

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received NOV 15 1984

date entered DEC 26 1984

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

1. Name

historic NA

and/or common Historic Resources of Reedsburg MRA (Partial inventory of historic and architectural properties)

2. Location

street & number See individual intensive survey forms not for publication

city, town Reedsburg vicinity of NA

state Wisconsin code 55 county Sauk code 111

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Storage

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple ownership (See individual intensive survey forms)

street & number NA (See individual intensive survey forms)

city, town Reedsburg vicinity of NA state Wisconsin 53959

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Reedsburg City Hall - Assessor's office

street & number 134 South Locust Street

city, town Reedsburg state Wisconsin 53959

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1977/1984  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records State Historical Society 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The City of Reedsburg is located in the upper Baraboo Valley of central Sauk County, which in turn is part of a crescent shaped low land plain in south central Wisconsin. The Baraboo River is the main interior stream and it bisects Reedsburg east and west with the east portion the larger part. Once surrounded by timber land and prairie, Reedsburg is now the center of an agricultural region.

The site of Reedsburg originally was marshy and contained sandy hills covered with scrubby black oak. Despite the marshlands, a major asset of the area was that the Baraboo River could be forded easily at this point. The shallow water and hard bottom had made the Reedsburg location a popular Indian ford until a dam for water power was built by European settlers in the 1850's. Hay Creek, Babb's Creek and Narrows Prairie are water sources immediately northwest of and flowing into Reedsburg, while Copper Creek is to the northeast. The southern section of the village was also swamp and marshlands and much of the area had to be filled before building could occur.<sup>1</sup>

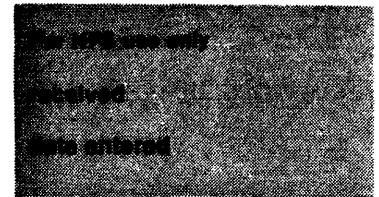
The prospect of lumber, copper or iron mines brought many of the early European settlers into Sauk County and the Reedsburg area. Rivers and their tributaries were numerous and provided transportation for people and goods. As the area became settled, the value of the river changed from a fording spot to a source of power for various milling industries. Although James Babb and a scattering of other early settlers had farmed on land just outside the (present) city limits, the first development in what would become the city occurred along the middle of present day Main Street. This area east<sup>2</sup> of the Baraboo River was the location of the first pole shanties around 1848. In 1852 the original plat of the city was laid out in a linear manner. It included the area around Main Street and between Fourth Street and Plum Street on the north and south sides, and Webb Avenue, Laurel Street and South Pine Street on the east and west sides. It includes residences, the business district and a one block square park.

The present day business district, once a black alder swamp, was beginning to develop in the 1870's with substantial two story brick business blocks being built. This development is especially evident in Reedsburg in the Main Street block between Park Street and Walnut Street, which developed slightly sooner than the rest of Main Street,<sup>3</sup> where many of the original design elements, such as metal cornices and second story window trim are still visible. By the 1870's Reedsburg was becoming a trading point for nearby agricultural areas. This function increased after the railroad reached the village in 1872. With increased prosperity the village began to develop into distinct residential, commercial and industrial areas.

The area north of Main Street, in the original plat, developed as a residential area. By 1851 there were about 124 people living in Reedsburg and about twenty frame houses. North Park Street was nicknamed "Prospect Hill" as frame residences began to be built in this neighborhood.<sup>4</sup> Today most residences in this street date from 1870 to 1930. The land rises near the north end of the street giving an excellent view of the variety of houses in the area, most of which are two story frame residences, well-maintained, and of a substantial but not large size. The south part of the original plat was

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developed with a mix of residences, warehouses and the railroad and a lumber-yard. This same mix is still evident in this area with an added industry, a creamery, and newer business buildings.

After the original plat was settled, residential development was scattered, mostly in the east part of Reedsburg between 1856 and 1875. Many frame residences from the late nineteenth century still exist in the area, although alterations have changed the original character of most homes. The west section, or Mott's Second Addition, was first developed in the early 1870's in a marshy area originally covered with matted burr oak timber. A. P. Ellinwood, then village president, drained the land and built a house for himself and another family. He had 200 acres of land and water and began splitting it into lots to sell.<sup>5</sup> Not only residences but the fairgrounds and lumberyards, planing mills, and stave factories were built in this section. The fairgrounds and lumber related industries are gone and replaced by a modern canning factory.

By 1873 East Main Street had become a popular and prosperous residential area.<sup>6</sup> West Main Street, near Ellinwood's land, also became a sought after residential neighborhood. Although many homes along both sections of Main Street have been demolished or altered in later years, a distinct linear pattern of residences, interspersed by a 2½ block area of commercial blocks, formed early in Reedsburg. From the late 1870's on, the area around the City Park and east of this on North Myrtle Street began to develop and assume its present character.

