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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 Dahle, Onon B. and Betsy, House

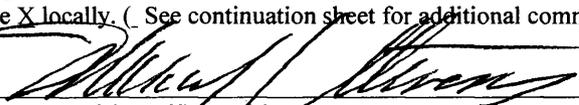
other names/site number N/A

**2. Location**

street & number	10779 Evergreen Avenue	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Town of Perry	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county Dane	code 025
			zip code 53572

**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.)

  
Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date 2/28/08

State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

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

Dahle, Onon B. and Betsy, House

Dane

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

**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*

4.16.08

*for*

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(check as many boxes 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
2	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
2	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)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/ animal facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

VACANT/ NOT IN USE

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Stone

walls Stone

roof Asphalt

other Wood

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Dahle, Onon B. and Betsy, House  
Name of Property

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## 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)

Exploration/Settlement

Architecture

### Period of Significance

1864-1895

### Significant Dates

1864

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Dahle, Onon B.

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Unknown

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Name of Property

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### 9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous Documentation on File** (National Park Service):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.25 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 270209 4755074  
Zone Easting Northing

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

See Continuation Sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Timothy F. Hegglund  
organization  
street & number 6391 Hillsandwood Road  
city or town Mazomanie

state WI

date July 5, 2007  
telephone 608-795-2650  
zip code 53560

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### 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.)

<b>name/title</b>	Darren & Elissa Walker	<b>date</b>	July 2007
<b>organization</b>		<b>telephone</b>	608-437-8912
<b>street &amp; number</b>	10779 Evergreen Avenue	<b>zip code</b>	53572
<b>city or town</b>	Mt. Horeb	<b>state</b>	WI

**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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Continuation Sheet

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Dahle, Onon B. and Betsy, House  
Town of Perry, Dane Co., WI

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**Description:**

The very fine and unusually intact T-plan, limestone-clad Onon B. and Betsy Dahle house was built in 1864 as a replacement for the log house that Dahle had built nearby for his family ten years before. The two-story, rectilinear plan, 40-foot-long by 25.5-foot wide main block of the Dahle house is an excellent example of the simple hipped roof subtype of the Italianate style identified Virginia & Lee McAlester in their *A Field Guide to American Houses*. It features a symmetrically designed, five-bay-wide main façade whose principal entrance is located in the first story's middle bay.<sup>1</sup> Centered on the south-facing rear elevation of the main block is a 23-foot-long by 19-foot-wide, gable-roofed, one-and-one-half-story, rectilinear plan kitchen wing which has identical open verandas on both its east and west sides that are sheltered by extensions of the wing's main roof. The house's only distinctly Italianate decorative elements, however, are the pairs of small, regularly spaced scroll-sawn brackets that encircle the frieze band of the main block. Without them, the house could as easily be called a fine example of the Greek Revival style. Besides being a fine transitional example of the Greek Revival/Italianate style, the Dahle house is also an excellent example of the "distinctive" stone building tradition that was practiced in western Dane County and in the adjacent southeast corner of Sauk County between 1850 and 1885.<sup>2</sup> The house's 12-inch-thick walls are constructed of ashlar limestone blocks that also feature finely crafted raised mortar joints, an expensive method of construction that was seldom employed in rural Wisconsin settings during the 1860s. In addition to the house, a smaller rectilinear plan animal barn, built by Dahle several years after his house was completed, is situated just to the west of the house and it is now the only surviving outbuilding that was associated with the small 80-acre farm that Dahle once owned. Dahle and his family lived in this house from 1864 until 1895, when Dahle retired and he and his wife moved to a new and much larger Queen Anne style house (extant) in the nearby city of Mt. Horeb. Throughout its history, Dahle's Daleyville house has received excellent care from its owners and its high degree of integrity is a tribute to this ownership. Consequently, the integrity of the original house is still largely uncompromised and it is still one of Daleyville's oldest, most impressive, and historically important buildings today.

The Dahle house and its outbuilding are located in the small unincorporated hamlet of Daleyville, most of whose buildings are situated on both sides of and facing State Highway 78, which runs from north to south along the top of a ridge as it passes through the hamlet and constitutes Daleyville's principal thoroughfare. Many of the parcels that are located along STH 78 thus slope downward and away from the highway and the parcel associated with the Dahle house is one of these. This parcel originally

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<sup>1</sup> McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Knopf, 1984, pp. 187 and 218-219.

