

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 27 1980

DATE ENTERED

APR 22 1980

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

HISTORIC

Jacobson House and Mill Site

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

E of Grantsburg on SR M

STREET & NUMBER

County Road M, Wood River

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Grantsburg

X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Seventh

STATE

Wisconsin

CODE

55

COUNTY

Burnett

CODE

013

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

\_\_\_DISTRICT

\_\_\_PUBLIC

\_\_\_OCCUPIED

\_\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_MUSEUM

XBUILDING(S)

XPRIVATE

XUNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_PARK

\_\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_\_BOTH

\_\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_\_EDUCATIONAL

\_\_\_PRIVATE RESIDENCE

XSITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

\_\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_OBJECT

\_\_\_IN PROCESS

\_\_\_YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

\_\_\_YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_NO

\_\_\_MILITARY

XOTHER: vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Amery Service Agency, Inc. - Brian L. Beadle, Secretary

STREET & NUMBER

RR 2 Deronda

CITY, TOWN

Amery

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin 54001

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Burnett County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Grantsburg

STATE

Wisconsin 54840

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1978

\_\_\_FEDERAL XSTATE \_\_\_COUNTY \_\_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

The Jacobson House is a two-story plus attic vernacular structure that bears characteristic nineteenth-century design features. Rectangular in plan, the heavy frame structure retains the clapboards added in 1878; originally, the exterior was sided with mill hewn timber. Presently covered with asbestos shingles, the gable roof was originally covered with wood shingles. The concrete-finished block foundation was installed in 1975. Two interior brick chimneys remain on the ridge of the gable roof.

The three-bay organization of the front and rear facades, with center door set with sidelights and transom, may be evidence of late influence of the Greek Revival style popular earlier in the century. The use of 6/6 sash in all windows, and the one-story wing originally attached to the north, also suggest Greek Revival domestic architecture. The overall thinness of building elements, however, and the delicacy of the small, one-story open porch attached to the entry, relate to later nineteenth-century design. Of note is the three-sided balustrade over the porch, providing a balcony for the second-story center hall. Even so little added elegance was unusual in early homesteads.

In the interior, the arrangement of space is symmetrical, with rooms on both floors distributed to either side of a central hall. The first floor includes a living room and dining room to the south of the hall, kitchen to the rear, and pantry and bath to the north; closets and stairway fill the center portion of the hall itself. Upstairs, four bedrooms fill the corners of the plan, with closets separating each room from the other, east to west. Little of the original woodwork and flooring remains.

In addition to the loss of the one-story (kitchen) wing to the north, a detached two-story summer kitchen and wellhead were also removed from the site.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1872, 1973<sup>1</sup>

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John P. Jacobson<sup>2</sup>

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1872, the Jacobson Mill represents an element of Wisconsin's substantial lumber industry in the 19th century. Its operations were typical of lumber mills at that time. Also, the mill served as a vital community center, providing social and economic services to the inhabitants of the Wood Lake area.

John P. Jacobson emigrated from Sweden to the United States about 1869, taking his family directly to northern Wisconsin; he settled between the Little Wood and Wood Lakes along the Wood River, on 160 acres of Federal land under the provisions of the Homestead Act. It was on this site that he built the Jacobson lumber mill, in 1872. The Jacobson home, a two-story building of some nine rooms, was added onto the property about a year later, and is still standing today. The Jacobson mill was ideally situated, in the midst of the Wisconsin "pineries" and along an extensive water system for transportation and power. Jacobson dammed the river with earth and stone, using the generated power to operate a double rotary saw. This type of saw was very inefficient by present standards, for it would cut a very large kerf and thus waste a great deal of wood.<sup>3</sup> But it could reduce even the largest logs to board swiftly, and a century ago speed was more highly valued than conservation. In 1901, for example, the Jacobson mill cut 80,000 board feet in a few hours.<sup>4</sup>

Being the only saw mill in the Wood Lake area,<sup>5</sup> the Jacobson mill provided most of the board lumber for the homes and barns several miles around. The Wood Lake Baptist Church was constructed in 1873 from lumber cut at Jacobson's (who charged \$40 for the 11,465 board feet).<sup>6</sup> Other machinery was eventually added to cut shingles and refine starch from potatoes. By 1884, the year John Jacobson died, the mill had become both the major service center and principal employer of the Wood Lake area. During the next year, Jacobson's son, C. J. Jacobson, began shipping carloads of lumber to Minnesota (at this time, all lumber mills in Burnett began cutting ties for the Union Pacific Railroad).<sup>7</sup>

During the last part of the 19th century and the early years of the 20th century, the Jacobson mill was the center of the Wood Lake community. C. J. Jacobson expanded his economic services by purchasing a grist mill and moving it to his property. He also built a blacksmith shop, while a general store, post office and school, for which Jacobson was for six years the director, were established near the mill site.<sup>8</sup> In 1888 Wood Lake residents attempted to have the Burnett County Court House built in the mill's vicinity instead of at Grantsburg; their petition, however, was rejected.<sup>9</sup> Church meetings and community meetings were regularly held at the mill or Jacobson's home, while Wood Lake children came to the mill to "run" the logs on the river.<sup>10</sup> Jacobson's home was also a free hotel, for immigrants from Sweden lived there as guests before locating their own homesteads.<sup>11</sup>