Some residential development occurred in the south part of the city in the 1870's but more substantial development began here c. 1889-1892 when the Young, Perry and Stewart Addition was platted. The area had a good water supply and was nicknamed "New Oklahoma". Larger frame homes were built in this area and, although alterations have occurred throughout the years, the rapid pattern of development can still be seen in the similarity of houses. Development scattered again after this. By 1899 many of the older homes had already been replaced by newer ones and residential development did not focus in one particular part of the city.<sup>7</sup>

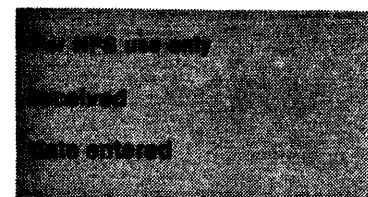
In 1911 the Reedsburg Land and Improvement Company platted the South Park Addition (then called New Park). This is an area of 105 acres south of Main Street (107 lots) of which 25 acres are north of the depot and the remainder are south of the depot.<sup>8</sup> The Highland Park Addition along North Dewey Avenue was also platted in 1911 by the Federal Realty Company.<sup>9</sup> A 1970 housing profile of the city noted that there were almost 1,700 year round housing units in Reedsburg, of which almost 1,170 were built prior to 1939.<sup>10</sup> Present day residential development occurs mainly at the perimeters of the city.

Architectural Resources

Although settled in the 1850's, the majority of buildings in Reedsburg

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date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Most buildings are residential, single family houses (75%), although a number of larger older houses have been converted to apartments or business uses. Frame houses, some covered with clapboard or asbestos siding, predominate, but a few brick residences are scattered throughout the city. Sandstone foundations predominate on all buildings. A variety of architectural styles and vernacular forms are represented in Reedsburg but the most prevalent residential form is the nineteenth century two story ell with gabled roof. Queen Anne and Colonial Revival details are applied to many late nineteenth century residences and a large number of simple Dutch Colonial Revival homes were built in Reedsburg in the early twentieth century.

The business district consists mainly of two story solid brick business blocks. Most stores have had their first stories altered but a substantial number have retained original design elements. A number of building and lumber companies existed in the city around the turn of the century and were responsible for the construction, and sometimes design, of business blocks and some residences. Local architects and carpenters constructed most buildings. In some cases architects from other Wisconsin and midwestern cities designed the most prominent local buildings. Otto Uehling of Milwaukee designed St. Peters Lutheran Church, Turnbull and Jones of Illinois designed the Presbyterian Church and Frank Moulton of Madison was responsible for the Reedsburg Municipal Hospital. S.V. Shipman designed buildings in both historic districts.

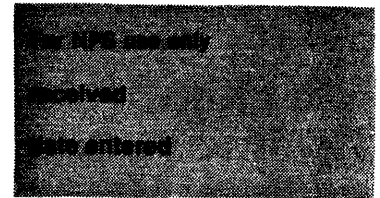
The Park Street Historic District contains a variety of residential styles ranging from the c. 1877 vernacular Seeley house at 502 North Park Street to the Queen Anne house at 325 Third Street to the 1924 Colonial Revival Edmund Huebing house at 404 North Park Street. Non-residential architecture in the district is highlighted by the Gothic Revival Presbyterian Church (1906) at 148 North Park Street and St. Peters Lutheran Church (1908) at 345 North Pine Street. Both buildings sit on opposite corners of the City Park and add to the architectural character of the district. At the northern border of the district is the 1932 Reedsburg Municipal Hospital, a two story Georgian Revival building which helps delineate the district boundary. All of the buildings in the district present an architecturally significant streetscape within the context of the city. Overall, a high degree of integrity has been maintained.

Other significant nineteenth century residential structures outside the district include the Abner L. Harris house at 226 North Pine Street. Built in 1872-1873 by William Dierks of Reedsburg, it is the city's prime example of residential Second Empire styling. An excellent example of High Victorian Gothic design is the Edward M. Hackett house at 612 East Main Street. Designed by Hackett in 1878 the house retains a high degree of integrity and is distinguished by its steeply pitched roofline and ornate woodwork on the exterior and vaulted ceilings in the second story rooms.

The Queen Anne style is best represented by two residences in Reedsburg. The William Riggert house at 547 South Park Street is accented by first and

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second story porches, bay windows and intricate gable woodwork. A wrap around porch, tower with decorative wood roof and gable ornamentation delineate the William Stolte, Jr. house at 432 South Walnut Street. South of this house is the Victorian Gothic/Queen Anne style William Stolté, Sr. house, highlighted by two ornate porches and window trim.

An excellent example of early twentieth century design is exhibited by the Ralph P. Perry house (c. 1908) at 513 East Main Street, an imposing clapboard Colonial/Georgian Revival style house with a two story pedimented portico.