<sup>2</sup> Wyatt, Barbara (ed.) *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*. Madison: Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, Vol. 2 (Architecture).

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totalled 40-acres but it now totals 10.95 acres and it slopes down to the west from STH 78 and is flag-shaped. The narrow portion of this parcel is bounded on the east by STH 78 and on the north by the block-long Evergreen Ave., which descends at a right angle from STH 78 and passes in front of the house before terminating at a shared driveway that is located just to the west of the Dahle house and which services both the Dahle house and the house next door to the south. The Dahle house sits on the west end of this smaller portion of the parcel and the barn that is associated with the Dahle house is located just to the west of the shared driveway on the east edge of the larger portion of the parcel and its main façade faces east onto the driveway.

The Dahle House is now one of the oldest- if not *the* oldest- house in Daleyville and its age is also reflected in the orientation of the house and its placement on its site. With just a single exception, this being the early twentieth century house that is located directly across Evergreen Ave. from the Dahle house, all the other houses and buildings in Daleyville are located close to STH 78 and face either east or west onto this road. The Dahle house is the only one that is situated at a distance from the highway, and it is also the only one whose main facade faces north rather than east or west. This reflects the fact that almost all of Daleyville's other houses and its few commercial buildings are located on much smaller lots that O.B. Dahle sold off from the larger acreage that he owned. His own house and its original 40-acre parcel being the only exception during his period of residence in the hamlet.

Exterior

The Dahle house is free-standing, it is situated approximately 150-feet back (west) from STH 78, and it is surrounded by mown lawn, groups of mature shrubs, and mature shade trees. The main block of the house is rectilinear in plan, being 40-feet-wide by 25.50-feet-deep, it is two stories in height, and it is sheltered by a shallow-pitched hip roof that is clad in asphalt shingles and has shallow, overhanging boxed eaves that have an encircling frieze board just below that is ornamented with pairs of scroll sawn brackets. This block's foundation walls and the exterior walls that rest on them are both fashioned from regularly coursed ashlar limestone blocks and they are separated from each other by a thinner course of dressed limestone that acts as a projecting water table that encircles the block. The basement walls are approximately 18" thick, they enclose a full basement story, and the ashlar stone blocks that comprise them are somewhat smaller and less finely crafted than those of the main walls above.

The 40-foot-wide north-facing facade of the main block is the principal elevation of the Dahle house and the main entrance to the house is located in the center bay of this five-bay-wide, symmetrically designed, two-story composition. The main entrance is reached by ascending a flight of five concrete steps. These steps are a later addition and they are attached to the front of the original raised front entrance stoop, the sides of which are made out of ashlar limestone blocks and whose dressed

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limestone floor is of the same thickness and is positioned at the same level as the water table that encircles the block. This entrance is crowned by a flattened, triangular-shaped stone lintel that is visible in historic photos of the house but whose triangular upper portion is now partially hidden by portions of the front entrance porch.<sup>3</sup> This opening still contains its original two-light over two-panel wood entrance door, which is protected by a later two-panel wooden door whose upper half is screened. Flanking both sides of the entrance door are four-light side lights, and a two-light transom light is placed above the door. Sheltering this entrance today is a classically derived, flat-roofed entrance porch that is believed to have been added to the house in the 1930s or 1940s. The roof of this porch is supported by four square paneled wood pillars, the two in front are placed two steps down from the pair behind, which are placed on the floor of the entrance stoop. In addition, two paneled wood pilasters of the same design are placed on the main wall surface of the house and they effectively double the pillars in front of them. Fortunately, the design of this porch is sympathetic to the original design of the house.

Flanking both sides of the entrance opening are two rectangular window openings that have slightly projecting dressed limestone sills and massive, flush lintels, features that are also shared by all of the house's other window openings. All four of these window openings still contain their original six-over-six light, double hung, wooden sash windows and each of these openings is also still flanked by its original pair of louvered wooden shutters, which historic photos of the house taken ca.1873 show are original to the house. The four second-story windows are positioned directly above the four first story openings and are identical in all respects to those below. The only exception is the window opening in the second story's center bay, which was originally identical to the rest but which was converted into a door opening when the new entrance porch was constructed. It now contains a one-light over three-panel wood door. The facade is terminated by a broad fascia board that is ornamented with eight pairs of scroll-sawn brackets, and the fascia is sheltered by its overhanging boxed cornice, which now features a modern metal gutter and downspout system.

