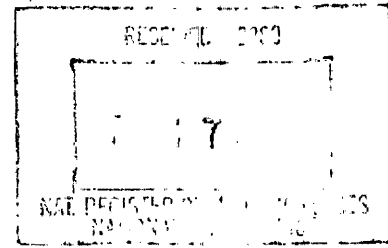


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United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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.

1. Name of Property

historic name Wakely Road Bridge
other names/site number Point Basse Bridge

2. Location

street & number Wakely Road spanning Wakely Creek N/A not for publication
city or town Town of Saratoga N/A vicinity
state Wisconsin code WI county Wood code 141 zip code 54457

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Alvin L. Gore
Signature of certifying official/Title
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

February 21, 2001
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Wakely Road Bridge
Name of Property

Wood
County and State

Wisconsin

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall

4-5-01

[Signature]

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as
as apply)

private

public-local

public-State

public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

building(s)

district

structure

site

object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources
in the count)

contributing noncontributing

buildings

sites

1 structures

objects

1 0 total

Name of related multiple property listing:

(Enter "N/A" if property not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources

is previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/ road-related (vehicular)

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/ road-related (vehicular)

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: stone arch bridge

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation concrete

walls stone

roof N/A

other N/A

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition 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 7 Page 1

Wakely Road Bridge, Town of Saratoga
Wood County, Wisconsin

Description

The Wakely Road Bridge, spanning Wakely Creek, is located on unpaved Wakely Road in the town of Saratoga, Wood County. The stone-arch structure rests at the entrance to the site of Historic Point Basse. Built in 1892,¹ the bridge is traditionally attributed to the family of Robert and Mary Wakely, who founded the settlement of Point Basse in 1837.² A special inspection report made in 1986 stated that the structure was still able to bear the full weight requirements of Wood County town roads.³ Still in good condition, the bridge serves vehicular access for a limited number of residents living along Wakely Road, and serves Historic Point Basse for domestic transportation comparable to its original use.

Local residents occupy property both northeast and northwest of the bridge. South of the bridge on the east side, cut back into the pinery, is the Historic Point Basse visitor parking and a restored 1920's school house, handicapped accessible, that serves as an Interpretive Center. Footpaths from the Interpretive Center and parking lots lead to a wooden walking bridge over Wakely Creek to the southwest side of Historic Point Basse opening to a 12-15 acre tract on the site which is listed on the National Register. The site includes a log cabin and the Robert and Mary Wakely home under restoration. The Wakely Road Bridge and the former Wakely ferry site are included in a trail walk in appreciation of local transportation modes of the era.

The Wakely Road Bridge has a concrete foundation with the arch rising five feet above the water line featuring a single span of seven feet. Chiseled elongated voussoirs form the single arch, but there is no dated keystone. With the exception of the arch voussoirs, the walls of the structure are constructed of irregular sized stone blocks. The weathered intrados surfacing is still generally covered with the original concrete sheathing. Circa World War II, a thin coat of asbestos was applied which is now barely visible. The length of the bridge roadway is approximately thirty-five feet including the approach, the twenty foot walls, and slightly flared five-foot wing walls that extend at ground level from each of the four corners. The total wall height from the water line is approximately eight feet. Walls extend three feet upward from the top of the arch to the bottom of the 18-foot wide roadbed, which is made up

¹ Saratoga Township, "Proceedings of Town Board," 1892, Saratoga archives.

² Wood County Courthouse, Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, Register of Deeds, 1800s archives.

³ Wood County Highway Department, letter signed by retired County Highway engineer Stanley Kobza, dated 6 February 1986.

NPS 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 2

Wakely Road Bridge, Town of Saratoga
Wood County, Wisconsin

of compressed earth and gravel. Following the 1986 inspection report, rustic wooden guardrails were substituted for the broken pipe rails. It is unknown if the bridge originally had a railing; however, this alteration does not affect the historic integrity of the structure. The bridge is in generally good condition with some deterioration visible between the stone blocks.

Wakely Road Bridge
Name of Property

Wood
County and State

Wisconsin

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

- 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.
- 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.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Engineering

Period of Significance

1892

Significant Dates

1892

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

(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

Wakely Road Bridge, Town of Saratoga
Wood County, Wisconsin

Statement of Significance

The Wakely Road Bridge, located in Section 15 of Saratoga Township, is being nominated under Criterion C in the area of Engineering as a fine local example of a stone-arch bridge construction. Constructed in 1892 by an undocumented builder and originally called the Point Basse Bridge, the structure exemplifies stone bridge design used during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.⁴ The bridge stands in a remote location, retaining much of its original integrity, with no major changes, as one of the few remaining examples of a stone-arch bridge in Wisconsin and the only one left in Wood County.⁵ The period of significance of the structure corresponds to its date of construction, 1892.