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

## UTM NOT VERIFIED

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

## ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9 acres

UTM REFERENCES

USGS Quadrangle- Grantsburg, Wis

Scale- 1:62500

A	15	534100	5067250
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	15	534100	5067100
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

C	15	533950	5067100
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

D	15	533950	5067250
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The site consists of about 9 acres, from the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of section 23 in township 38, Burnett County. The site is about 6 miles west of Grantsburg, down old County Road M, and along the Wood River. In order that the remains of the dam may be preserved, it is important to note that the far (southern) bank of the Wood River constitutes the southern boundary of the site.

### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Terry L. Shoptaugh, Historian, Historic Preservation Division

ORGANIZATION

DATE

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

December 4, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

816 State Street

608/262-3390

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Madison

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, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

2/20/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4/22/80

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST

DATE

4/21/80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 4

Page 1

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JACOBSON HOUSE AND MILL SITE, GRANTSBURG VICINITY, BURNETT COUNTY, WISCONSIN (NRHP 04-22-80)

4. Owner of Property

Correct to read: Mrs. Eileen Grothe  
Box 469  
Grantsburg, Wisconsin 54840

D. N. Anderson  
Historian & Registrar  
09-04-80

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

In 1916 Jacobson sold his property to Axel Peterson and retired.<sup>12</sup> The mill was torn down soon after Peterson bought the site so that today only the house and a few outbuildings remain. None of these small buildings, including a shop, barn, and garage, are significant to the nomination. Of possible significance, however, are the original rock footers that still mark the location of the lumber mill. Here, several features remain that may provide insights into the mill's operation. Also, one of the other outbuildings, possibly the blacksmith shop, was destroyed by fire in 1890.<sup>13</sup> Here, too, is a likely spot for archaeological remains.

NOTES

- 1) Ed. L. Peet, Burnett County Wisconsin, Journal of Burnett County Print, Grantsburg, 1902, p. 136; also, information obtained from Robert S. Jacobson, great-grandson of John P. Jacobson.
- 2) Information obtained by Robert S. Jacobson through interviews with his father, Carl Alfred Jacobson, who was raised at the mill site, and with residents of the Wood Lake area.
- 3) Robert F. Fries, Empire in Pine: The Story of Lumbering in Wisconsin, 1830-1900, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, 1951, p. 61-62. See also Frederick Merk, Economic History of Wisconsin During the Civil War Decade, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, 1916.
- 4) Burnett County Sentinel (Grantsburg), August 25, 1901.
- 5) George W. Hotchkiss, ed., Hotchkiss' Lumberman's Directory of Chicago and the Northwest, R. R. Donnelley & Sons, Chicago, 1886, p. 322.
- 6) Maurice Crownhart, Strolling Through a Century: The Story of Grantsburg, Burnett County, Wisconsin, Crownhart Printing Co., Grantsburg, 1965, p. 43.
- 7) Ibid., p. 22: Further details concerning operations at the mill are found in the Burnett County Journal, (egs. March 30, June 1, Oct. 19, 1899, April 26, 1900, and March 14, 1901) and in the diaries of Carl Alfred Jacobson, which are in the possession of Robert S. Jacobson, Lewisburg, West Virginia.
- 8) Crownhart, p. 33; Journal of Burnett County (Grantsburg), March 13, 1896; Burnett County Sentinel, July 5, 1900.
- 9) Crownhart, p. 17.

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

NOTES (continued)

- 10) Burnett County Sentinel, Jan. 19, Nov. 2, 23, 1899, Feb. 8, 22, April 26, 1900;  
Journal of Burnett County, May 15, 1896.
- 11) Crownhart, p. 33.
- 12) Abstract of deeds from Burnett County Abstract Co. shows Peterson to have bought the land on Dec. 8, 1916. Crownhart, p. 33, notes the sale, but erroneously gives the year as 1906.
- 13) Crownhart, p. 22. Peet, p. 136, mistakenly gives 1900 as the year of the fire. Crownhart's date confirmed by Robert S. Jacobson through the diaries of Carl Alfred Jacobson.

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

Burnett County Sentinel, Grantsburg.

Crownhart, Maurice, Strolling Through A Century, Grantsburg, 1965.

Easton, Augustus B., ed., History of the Saint Croix Valley, Chicago, 1909.

Fries, Robert F., Empire in Pine, Madison, 1951.

Hotchkiss, George W., Hotchkiss' Lumberman's Directory of Chicago and the Northwest, Chicago, 1886.

Jacobson, Carl Alfred, unpublished Diaries of his life, in the possession of his son, Robert S. Jacobson.

Journal of Burnett County, Grantsburg.