Commercial architecture in Reedsburg is best represented in the Main Street Commercial Historic District located on Main Street between Walnut and Park Streets. The district is composed of mainly two story brick business blocks ornamented with elaborate metal cornices and second story window trim. Although most of the first stories have been altered, the district as a whole has retained a high degree of integrity. Stylistically, the majority of the blocks are a commercial vernacular type often found in small villages and cities in Wisconsin around the turn of the century. Twenty-one businesses make up the district. The earliest business block is J. V. Kelsey's 1873 general store at 297 Main Street. The most recent is the 1920 Classical Revival Reedsburg Bank designed by Childs and Smith of Chicago (and the stylistically similar addition to it completed in the early 1930's). A variety of vernacular and Queen Anne and Romanesque style architecture was built in between.

The 1886 City Hotel at 125 Main Street, outside of the district, is an excellent example of Victorian Gothic commercial building in Reedsburg. The two story hotel has an ornamental metal mansard roof, second story front porch with metal balustrade and stone window trim on both facades.

The Chicago and North Western depot on Railroad Street, designed in 1905 by Frost and Granger, is a fine example of a Classical Revival building in the city. The one story brick structure has a hip roof with decorative braces under the eave and a central portico with fluted stone columns.

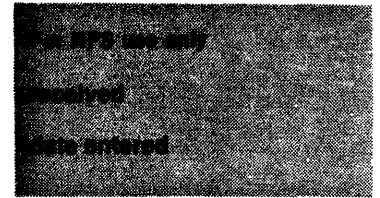
Both the Reedsburg Brewery (1904) and the Central Wisconsin Creamery (1910) at 312 South Park Street represent early twentieth century industrial design in Reedsburg. The former woolen mill office at 26 Main Street is another building representative of Reedsburg's early industry.

Methodology

The City of Reedsburg received a grant in 1983 from the Historic Preservation Division of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. The purpose was to conduct an intensive architectural and historical survey of the cultural resources of Reedsburg and prepare a multiple resource nomination. Caroline Held, the City Clerk/Treasurer, was the project Supervisor and David Hinds, the Community Development Agent in Sauk County for the Cooperative

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Extension Programs of the University of Wisconsin, was the project director. Monica Liegal and Diane Kamps were co-chairman of a committee to produce a survey booklet and slide/tape. Claudette Stager conducted the survey and prepared the nomination.

The first part of the project consisted of updating a 1977 reconnaissance survey that had been conducted by the Historic Preservation Division. Approximately 60 sites had been inventoried and these were rechecked to determine if significant alterations had occurred. If there had been alterations, the site was re-photographed. The updated survey also involved traveling every street within the corporate boundaries of Reedsburg and photographing and surveying all buildings of historic or architectural interest. Over 800 more sites were surveyed in the 1983 survey. While the reconnaissance survey concentrated on architecturally definable building styles, the update included vernacular buildings and later twentieth century styles (such as bungalows). Main Street and the Baraboo River are two major landmarks dividing the city that helped to define how the city was surveyed. The area north of Main Street and east of the river was surveyed first; then the area south of Main Street and east of the river was surveyed. Next, the smaller section of the city west of the river was surveyed and finally Main Street itself was surveyed. The sites were then recorded on a map of the city by Vierbicher & Associates of Reedsburg.

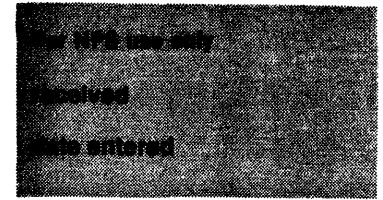
The next phase involved in depth research on buildings thought to have architectural or historical value in order to assess them further and research on themes important to the development of Reedsburg. Intensive survey forms and an intensive survey report were written using this information. Two historic districts and twelve individual buildings were the significant findings from the 1983 survey.

Archeological Surveys

The archeological resources of Reedsburg have not been comprehensively surveyed and, therefore, no archeological resources are included in the nomination.

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- <sup>1</sup>Solomon A. Dwinnell, Sauk County, Town of Reedsburg, 1872.
- <sup>2</sup>Reedsburg Centennial Committee, Reedsburg Remembers (Historical Committee, Reedsburg Centennial, 1948) p. 6-7.
- <sup>3</sup>"Reedsburg Free Press", June 14, 1872.
- <sup>4</sup>Merton E. Krug, History of Reedsburg and the Upper Baraboo Valley (Madison, Democrat Printing Company, 1929) p. 48.
- <sup>5</sup>Bella French (ed.), History of Reedsburg, Wisconsin 1875, an issue of The American Sketchbook (LaCrosse, Sketchbook Company, 1875), p. 89.
- <sup>6</sup>"Reedsburg Free Press", January 3, 1873.
- <sup>7</sup>"The Reedsburg Times", Souvenir Edition, May 5, 1899.
- <sup>8</sup>"Reedsburg Free Press", April 21, 1911.
- <sup>9</sup>"Reedsburg Free Press", August 18, 1911.
- <sup>10</sup>Reedsburg Industrial Commission, Reedsburg Where Free Enterprise is a Way of Life (Reedsburg, Krueger Printing, 1974).