Historical background:

The stone-arch structure had its beginning over 50 years after Robert Wakely and his wife, Mary, arrived at a place they called Point Basse below the rapids on the Wisconsin River and about a mile down stream from the present city of Nekoosa.⁶ At the time of their arrival, their main interest was in the economic potential of the logging industry, and local travel was accomplished by boat or the Wakely ferry in operation from 1856-1907.⁷

As Point Basse grew into a hamlet with a sawmill, store, post office, tavern, and hotel, and as homesteaders were allowed to occupy lands within three miles of the Wisconsin River as a result of the Cedar Point Treaty with the Indians in 1836, it became necessary to incorporate more reliable land transportation from the east for the expansion of Point Basse as a main business center.⁸ In order to make Point Basse more accessible to the general population, a creek would have to be spanned and the beaten path that led from the north-south road down to the river would have to be widened.

⁴ Jeffery Hess and Robert M. Frame II, Highway Bridges of Wisconsin, vol. 2, Stone-Arch and Concrete Bridges (Madison: Wisconsin Department of Transportation, 1986).

⁵ Wood County Highway Department, signed statement by Wood County Highway Engineer Shawn Mahoney, March 2000.

⁶ J. Marshall Buehler, The Nekoosa Story, "Part One – The Lumber Era" (Wisconsin Rapids: Fey Publishing Company, 1987).

⁷ Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune, 6 July 1998.

⁸ Buehler, 8.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 2

Wakely Road Bridge, Town of Saratoga
Wood County, Wisconsin

To this end, in June of 1892, a petition signed by Robert Wakely, his son, Newbold Leroy (called Louie), and six other farmers was delivered to the Saratoga town board.⁹ Not much is known about the actual building of the road after the request was granted, except the road would be known as Point Basse Road and that the rock to build the bridge came from somewhere in Wood County, since Saratoga township was known as "sand country."

Further insight into the story of local bridge building can be found in words from the memoirs of Thadeus Brazeau, an attorney on the Wood County Board from 1902-1904 and district attorney from 1904-1906, "We had all kinds of problems with building simple bridges. There used to be fights on their location. These were disagreements on building and locating roads."¹⁰

Several names and contracts were found in the Saratoga archives of men who, in addition to farming, built bridges over the many creeks and slews which flowed into the Wisconsin River, among them being Thomas Chrystal, C. Iberius, Peter Knutson, John B. Weber, George Snyder, and Newbold Wakely. George Snyder built a bridge over nearby Seven Mile Creek in 1904 for \$94.50, underbidding Newbold Wakely by approximately \$10.

No contract was ever found for building Point Basse Bridge, which supports tradition that the bridge was built by the Wakelys. Interviews with octogenarians who are either offspring of names mentioned above, or are former employees of the town of Saratoga, uphold that legend.¹¹ After the bridge was built, the property from the bridge down to the river was known as private Wakely property. Since records in the Saratoga archives indicate that Newbold Wakely made bids for building bridges in the area, it would seem reasonable that he was the builder of the Point Basse Bridge. The Wakely enterprises, along with Newbold's ability in masonry, may have reduced construction costs at a time when the economic slowdown of the country made it difficult to collect road taxes.¹²

⁹ Saratoga Township archives, 1892.

¹⁰ Memoirs of Thadeus Brazeau. Wood County Historical Society, Wisconsin Rapids, WI.

¹¹ William Boyles, long-time Saratoga road employee, resident of Riverview Manor, Wisconsin Rapids, WI; George W. Snyder, Jr., son of George W. Snyder, Wisconsin Rapids, WI; and, Delbert Weber, grandson of John B. Weber, Nekoosa, WI; unrecorded interviews by Jane Runnels, Rudolph, WI, July 1999.

¹² Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, vol. 2 (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section 8 Page 3

Wakely Road Bridge, Town of Saratoga
Wood County, Wisconsin

Neither was any specification found for building the stone bridge. A tattered pencil-written tablet page with a specification (too fragile to be photocopied) was found in the archives that may have been for a particular bridge, or a general plan leaving to the bridge builder the modifications needed.¹³ Several discrepancies of dimensions can be found when comparing it to the Wakely Road Bridge description.