The east-facing side elevation of the Dahle house consists of the east-facing side elevations of both the main block and the kitchen wing. The 25.5-foot-wide east-facing side elevation of the main block is also two-stories in height and it too is symmetrical in design. Both stories of this elevation are two-bays-wide, and each story of these bays contains a single rectangular window opening that is identical in size and design to those on the main facade as described above. These openings each contain a single six-over-six light double hung wooden sash window and they too are flanked by their original louvered wooden shutters. The overall length of the east-facing elevation of the house is further

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<sup>3</sup> Mandel, David. *Settlers of Dane County: The Photographs of Andreas Larsen Dahl*. Madison: Dane County, 1985, pp. 80-81.

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extended by the addition of the 23-foot-long east elevation of the one-and-one-half-story gable-roofed kitchen wing. Like the main block, the kitchen wing's foundation walls and the exterior walls that rest on them are both fashioned from regularly coursed ashlar limestone blocks and they are also separated from each other by a thinner course of dressed limestone that acts as a projecting water table that encircles the wing. The basement walls are also approximately 18" thick, they enclose a full basement story, and the ashlar stone blocks that comprise them are somewhat smaller and less finely crafted than those of the main walls above. The wing's east elevation is asymmetrical in design and two-bays-wide with the right-hand bay consisting of a plain rectangular entrance door opening that contains a wood and glass door while the left-hand bay contains a single window opening that is flanked by original louvered wooden shutters, is identical in size and design to those found elsewhere on the house, and which also contains a six-over-six-light double hung wood sash window. The wing's entire length is sheltered by a full-length veranda that has a poured concrete pad floor and whose roof is formed by a slightly flared downward extension of the asphalt shingle-clad main roof of the wing and which is upheld by two turned wooden posts.<sup>4</sup>

The south-facing rear elevation of the house is comprised of both the 40-foot-wide rear elevation of the main block and the 19-foot-wide rear elevation of the attached kitchen wing, which instead of being centered on the main block's rear elevation is actually positioned five feet further to the left (west). The kitchen wing's symmetrically designed south-facing rear elevation is one-and-one-half-story and three-bays-wide and the exposed portion of its basement story is now covered with stucco. The first story of the wing features two window openings of the type described previously, both of which still retain their original six-over-six-light wood sash windows, but neither of which now retains its original wood shutters. Centered in the gable end above is a smaller window opening whose head actually cuts into the broad fascia boards that crown the elevation. While this window opening and the window it contains are both still intact, they are now almost completely covered over by a tall, thin brick chimney mass that is a later addition to the house. This chimney mass bisects the kitchen wing's rear elevation and it also extends several feet above the wing's roof peak.

The width of the kitchen wing's rear elevation is further extended by the width of the two 6-foot-wide by 23-foot-long verandas whose roofs shelter both the east and west sides of the kitchen wing. The half gable ends of these verandas are flush with the rear elevation of the kitchen wing and they are clad with boards and both feature full-width returned eaves. In addition to sheltering the side elevations of the kitchen wing, both of these verandas also shelter secondary entrance door openings that are located

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<sup>4</sup> The third post that normally upholds this veranda roof is currently missing. Historic photos of the house suggest that these posts are later replacements for the square plan wood posts that originally upheld the veranda roof. Posts of this type are still present on the west elevation of the wing and are shown on the ca. 1873 photo of the house.

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in the left- and right-hand bays of the first story of the wider rear elevation of the main block.<sup>5</sup> Placed above each of these two door openings in the second story of the main block's rear elevation are single window openings of the same type and size described previously, both of which still retain their original six-over-six-light wood sash windows, but neither of which now retains its original wood shutters. These two door and two window openings are the only openings on the main block's rear elevation, the rest of which is covered by the attached kitchen wing.