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

**Specific dates** 1867-1934 (see survey forms)  associated with a significant individual

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**  associated with the development of the ethnic community

## Introduction

Reedsburg is located on the Baraboo River at a spot once used by native American Indians as a ford because of the hard river bed and shallow water. By the 1840's white settlers explored the region near Reedsburg, attracted by mining and timber riches. A number of these early pioneers saw potential in the river, first as a ford, and soon as a source of water power. A saw mill, grist mill and finally a woolen mill were located at the river's edge. By the 1850's and in the following decades, commercial and residential development transformed Reedsburg into a market place for the surrounding agricultural area. This was especially true after the arrival of the railroad in 1872 when much of the village was built. By the early twentieth century new industry, such as a brewery and creamery, were established in Reedsburg, giving it a diversified economic base that continued to expand and develop as Reedsburg grew into a small city in an agricultural county.

Twelve individual properties and two historic districts which reflect the growth and development of Reedsburg between the 1860's and 1930's are included in the nomination. The individual properties are nominated for architectural and historic significance. Historically significant properties include structures associated with the industrial and transportation history of Reedsburg. Two historic districts, one commercial and one residential, are nominated primarily for their architectural significance. The Main Street Commercial Historic District is also significant for its association with the commercial development of the city. The Park Street Historic District contains one building historically significant for its association with the development of the Reedsburg German community and one property significant for its association with a prominent early settler. Properties are nominated as significant examples of local types and periods of construction.

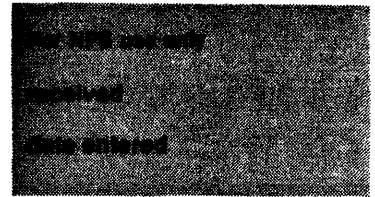
## Historical Development

White settlement of the upper Baraboo Valley began as early as 1848. Four years later Rev. Solomon A. Dwinell, an early Reedsburg settler, wrote that ". . . at the time Sauk County was regarded as the best portion of the state for obtaining government lands".<sup>1</sup> The prospect of lumber, copper and iron, and the accessibility of rivers and their tributaries brought many early settlers to the future site of Reedsburg. When Don Carlos Barry and Henry Perry, the first recorded settlers in the immediate Reedsburg area, came in 1844 looking for lumbering sites near Big Creek, they found instead a copper mine in the southeast quarter of Section One in Reedsburg Township. They mined two tons of copper but the operation soon faltered and was abandoned.



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More permanent settlement began in 1845 when James Babb who came to Reedsburg from Ohio and began farming on what was then a large timber enclosed prairie.<sup>2</sup> Babb was aware of the potential power of the river at the site of Reedsburg but lacked financial means to implement it. But in 1847 David C. Reed arrived, harnessed the power and began to build a saw mill, the first industry in the area. The earliest settlement, which developed around the mill site, was primitive; pole shanties housed Reed and the first families to settle there. No structures still stand to reflect those early settlers although the third house (1877) of pioneer Austin Seeley, who helped Reed build his mill, still stands at 502 North Park Street in the Park Street Historic District.

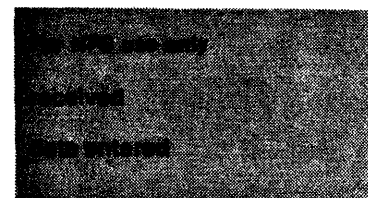
Financial uncertainty surrounded the community's earliest commercial overtures. Reed's saw mill had declined until 1851 when eight local men (including Reed) organized the Reedsburg Mill Company to try and save the saw mills. Soon both saw and grist mills were in operation and when the Mackey brothers purchased the mills in 1854, a measure of economic stability returned, only to be interrupted again by the downturn of 1857.

As Reedsburg grew, settlement in the agricultural lands expanded, too, with farmers cultivating grains and other crops. From 1853 until 1868, hops were a major crop in and around Reedsburg. The first hops were ready for market in 1853 and once the viability of the crop had been established, the cultivation of hops spread, eclipsing other crops so completely that many other agricultural products had to be imported. Reedsburg became a national center for marketing hops and many merchants in the village bought and sold hops as part of their trade. But the hop boom was short lived and when the crash came in 1868, only two merchants in Reedsburg were not severely hurt.<sup>3</sup> J. V. Kelsey, whose 1873 building is at 297 Main Street (in the Main Street Historic Commercial District) was one general merchant who came out of the crash; Samuel Ramsey was the other.