Less than a year after signing the Point Basse road petition, Robert Wakely, age 85, died. His body rests beside that of his wife, Mary, who died six years earlier; their monument is located in the Forest Hill Cemetery in Wisconsin Rapids, approximately 10 miles to the east of Point Basse. Robert Wakely was a road supervisor at the time of his death, and was replaced by Newbold Wakely.¹⁴ Subsequently, the Point Basse road and bridge were renamed Wakely Road and Wakely Bridge, in remembrance of the founders of Point Basse.

Originally built so that the surrounding population from the east could access the growing trade center of Point Basse, the bridge was about to contribute to the demise of that community and the creation of a new one. While the building of the Wakely Bridge was taking place on the east side of the river in 1892, on the west side a railroad was being built and a paper mill, abandoned in 1861, reopened. By 1907, Point Basse itself was abandoned and its map for a tentative village was now used to plot the village of Nekoosa.¹⁵ Families used the Wakely Bridge and the Wakely ferry to relocate to Nekoosa, taking jobs in the Nekoosa Papers mill which afforded a more lucrative means of survival than farming.

A new ferry established after 1907 by a daughter of Robert Wakely was abandoned, and by 1916 an up-to-date bridge opened a mile north on new Highway 73 leading directly into Nekoosa. Newbold Wakely (1847-1925) no doubt greatly disappointed by the turn of events, moved out West as several siblings had done, and died in Montana.¹⁶ However, the opening of the Nekoosa Papers mill was an economic advantage for the entire area; it is today the Georgia Pacific Corporation, recognized worldwide for the manufacture of copy paper. After changing hands several times, the Wakely homestead was sold to Nekoosa Papers who in 1986 deeded it to a non-profit group interested in preserving the site that is now known as Historic Point Basse.

¹³ Saratoga Township archives, 1892.

¹⁴ Saratoga Road Records, Archives, 1903.

¹⁵ Buehler, 8.

¹⁶ Wakely research letter, unpublished, Historic Point Basse, in the hands of Mary Ann Michau, Wisconsin Rapids, WI.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section 8 Page 4

Wakely Road Bridge, Town of Saratoga
Wood County, Wisconsin

Significance

A 1986 study by Jeffrey Hess and Robert Frame for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Historic Highway Bridges in Wisconsin, Volume 1: Stone Arch and Concrete Arch Bridges, identified 49 extant Department of Transportation stone-arch bridges in the state. These included railroad bridges, as well as vehicular bridges in cities and in rural locations. Of the 49 stone-arch bridges identified in 1986, 33 were located in rural areas. The latter were all built by either unincorporated towns or rural villages with many sited on remote farm roads. The Wakely Bridge was not recorded in this inventory because it belongs to the Town of Saratoga. The number of locally or privately owned stone arch bridges in the state is unknown. The inventory of historic resources at the Division of Historic Preservation of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin contains entries for 58 stone arch bridges in the three categories detailed above.

The Wakely Road Bridge does not correspond to the general findings of the Department of Transportation study. The report notes that most of the extant stone arch bridges were constructed in the first decade of the twentieth century. The choice of stone in the majority of case represents the prevalence of a locally available building material. The Wakely Bridge is contrary to these findings. As noted earlier, the bridge was constructed in 1892 of stone brought from elsewhere in the county. The bridge is also outside the concentration of stone bridges clustered in Brown, Calumet, Outagamie, Price, and Waupaca counties. As noted above, the Wakely Road Bridge is the only known surviving example of stone-arch bridge construction in Wood County.

In other respects, the bridge is similar to other small, rural, stone-arch bridges. The Department of Transportation study recorded the following general characteristics of rural bridges: rock-faced, rubble-masonry construction with mortar joints of at least one inch; one or two segmental arches averaging about 18 feet in clear span; voussoirs about 20 inches in height; stone or simple metal railings; and an overall structure width about 20 feet. Almost all of these structures also have concrete sheaths on the intrados. The Wakely bridge is of a single span with a road width of 18 feet and voussoirs of approximately 20 inches. Like many of these bridges, this one previously had a simple metal pipe railing and an undercoating of concrete. The Wakely Road Bridge differs primarily in its span and stonework. The walls of the bridge are 20 feet in length with the segmental arch having a seven-foot span. The Wakely Road Bridge is also constructed of cut stone blocks, rather than rubble construction. These differences represent the adaptation of a fairly standard construction method at this specific location.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section 8 Page 5

