed and produced in Hiram Smith Hall in 1917.<sup>16</sup> Babcock retired from the university in 1913.<sup>17</sup>

Born in Poynette, Wisconsin, Harry Luman Russell (1866-1954) graduated from the University of Wisconsin, subsequently undertaking doctoral work with Robert Koch in

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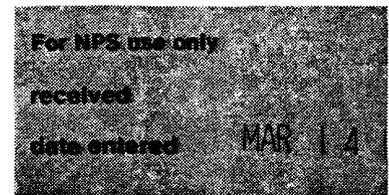
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Berlin.<sup>18</sup> Koch had conclusively established the germ theory of disease causation and was on the verge of isolating the tuberculin bacillus.<sup>19</sup> Russell studied with leaders in the field of bacteriology in Naples and at the Pasteur Institute in Paris as well, returning to Johns Hopkins University to complete his Ph.D.<sup>20</sup> Russell was hired as bacteriologist at the University of Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station in 1893. Operating out of Hiram Smith Hall, he developed tests for the detection of bovine tuberculosis, studied the typhoid bacillus, and developed time and temperature standards for the pea canning industry.<sup>21</sup> In cooperation with Babcock, Russell developed the cold curing process of cheesemaking, and techniques for improving pasteurization, which firmly established the Wisconsin cheese industry.<sup>22</sup> In 1907, the research phase of Russell's career came to a close when he was appointed second Dean of the College of Agriculture.

Hiram Smith Hall was named in honor of a Wisconsin dairyman who spared no effort in furthering dairy education and dairy science in the state. Hiram Smith (1817-1890) was born in Pennsylvania and moved to Sheboygan, Wisconsin, in 1847, where he developed one of the state's outstanding dairy farms.<sup>23</sup> Regarded as the intellectual father of Wisconsin dairying,<sup>24</sup> Smith was the state's foremost champion of dairy education and reform, encouraging farmers to utilize the resources of the University and apply science and scientific method to farming. He was appointed to the University Board of Regents in 1878, and as Chair of the Farm Committee actively promoted agricultural interests on the Board until his death. Through Smith's influence, a professorship devoted solely to agriculture was established, and the Farmers' Institutes and the Short Course in Agriculture organized.<sup>25</sup> The culmination of Smith's involvement with the university was the establishment of the dairy school.

The Dairy School and the Department of Dairy Husbandry (now the Food Science Department) were located in Hiram Smith Hall until 1952. Other departments which have been in residence in the building are Dairy Science (1952-1963), Poultry Science (1955-1964), and the publication unit of Agricultural Journalism (1952 to present).

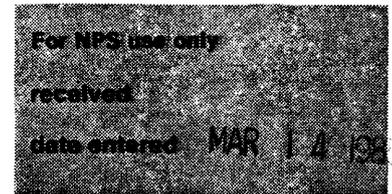
Architecture

Hiram Smith Hall, erected in 1891, is unique in that it is the only educational facility on the Madison campus designed by Ferry and Clas, as well as one of the few in the Queen Anne style. The building exemplifies that style with its irregular silhouette and the variety of materials employed, creating a richly textured surface. While the architectural integrity of Hiram Smith Hall has been compromised somewhat by the presence of additions on the north and east facades, said additions do not detract from the building's picturesque character.

The partnership of Ferry and Clas endured twenty-three years, developing a state-wide reputation and resulting in several significant contributions. The senior partner, George Bowen Ferry (1851-1918) was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, and educated at MIT.<sup>26</sup> He moved to Milwaukee and formed a partnership with Alfred Charles Clas in 1890.<sup>27</sup>

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Clas (1859-1942) was born in Sauk City, Wisconsin, and served an apprenticeship with Milwaukee architect James O. Douglas, practicing alone until entering into the partnership with Ferry.<sup>28</sup> The firm designed and executed many public buildings, including the Milwaukee Public Library and Museum (1895-1899; NRHP) for which the firm was awarded a gold medal at the World Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893; the State Historical Society of Wisconsin (1901, NRHP) in Madison, awarded a silver medal at the St. Louis Exposition of 1904; and the Wisconsin State Building at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition held in St. Louis in 1906.<sup>29</sup> Ferry resigned from the partnership in 1913.<sup>30</sup> Eighteen buildings by Ferry and Clas are currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Built in 1909 to accommodate the growing Dairy School, the Hiram Smith Annex is a picturesque building whose design, while perhaps unremarkable when compared with many other projects attributed to Arthur Peabody, is compatible with that of Hiram Smith Hall.