Agricultural diversification in the region began after the crash and Reedsburg (incorporated as a village in 1868) continued to serve as a shipping and mercantile center for the new products of nearby farms, including grain and, eventually, dairy products. Abner L. Harris was one of the more successful produce and grain shippers (in Harris & Hosler). His 1872-1873 house (included in the nomination) is at 226 North Pine Street. Other prominent produce shippers were the Hickey brothers and H. C. Hunt, whose houses are in the Park Street District. An important impetus to shipping came in 1872 with the arrival of the Chicago and North Western Railway.<sup>4</sup> Reedsburg was located on the main line, midway between Chicago and St. Paul, an excellent location for shipping. A frame depot was built, moved in 1905 when the new depot was constructed and torn down in the 1960's. The 1905 depot, included in the nomination, is located along Railroad Street in the south part of the city and is not only an architecturally significant building, but is historically significant for its role in the transportation history of the city. An ancillary service of the railroad was livery and feed stables. One exists on Vine Street (c. 1910) and is included in the nomination. (In 1963 all passenger service

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stopped and freight trains are irregular today and used only by two local industries.)

In the 1870's the present day character of Main Street began to emerge. Dry goods and groceries, banks and general stores, millinery shops and a variety of other businesses arose to service the growing community. An 1877 fire along the north side of Main Street between Park Street and Walnut Street destroyed all but J. V. Kelsey's solid brick store.<sup>5</sup> Most new business blocks built after that were two story solid brick structures. In 1891 a city ordinance required fire proof construction.<sup>6</sup> (See Main Street Commercial Historic District survey form.)

As the city began to develop, the local newspaper, the "Reedsburg Free Press", began playing an increasingly prominent role, expounding Republican politics, promoting business and encouraging civic improvement. In 1888, a year after Reedsburg was incorporated as a city, the Free Press Block was built at 272 Main Street where the paper stayed until bought by another local paper, "The Reedsburg Times", located at 115 and 117 South Walnut Street, in 1939. Both buildings are in the Main Street Commercial Historic District.

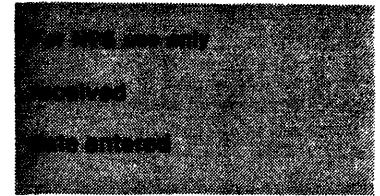
As the commercial district developed, industrial activity (usually based on agricultural processing) increased. As early as 1873 there was local interest in a woolen mill and around 1879 the Reedsburg Woolen Mills were formed.<sup>7</sup> In 1881-1882 a mill was built, initiating one of the major industries in Reedsburg. Formed by local investors, the mill was bought by William French from Michigan in 1886.<sup>8</sup> Local businessmen still had investments in the mill, by then the largest local employer, and began producing fancy and novelty textiles for the womens' fashion market. The mill was sold to Appleton Woolen Mills in 1902; re-sold to local investors in 1954; and burned in 1968. Fortunately, however, the historic office building was spared and is included in the nomination.

Other industries which developed in nineteenth century Reedsburg include the Reedsburg Brewery, established in the 1870's. Albert Fuhrman, the owner, constructed a new brick brewery in 1904 and production of Old Gold and Champion beer continued until Prohibition and resumed afterwards.<sup>10</sup> The brewery ceased operation in 1950. Located at 401 North Walnut Street, it is now unused but included in the nomination.

Another industry which processed the products of surrounding farmlands was the first creamery, begun in the 1880's. It was located on the village's west side and produced only butter. Henry W. Sorge bought the creamery around 1899 and built a new brick creamery on the south side at 312 South Park Street in 1910.<sup>11</sup> Known as Central Wisconsin Creamery, it was one of several Sorge owned in Wisconsin. It produced milk, butter and ice cream. In the 1960's production ceased at this creamery, although another creamery continues operation in Reedsburg today. (It is not included in the nomination because of its loss of integrity.)

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Although first settled by Yankees and other people of English descent, the 1860's brought an influx of German settlers to Reedsburg and by the 1890's Reedsburg was populated by a distinct German Ethnic group. Social and cultural organizations, a newspaper, Germania Hall (all gone) provided a common cultural bond for the local German community. St. John's Evangelical Church and St. Peters Evangelical Church were more lasting representations of this group. (St. John's is a 1937 building and has no historic significance for this reason.) St. Peters, located in the Park Street Historic District, grew into the largest church congregation in the city. The present church was built in 1908, a time when services were still conducted in German and English.<sup>12</sup> Reedsburg continued to have a strong German community served by the Church throughout the early part of the twentieth century.

Resources Included in the Nomination

Twelve individual properties and two historic districts, one commercial and one residential, are included in the nomination. The individual properties include six nominated for historic significance and nine nominated for architectural significance. Properties date from the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries and are a variety of styles, ranging from nineteenth century simple vernacular houses through Gothic Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne and twentieth century Colonial Revival style houses. A brewery, creamery, and woolen mill office represent industrial uses. A livery, hotel and railroad depot represent commercial or public buildings.