The west-facing side elevation of the Dahle house consists of the west-facing side elevations of both the main block and the kitchen wing. The 25.5-foot-wide west-facing side elevation of the main block is two-stories in height and is symmetrical in design. Both stories of this elevation are two-bays-wide, and each story of these bays contains a single rectangular window opening that is identical in size and design to those on the main facade as described above. These openings also each contain a single original six-over-six light double hung wooden sash window but they no longer retain their original louvered wooden shutters. The overall length of the west-facing elevation of the house is further extended by the 23-foot-long west elevation of the one-and-one-half-story gable-roofed kitchen wing. The wing's west elevation is asymmetrical in design and two-bays-wide, with the right-hand (south) bay consisting of a plain entrance door opening that contains a wood and glass door, while the left-hand bay contains a single window opening that is identical in size and design to those found elsewhere on the house and which also contains a six-over-six-light double hung wood sash window. Like the kitchen wing's east-facing side elevation, the wing's entire west-facing elevation is also sheltered by a full-length veranda that has a poured concrete pad floor and whose roof consists of a slightly flared downward extension of the wing's main roof that is upheld by three square wood posts.

Because the Dahle house's site slopes downwards to the west, the basement story on the west side of the house has always been partially exposed and one of the main block's two original six-light basement windows is still intact and is still visible at the far left (north) end of its west-facing basement wall. The other one, however, is now hidden from view by a one-story-tall gable-roofed garage wing that was attached to this side of the house in the mid-twentieth century. This rectilinear plan addition extends west from the original house, its concrete pad floor is situated at about the same level as the floor of the house's basement story, and the east end of the wing covers much of the main block's west-facing basement story, a much smaller part of its first story, and also part of the kitchen wing's partially exposed basement story. The garage wing has concrete block walls that are painted a tan color that resembles stucco, and the west-facing main elevation of this wing is asymmetrical in design and

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<sup>5</sup> The door opening in the right-hand (eastern) bay has now been closed and its upper half has been converted into a window opening that contains a small six-over-six-light double hung window. The door opening in the left-hand (western) bay is still intact and still contains its original four-light over two-panel wood door.

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features a broad, two-car garage door opening to the right (south) that contains a 32-panel sectional wooden overhead garage door. To the left of this is a smaller entrance that contains a four-light over two-panel wood door, while the gable end above these doors is clad in vertical wood boards. The north and south-facing side elevations of the garage wing are also asymmetrical in design and mirror images of each other and both feature two small rectangular window openings that contain six-light wood sash windows. Since the garage wing is partially inset into the slope itself, portions of these walls are actually covered by the slope of the site.

Interior

While the exterior of the Dahle house still retains a high degree of integrity, the interior has been modified and modernized over the years and some aspects of its original floor plan are now conjectural. The original floor plan of the first story of the main block is believed to have consisted of a central stair hall measuring 7-feet-wide by 23-feet-long that ran from the front (north) of the house through to the rear, where a door at the south end of the hall opened into the summer kitchen that occupied all or most of the first story of the 19-foot-wide by 23-foot-long kitchen wing. Two nearly equal-sized 14-foot-wide by 12-foot-deep rooms were located to the east of the stair hall and two more to the west, and all of the rooms in the main block's first story had communicating doors that opened into each other and/or into the central stair hall. Today, however, while the stair hall's original entrance foyer and straight run staircase with its fine, turned newel post are still intact, the space beside the stairs that once extended completely through the main block has been enclosed and has been remodeled into a full bathroom. Likewise, the partition wall that once separated the two probably equal-sized rooms to the west of the stair hall has been removed, creating a single large living room. The north room on the east side of the hall has been modified by the addition of built-in closets, and the south room on the same side, which was probably the original three-season kitchen of the house, has been modernized with new cabinets and appliances, although it is still the house's kitchen. In addition, the original summer kitchen that occupied the kitchen wing has been partitioned into two nearly equal size spaces, the north half now being used as a dining room and the south half as a family room/library/entertainment center. Despite these changes, all the rooms in the house still retain plaster walls and ceilings, the floors consist of narrow varnished hardwood boards, most of the house's original four-panel wood doors are still in place and in use and still retain their original molded wooden surrounds, similar original molded wooden surrounds of the same pattern still encircle all the windows, and some of the original, tall, three-part wooden baseboards that once encircled each of the rooms are still intact.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> The family room now has wood-paneled walls and is the only first story room whose walls are not plastered.