Wakely Road Bridge, Town of Saratoga
Wood County, Wisconsin

The Wakely Road Bridge represents a period of transportation funding and construction prior to the formation of the Wisconsin State Highway Commission in 1911. One of the goals of the Commission was to establish a uniform standard of construction throughout the state. By this time, interest in and the promotion of reinforced concrete construction contributed to the discontinuance of stone arch bridge construction. The Commission also had the statutory powers to prepare all plans for state-aid bridges and to approve all plans for county-aid bridges thereby ensuring standard construction methods throughout the state. The Wakely Road Bridge therefore represents a period of locally funded, designed and built bridge projects. The Department of Transportation study further indicates that there are no known examples of stone-arch, highway bridges constructed after 1914.

In spite of the changes in the area over the years, the Wakely Road stone-arch bridge continues to stand in its original setting on rustic Wakely Road as a fine example of a once flourishing stone-arch bridge design. The structure is a fitting monument of the past, transporting residents and visitors as it did originally, while continuing to serve current transportation needs of the area. As a result, the Wakely Road Bridge retains a high integrity of design, materials, use, feeling, and association and is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section 9 Page 1

Wakely Road Bridge, Town of Saratoga
Wood County, Wisconsin

Bibliography

- Boyles, William, long-time Saratoga road employee, resident Riverview Manor, Wisconsin Rapids, WI; George W. Snyder, Jr., son of George W. Snyder, Sr., Nekoosa, WI; and Delbert Weber, grandson of John B. Weber, Nekoosa, WI. Unrecorded interviews by Jane Runnels, Rudolph, WI, 1999.
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- Jones, George and Norman S. McVeal, et al. History of Wood County. Minneapolis: J. C. Cooper, Jr. and Company, 1923.
- Saratoga Road Records. Saratoga Town Hall. Archives, 1892.
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- Wood County Court House, Register of Deeds. Wisconsin Rapids, WI. Archives, 1830s.
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- Wakely research letters unpublished, in the hands of Mary Ann Michau, Wisconsin Rapids, WI, 1989.
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section 10 Page 1

Wakely Road Bridge, Town of Saratoga
Wood County, Wisconsin

Verbal boundary description

The nominated property is situated .6 miles west of County Road Z on Wakely Road located in Section 15, Town 2IN, Range 5E, Town of Saratoga, Wood County, Wisconsin. Boundaries of Wakely Road Bridge are shown on the accompanying base map entitled, "Wood County Map No. 3540," as a shaded rectangle labeled "BRIDGE."

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the property consist of the bridge.

Wakely Road Bridge

Wood

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	Town of Saratoga	date	3/27/00
organization		telephone	(715) 325-5204
street&number	1116 State Highway 73	city or town	Nekoosa
city or town	Nekoosa	state	WI
		zip code	54457

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.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet
Section photos Page 1

Wakely Road Bridge, Town of Saratoga
Wood County, Wisconsin

P H O T O I D E N T I F I C A T I O N
(Five black and white, 8 x 10)

WAKELY ROAD BRIDGE
T. of Saratoga, Wood County, Nekoosa, WI 54457
Photographs by Bonnie Wolslegel, Wisconsin Rapids, WI
October, 1999
Negatives at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Photo #1 of 5
View looking north

Photo #2 of 5
View looking south

Photo #3 of 5
View looking south--close-up.