Planning, Preservation and Restoration Activities

The nomination is the culmination of an intensive survey of Reedsburg begun in 1983. As part of the project, a survey publication and slide/tape program for public use, produced by community volunteers, is intended to increase local awareness of the community's cultural heritage. Currently, the former Hotel Stolte, at 204 Main Street in the Main Street Commercial Historic District, is undergoing extensive remodeling, partly funded by a Community Development Block Grant.

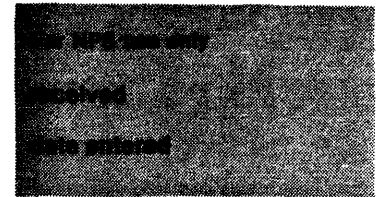
Complete survey results, including the survey forms and a survey report, will be available in Reedsburg at the Reedsburg City Hall at 134 South Locust Street. The Preservation Division of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin in Madison will also retain copies.

Significance: Architecture

Individual properties and two historic districts are nominated as significant representations of types and periods of construction. The Park Street Historic District is a distinct entity within the larger city and represents architectural styles found in Reedsburg from c. 1867-1932, including outstanding examples of Italianate, Queen Anne, late Gothic Revival and Colonial Revival

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architecture. Centered around a one block square park and extending north two blocks, the district has an overall high degree of integrity and is the best example of a late nineteenth to early twentieth century neighborhood in Reedsburg.

Individual architecturally significant buildings include the **victorian-Gothic** City Hotel at 125 Main Street, with its metal mansard roof and second story porch, a unique example of that commercial style in Reedsburg. The Chicago and North Western depot on Railroad Street, built in 1905, is an excellently designed brick and stone Classical Revival building by noted mid-west railroad depot architects, Frost and Granger. Another Second Empire style building is the residence of Abner L. Harris at 226 North Pine Street, significant for its excellence of design and high degree of integrity. It is the best example of a Second Empire residence in the city. The Edward M. Hackett house at 612 East Main Street was designed by Hackett, a locally prominent architect and builder in 1878. Significant for its Gothic Revival design, the residence is situated on a hill which further accents its steeply pitched and richly ornamented gable roofline. Two outstanding Queen Anne houses are also nominated. The William Riggert house at 547 South Park Street and the William Stolte, Jr. house at 432 South Walnut are finely crafted and ornamented picturesque residences that add to the list of Reedsburg's cultural resources. Finally the William Stolte, Sr. house at 444 South Walnut Street is a unique mix of Victorian Gothic and Queen Anne styles that merits inclusion in the multiple resource nomination as a distinctive representation of its style. The Reedsburg Brewery is a distinctive example of industrial architecture.

The Main Street Commercial Historic District is the best example of turn of the century commercial design in Reedsburg. Covering approximately one block and dating from 1874-1920, styles run from the predominant commercial vernacular, to Queen Anne, Romanesque, and Classical Revival. A high degree of integrity is maintained throughout the district. (See individual forms and district forms for more information.) The district includes buildings designed by regionally significant architect Stephen Vaughn Shipman.  
Significance: Commerce

The Main Street Historic District is significant for its association with the commercial history of Reedsburg. Built between 1874 and 1920, the district was the center of mercantile activity for the city and surrounding agricultural region.

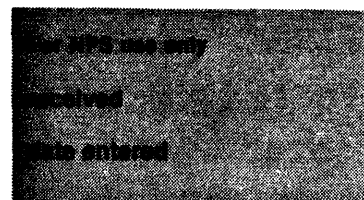
The J. W. Corwith Livery located on Vine Street, built in 1911, is nominated because of the commercial and transportation services it provided in Reedsburg. It represents one of the focal points of the community's transportation system (the other is the railroad; see below). (See Main Street Commercial Historic District and individual forms for more information.)

Significance: Industry

Three significant industrial buildings exist in Reedsburg. The former

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woolen mill office, built in 1891 at 26 Main Street, is the only extant building of the city's major nineteenth and twentieth century industry. The Reedsburg Brewery, built in 1904, and the Central Wisconsin Creamery, built in 1910, both having a high degree of exterior integrity, are significant for their association with their respective industries and reflect the processing of local agricultural products. (See individual forms for more information.)

Significance: Transportation

In addition to the Corwith Livery (see significance: commerce), the Chicago and North Western Railroad depot, built in 1905, is significant for its association with the development of transportation in Reedsburg, as well as being architecturally significant. It was a focal point for shipping and passenger traffic through the early twentieth century. (See individual forms for more information.)

Significance: Associated with a significant individual

The Austin Seeley house at 502 North Park Street in the Park Street Historic District is important as the only known representation of one of the pioneer settlers of Reedsburg. Seeley came to Reedsburg to build the first mill and stayed on to help develop the village.