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The second story of the main block also has narrow board floors and plastered walls and ceilings and it mirrors the original floor plan of the first story in that it features a central hall that runs from the front to the back of the block and it originally had two equal-sized bedrooms placed on either side of the hall, all four of which had doors that opened into the hall. Three of these four bedrooms are still intact and are still used as such. The fourth, however, this being the southernmost of the two on the west side of the hall, has now been divided in two smaller equal-sized rooms. The west half is now a dressing room while the east half has been converted into a bathroom whose entrance door opens out into the hall. In addition, the original attic space over the kitchen wing is still intact and retains its beaded board ceiling.

Most of the changes that have affected the interior (and exterior) of the Dahle house are believed to have occurred during the ownership of the Ranums, who occupied the house from 1944 until it was purchased by the present owners in the late 1990s. Fortunately, these changes were handled with skill and with appreciation for the original fabric of the house, a good example of this being the built-in china closet that is now centered on the north wall of the dining room in the kitchen wing. This closet was carefully inserted into the former door opening that originally led into the stair hall and it is still enframed by this door's original molded surround, which matches the molded surrounds that enframe the doors to the left and right on the same wall that open into the kitchen and into the new living room.

Animal Barn (Contributing)

A circa 1870, small, largely intact, one-story bank barn that was historically associated with the Dahle house is located approximately 110-feet southwest of and behind the house. It is rectilinear in plan and measures approximately 40-feet-long by 30-feet-deep. The barn has foundation walls of uncoursed rubble limestone that enclose a full basement story, the walls above are clad in vertical board and batten, and these walls are sheltered by a recently rebuilt asphalt shingle-clad gable roof whose ridgeline runs north-south and which has slightly overhanging open eaves. The main elevation of the barn faces east and this asymmetrically designed elevation's principal feature is a large opening that is placed just to the left (south) of center and which now contains a pair of side-hinged doors that are covered in vertical boards. This opening is the principal entrance to the building and to the hay storage area that makes up the barn's first story. A small oblong window opening containing a six-light window is located to the right of this door opening and a second and larger oblong opening is located just below the eaves above this window.

Because of the slope of the site, parts of the basement stories of both the north and south side elevations of the barn and the entire basement story of its west-facing rear elevation are exposed to view. The basement story of the barn's north-facing side elevation features two small oblong window

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openings placed along the top of the wall and equidistant from each other, although neither of them now contains a window. The only other opening on this elevation is a small window opening that is centered in the gable end and it still contains its original six-over-six-light double hung wood sash window.

The barn's south-facing side elevation is almost identical to the north-facing one except that here the two small oblong openings in the basement story still retain their original (or early) three-light windows, which are positioned in the center and towards the west end of the wall. Otherwise, there are no other openings on this elevation.

The west-facing rear elevation has, as mentioned above, a completely exposed basement story. The left-hand (north) third of this story is stone and a large door opening takes up the left half and is covered by a sliding barn door that hangs from an overhead track. The remainder of this story appears to have been altered at one time or another and it is mostly clad in boards. Centered on it are two small oblong openings for animals (probably pigs) and these are located on the bottom of the wall surface while window openings to admit light to the pens inside are located just above them. Two entrance doors are located in the right-hand third of this elevation and one or both of these may have replaced an earlier pair of openings of the type just described as well. The wall surface of the first story above contains just a single tall, centered opening that is now filled with boards.

Both the house and the barn retain good integrity to the period of significance.

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**Significance**

The Onon B. and Betsy Dahle House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) for its local significance under National Register (NR) Criteria B and C. More specifically, this house is being nominated because of its association with the area of Architecture; a theme which is also identified in the State of Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP). Research was undertaken to assess the NRHP potential of the Dahle house utilizing the Italianate Style and Greek Revival Style subsections of the Architectural Styles section, and the Stone subsection of the Construction Materials and Methods section of the Architectural Styles study unit of the CRMP.<sup>7</sup> The results of this research are detailed below and confirm that the Dahle house possesses local significance under NR criterion C as an excellent transitional example of the Italianate Style whose design was heavily influenced by the Greek Revival Style that preceded it. Fine, intact, rural examples of these transitional examples are believed to be quite rare in Wisconsin and the significance of the Dahle house is further heightened by the fact that the house is also an excellent and exceptionally intact local example of a method of stone construction for which this part of Dane County is noted.