Photo #4 of 5
View looking east from southwest corner

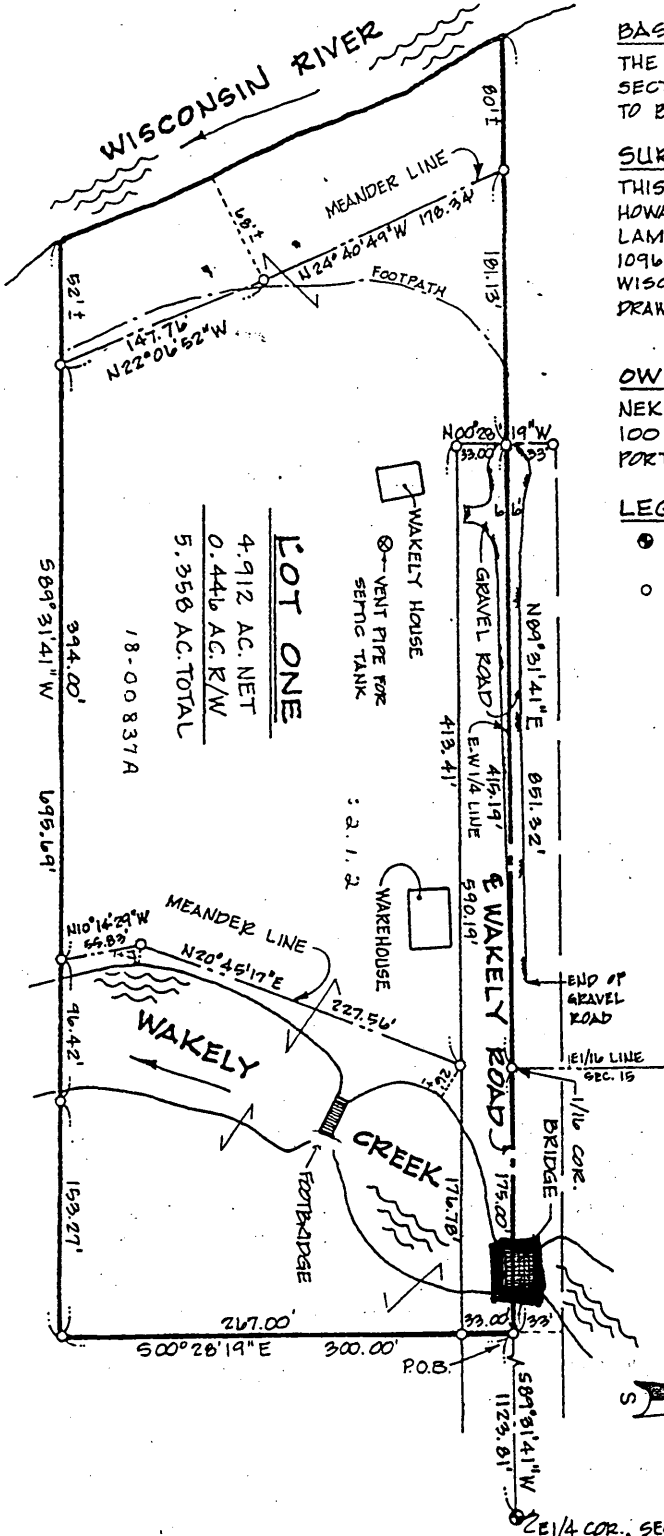
Photo #5 of 5
View looking west from northeast corner

WAKELY ROAD BRIDGE
TOWN OF SARATOGA, WOOD CO., WI

[13]

WOOD COUNTY CERTIFIED SURVEY MAP NO. 540

CERTIFIED SURVEY MAP NO. 34, FOR NEKOOSA PAPERS INC.,
PART OF GOVERNMENT LOT 2, SECTION 15, T2IN, R05E,
TOWN OF SARATOGA, WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN.



BASIS FOR BEARINGS

THE EAST LINE OF GOVERNMENT LOT 2,
SECTION 15, T2IN, R05E, IS ASSUMED
TO BEAR $N01^{\circ}02'43''W$.

SURVEYOR

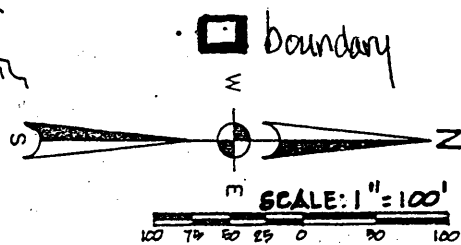
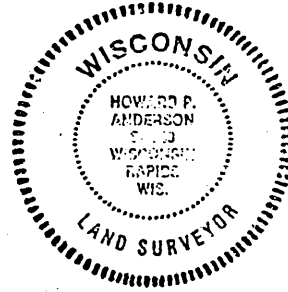
THIS INSTRUMENT DRAFTED BY:
HOWARD P. ANDERSON, S-1703, OF
LAMPERT, LEE & ASSOCIATES
1096B HWY. "54" EAST
WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WI. 54494
DRAWN BY: D.M. DOHERTY ON
OCTOBER 29, 1985.

OWNER

NEKOOSA PAPERS INC.
100 WISCONSIN RIVER DRIVE
PORT EDWARDS, WI. 54469

LEGEND

- HARRISON CAST IRON
MONUMENT FOUND
- 3/4" x 24" ROUND IRON
ROD SET = 1.502 LB./FT.



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DWG. NO. 4363
F.B. 122, P. 27-40, 56

PAGE 1 OF SHEET 1
SHEET 1 OF 2 SHEETS

CSM _____
VOL. _____ PG. _____
DOCT. _____

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