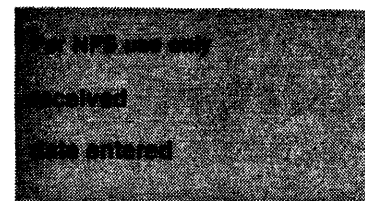
Abner L. Harris' house at 226 North Pine Street is historically significant for its association with Harris, a prominent businessman (retail and produce shipping) and civic leader. The house is also architecturally significant. (See individual form and Park Street Historic District for more information.)

Significance: Associated with the development of the Ethnic community

St. Peters Lutheran Church, located in the Park Street Historic District, is significant for its strong association with the large German population that helped develop Reedsburg and is the best extant structure reflecting that association. It also has architectural significance. (See Park Street Historic District for more information.)

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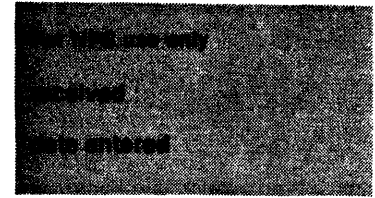
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- <sup>1</sup>Solomon A. Dwinnell, Sauk County, Town of Reedsburg, 1872.
- <sup>2</sup>"Reedsburg Times-Press", August 2, 1973.
- <sup>3</sup>Bella French (ed.), History of Reedsburg, Wisconsin 1875, an issue of The American Sketchbook (LaCrosse, Sketchbook Company, 1875), p.89.
- <sup>4</sup>Reedsburg Centennial Committee, Reedsburg Remembers (Historical Committee, Reedsburg Centennial, 1948) p. 14.
- <sup>5</sup>"Reedsburg Free Press", May 10, 1877.
- <sup>6</sup>"Reedsburg Free Press", May 7, 1891.
- <sup>7</sup>"Reedsburg Free Press", March 7, 1873 and August 22, 1895.
- <sup>8</sup>"Reedsburg Free Press", May 29, 1886.
- <sup>9</sup>"Wisconsin Then and Now", May, 1975 (Vol XX, No. 10).
- <sup>10</sup>Wayne Kroll, Badger Breweries, Past and Present (copyright 1976).
- <sup>11</sup>"Reedsburg Free Press", March 19, 1909.



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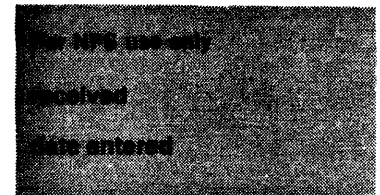
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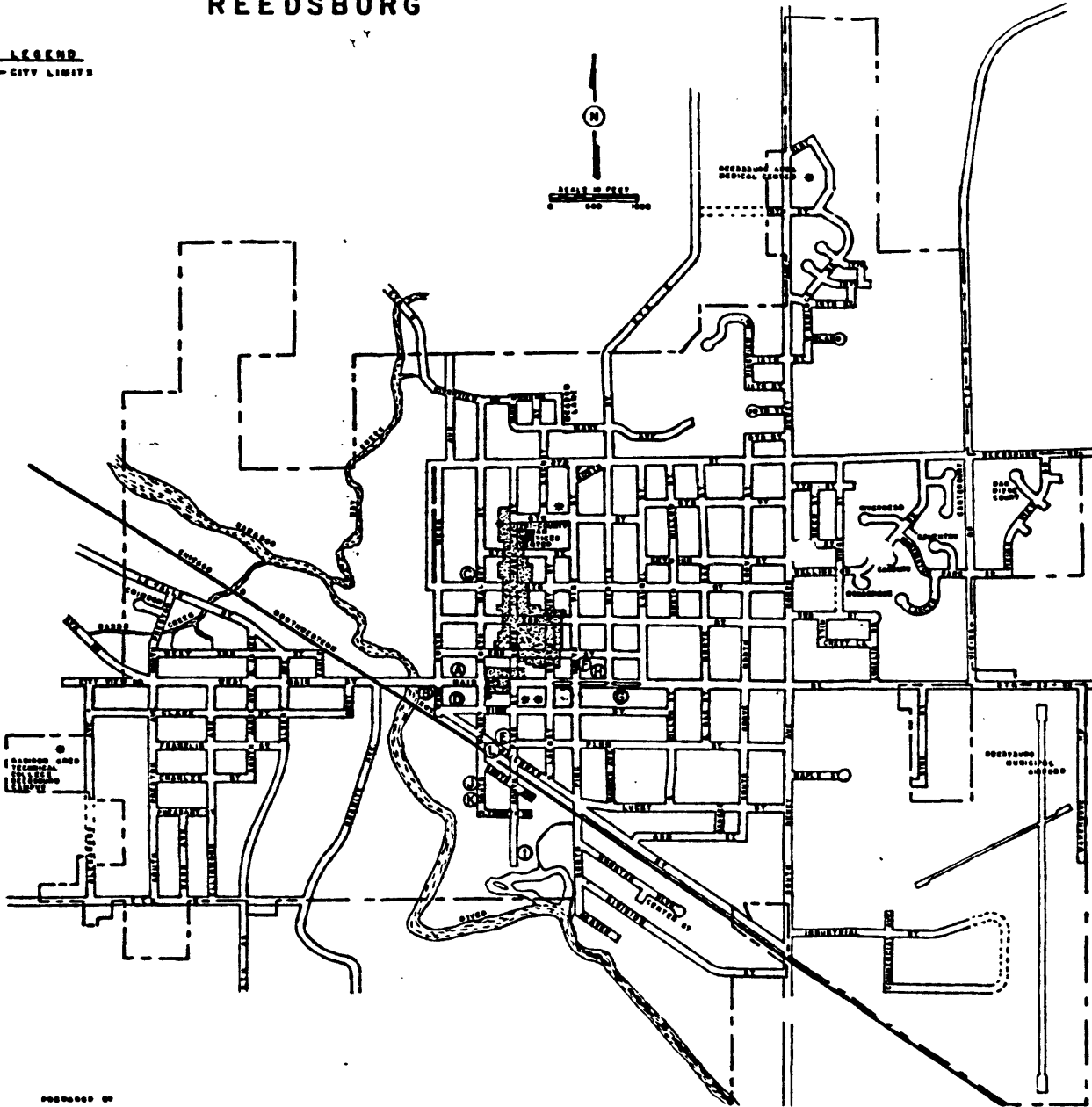
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# REEDSBURG