The Dahle house is also believed to be locally significant under Criterion B (Significant Persons) for its associations with Onon B. Dahle, who emigrated from Norway to Wisconsin in 1848. After a successful stint in the California gold fields in 1850, Dahle returned to Wisconsin and to the Town of Perry in southwestern Dane County in 1853, where he established a general store that was the first commercial enterprise in this part of the county. In the same year he also established a private mail service to serve the settlers in the area and when the Town of Perry was organized in 1854, Dahle was elected its first Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, Justice of the Peace, and Superintendent of Schools. Dahle and his sons subsequently established other stores in the nearby community of Mt. Vernon and in the village of Mt. Horeb, and by 1897, when the *History of the Scandinavians and Successful Scandinavians in the United States* was compiled, Dahle was described as being "one of the most successful and wealthy Norwegian business men in Wisconsin."<sup>8</sup> In recognition of his role as its founder and most successful citizen, the community that subsequently grew up around Dahle's first store and home later called itself Daleyville in his honor.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*. Madison: Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, Vol. 2 (Architecture), pp. 2-3, 2-6, 4-6, 4-7.

<sup>8</sup> Nelson, O. N. (Compiler and Editor). *History of the Scandinavians and Successful Scandinavians in the United States*. Minneapolis: O. N. Nelson & Co., 1897, p.341.

<sup>9</sup> Daley is an Anglicization of Dahle.

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Exploration/Settlement

The Town of Perry occupies the southwest corner of Dane County, which contains the city of Madison, the state capital and the second largest city in the state of Wisconsin. The first comprehensive histories of Dane County that also specifically mention the Town of Perry were entitled *A History of Madison, the Capital of Wisconsin; Including The Four Lake Country, With an Appendix of Notes on Dane County and its Towns*, which was written in 1874, by Daniel S. Durrie. It was followed by a second history in 1877, edited by William J. Park, entitled *Madison, Dane County and Surrounding Towns*. Subsequent comprehensive county-wide histories that treat the history of the Town of Perry include the *History of Dane County, Wisconsin: Containing an Account of its Settlement, Development, and Resources*, edited by Consul W. Butterfield and published in 1880, and the *History of Dane County*, edited by Elisha W. Keyes, and published in 1906. The most recent history, *Forward! A History of Dane: the Capital County*, by Allen Ruff and Tracy Will, was published in 2000 and brings the history of the county up to the present day. By far the most important publication related to the history of the Town of Perry, however, is *The Historic Perry Norwegian Settlement* (Daleyville, WI: Perry Historical Center, 1994) which was compiled by the members of the Perry community and edited by Mary Yeater Rathbun. This 247-page illustrated and indexed history contains not only an extensive general chronological history of the Town but also histories of its industries, institutions, organizations, businesses, families, and individuals, and it is an invaluable resource that goes far beyond the possible scope of a National Register nomination in describing the history of the Town. Consequently, no attempt will be made here to cover the ground that has been so expertly covered by so many others. Instead, the history that follows will deal primarily with Onon B. Dahle and with the role he played in the history of Daleyville and the Town of Perry.

Most of Dane County's rural settlement was the result of a random, even haphazard pattern of development. At first, newcomers tended to settle where earlier arriving members of their particular ethnic group or place of origin had already settled and this resulted in certain parts of the county becoming especially associated with these groups. Not surprisingly, Yankee settlers were typically the earliest to arrive and they can be identified as the earliest settlers in the majority of the county's townships, but were especially numerous in the central parts of the county in the townships surrounding Madison, townships that contained land that was rich and readily farmed. Such settlers were also the first to make permanent homes in what was to become the Town of Perry.