Arthur Peabody (1858-1942) was born in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and studied architecture and engineering at the University of Illinois, graduating in 1882.<sup>31</sup> During the 1880's Peabody was employed with various architectural firms in Chicago, opening his own office in that city in the early 1890's.<sup>32</sup> In 1905 Peabody was appointed Supervising Architect of the University of Wisconsin, designing and/or overseeing the construction of some sixty buildings over the thirty years of his association with the university.<sup>33</sup> Peabody was appointed Wisconsin's first State Architect in 1915; in that capacity he continued to direct much of the construction undertaken at the university until his retirement in the late 1930's.<sup>34</sup> Peabody's name is identified with numerous state buildings, hospitals, schools, asylums, and penal and charitable institutions.<sup>35</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Merle Curti and Vernon Carstensen, The University of Wisconsin: The History 1848-1925, Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1949), II:376.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., II:375.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., II:400

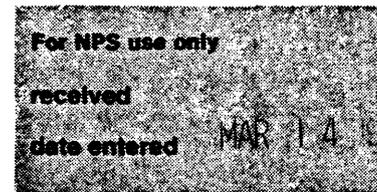
<sup>5</sup> Gordon D. Orr, "Perspectives of a University," (Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin, 1978), p. 89.

<sup>6</sup> Reuben Gold Thwaites, ed., The University of Wisconsin: Its History and Alumni, (Madison, WI: J.N. Purcell, 1900), p. 200.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

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- <sup>8</sup> Walter V. Price, "The Department of Food Science, University of Wisconsin," (Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin, 1976), p. 76.
- <sup>9</sup> Wilbur H. Glover, Farm and College, (Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1952), p. 107.
- <sup>10</sup> The National Encyclopedia of American Biography, (NY: James T. White and Co., 1932), 22:16.
- <sup>11</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>12</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>13</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>14</sup> Wilbur H. Glover, op.cit., p. 121.
- <sup>15</sup> The National Encyclopedia of American Biography, op.cit.
- <sup>16</sup> Gordon D. Orr, op.cit., p. 89.
- <sup>17</sup> The National Encyclopedia of American Biography, op.cit.
- <sup>18</sup> Edward H. Beardsley, Harry L. Russell and Agricultural Science in Wisconsin, (Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1969), p. 4.
- <sup>19</sup> Ibid., p. 5.
- <sup>20</sup> Ibid., p. 10.
- <sup>21</sup> Ibid., p. 20.
- <sup>22</sup> Ibid., p. 49.
- <sup>23</sup> Merle Curti and Vernon Carstensen, op.cit., II:419.
- <sup>24</sup> Eric E. Lampard, The Rise of the Dairy Industry in Wisconsin, (Madison, WI: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1963), p. 112.
- <sup>25</sup> Merle Curti and Vernon Carstensen, op.cit., II: 467.
- <sup>26</sup> Henry F. Withey and Elsie R. Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased), (Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, Inc., 1970), p. 209.
- <sup>27</sup> Ibid.

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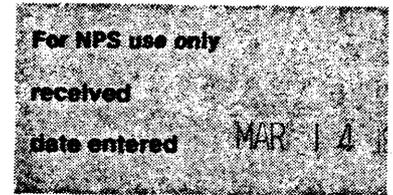
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- 28 Ibid., p. 214.
- 29 Ibid., p. 209.
- 30 Ibid., p. 124.
- 31 Ibid.
- 32 Ibid., p. 461.
- 33 Ibid.
- 34 Ibid.
- 35 Ibid.
- 36 Gordon D. Orr, op.cit., p. 69.
- 37 Ibid.
- 38 Ibid.
- 39 Ibid.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
MADISON, DANE COUNTY  
SCALE: 1 INCH = 100 FEET