LEGEND  
--- CITY LIMITS



- A-CITY HOTEL  
125 MAIN ST.
- B-WOOLEN MILL OFFICE  
26 MAIN ST.
- C-REEDSBURG BREWERY  
401 N. WALNUT ST.
- D-CORWITH LIVERY  
121 VINE ST.
- E-WISCONSIN CENTRAL CREAMERY  
300 S. PARK ST.
- F-ABNER L. HARRIS HOUSE  
228 N. PINE ST.
- G-EDWARD M. HACKETT HOUSE  
612 E. MAIN ST.
- H-RALPH P. PERRY HOUSE  
531 E. MAIN ST.
- I-WILLIAM RIGGERT HOUSE  
547 S. PARK ST.
- J-WILLIAM STOLTE, JR. HOUSE  
432 S. WALNUT ST.
- K-WILLIAM STOLTE, SR. HOUSE  
444 S. WALNUT ST.
- L-CHICAGO AND NORTHWESTERN  
DEPOT  
RAILROAD ST.

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date entered 12/26/84

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

11  
011-3

Name Reedsburg Multiple Resource Area

State Sauk County, WISCONSIN

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Chicago and North Western Depot

Entered in the National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 12/26/84

Attest

2. City Hotel

Entered in the National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 12/26/84

Attest

3. Hackett, Edward M., House

Entered in the National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 12/26/84

Attest

4. Harris, Abner L., House

Entered in the National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 12/26/84

Attest

5. Reedsburg Brewery

Entered in the National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 12/26/84

Attest

6. Reedsburg Woolen Mill Office

Entered in the National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 12/26/84

Attest

7. Riggert, William, House

Entered in the National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 12/26/84

Attest

8. Stolte, William, Jr., House

Entered in the National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 12/26/84

Attest

9. Stolte, William, Sr., House

Entered in the National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 12/26/84

Attest

10. Main Street Commercial Historic District

Entered in the National Register

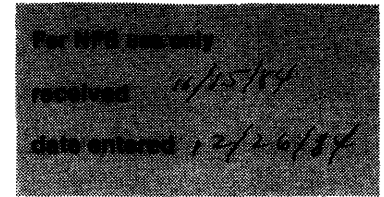
for Keeper

Delores Byers 12/26/84

Attest

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Reedsburg Multiple Resource Area  
State Sauk County, WISCONSIN

Nomination/Type of Review

Entered in the  
National Register

Date/Signature

11. Park Street Historic District

Keeper

Melrose Byers 12/26/84

Attest  
Determined Eligible

12. Central Wisconsin Creamery

Substantive Review

Keeper

Beth Grovono 12/26/84

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest  
Determined Eligible

13. Corwith, J. W., Livery

Substantive Review

Keeper

Beth Grovono 12/26/84

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest  
Determined Eligible

14. Perry, Ralph P., House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Beth Grovono 12/26/84

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

15.

Keeper

Attest

16.

Keeper

Attest

17.

Keeper

Attest

18.

Keeper

Attest

19.

Keeper

Attest

20.

Keeper

Attest