Merk, Frederick, Economic History of Wisconsin During the Civil War Decade, Madison, 1916.

Peet, ed. L., Burnett County Wisconsin, Grantsburg, 1902.

11. FORM PREPARED BY (continued)

Robert S. Jacobson

215 North Court Street

304/645-2011

Lewisburg, West Virginia 24901



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Jacobson House and Mill Site

CONTINUATION SHEET

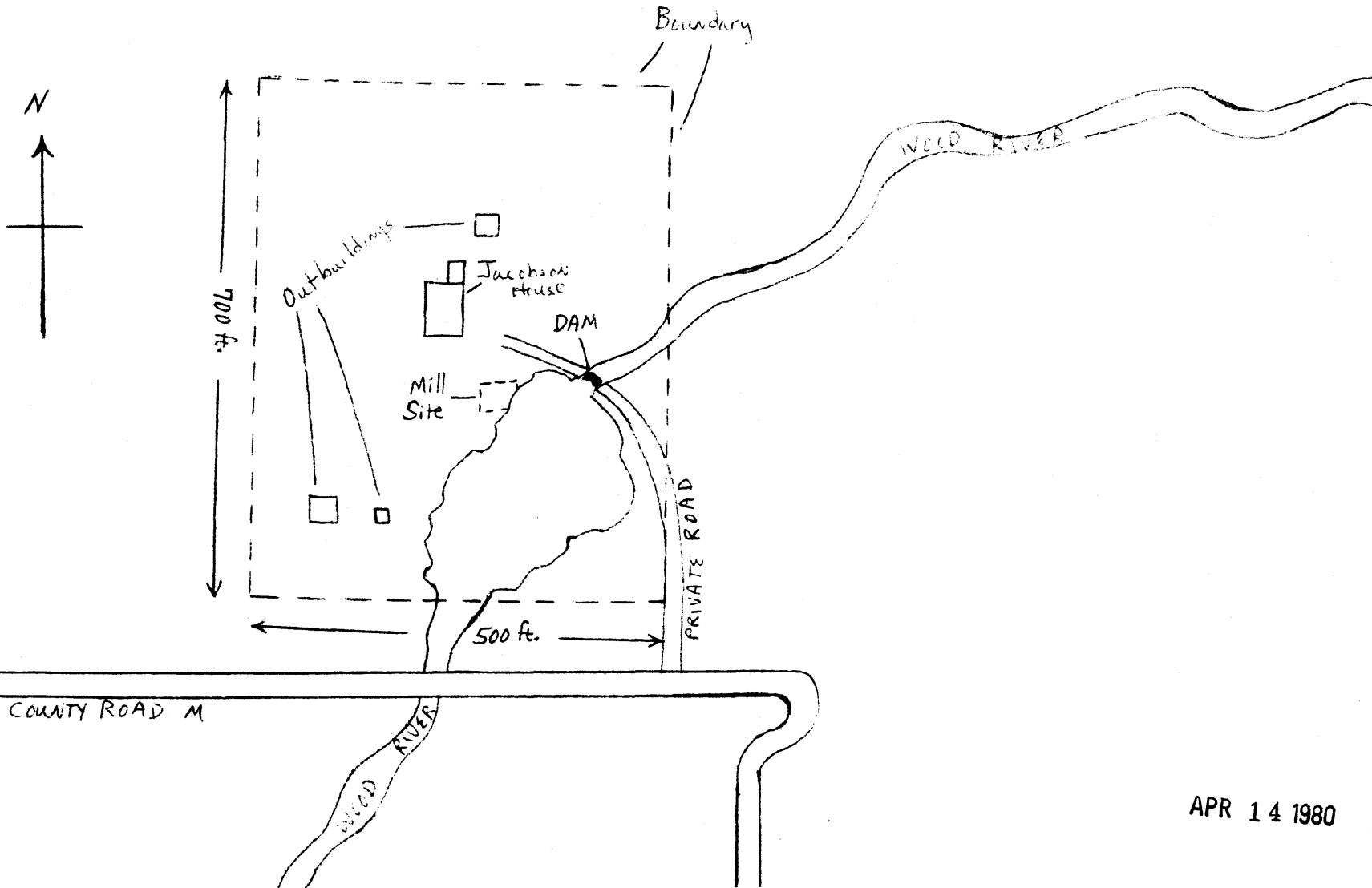
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Verbal Boundary Description (revised, 4/10/80)

The Jacobson House and Mill Site is located in the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 23 in Township 38, Burnett County, Wisconsin. The site is 3/4 of a mile northeast of Wood Lake, off Old County Road M. The boundaries of the site form a rectangle, the southeast corner of which commences 50 feet north of Old County Road M, on the west edge of a private road into the area; the rectangle from this corner encloses an area running 500 feet due west and 700 feet due north. This area encloses the Jacobson House and out structures, as well as the Mill Site and the remainder of the dam in Wood River.

Submitted by Terry L. Shoptaugh  
Historian- Historic Pres. Div.

Jacobson House and Mill Site



APR 14 1980