The town [of Perry] was first settled in the spring of 1846, by John Brown, a native of Indiana, who settled on section 27. John Hobart and Anton Kellar, from Germany, came later in the year, and located on sections 3 and 10. The next year, Shute Rudy and John Sears, from

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Kentucky; John Eastman, from Ohio, and S. H. Campbell settled mostly on the southern border. In February, 1848, B. F. Denson, a native of North Carolina, moved in and settled on Section 34.<sup>10</sup>

While Yankee and German settlers were the first to arrive, it was settlers from Norway that were to give the Town its distinctive ethnic character. Norwegian immigrants were among the most numerous of the early settlers in Dane County and while individuals and families could be found in most of its townships they were concentrated most heavily in the southeast part of the county, on the Koshkonong Prairie, in the townships of Deerfield, Albion, Dunkirk, and Christiana, and in the southwest part in Perry, Primrose, Blue Mounds, Vermont, and Springdale townships.

Over 7500 Norwegians migrated to Wisconsin between 1840 and 1850. Nearly 2700 lived on the Koshkonong Prairie, and about 2000 had settled in the towns of Blue Mounds, Springdale, Perry, and Primrose by 1850.<sup>11</sup>

The earliest Norwegian settlers in what would become the Town of Perry arrived in the summer of 1848.

Prominent among them was Hans Johnson, on section 20; Lars Halverson, on section 17; T. Thompson, on section 17; and Ole O. Bakken, on section 4. The last named bought out a Norwegian who had arrived the year before. The above named individuals may rightfully be considered the pioneers of the town.<sup>12</sup>

These settlers were just the first of what would soon be a large wave of Norwegian settlers into this area. The most successful of those areas in Wisconsin that first received large numbers of Norwegian immigrants had been the Koshkonong settlement in southeast Dane County, which was founded in 1840.

By 1850, it [the Koshkonong settlement] covered twelve townships in two counties (Dane and Jefferson) and had a population of 543 Norwegian families, including 2670 people.

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<sup>10</sup> Durrie, Daniel S. *A History of Madison, the Capital of Wisconsin; Including The Four Lake Country, With an Appendix of Notes on Dane County and its Towns*. Madison: Atwood & Culver, 1874, p. 405.

<sup>11</sup> Ruff, Allen and Tracy Will. *Forward!: A History of Dane: the Capital County*. Cambridge, WI: Woodhenge Press, 2000, p. 75.

<sup>12</sup> Durrie, Daniel S. Op. Cit., p. 405.

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The next major Norwegian immigrant settlement in Wisconsin after Koshkonong was the Blue Mounds Settlement of which the historic Perry Norwegian Settlement was a part. Established in 1848, the Blue Mounds Settlement encompassed some 250 square miles. It extended from Black Earth [south] to Blanchardville and from near New Glarus [west] to Barneveld [in Iowa County]. By the time it reached its apex in the 1880s, the Blue Mounds Settlement was home to about 6000 Norwegians and was organized into eight Norwegian state church-oriented congregations: Perry, Springdale, Primrose, East Blue Mounds, West Blue Mounds, Vermont (initially known as North Blue Mounds), Adamsville (now Hollandale), and York. Unlike the overall Blue Mounds Settlement, each of the individual parishes was small enough that settlers at the southern end knew farmers at the northern end yet [were] inclusive enough that most of an individual's social relations occurred within the parish.<sup>13</sup>

Among those who settled in the Koshkonong settlement in 1848 was Onon Bjornson Dahle (1823-1905).<sup>14</sup> Dahle was born in Ovre Thelemarken, Christiansand Stift, Norway, on October 4, 1823, and subsequently graduated from Hvideseid normal school in 1842. The following is Dahle's own account of his subsequent life and of his journey to and adventures in the United States.

[Dahle] received a good education, and taught six years in his native land; came to America after a four-week voyage, July 7, 1848, proceeding at once to Milwaukee; he soon retraced his steps to Michigan, where malarial fever drove him back to Milwaukee; recovering, he reached Christiana, Dane Co., October, 1848; taught Norwegian school in that and adjoining towns during the winter of 1848-49, worked out in the harvest of 1849, and in the fall formed a partnership with a cousin, K[nut]. H. Dahle; they went to St. Louis, Mo., in October, and that winter cut cordwood on the Illinois side of the river, living in a "dugout," over which a few logs had rolled. "Yet," says Mr. D., "it was one of my happiest winters." The work was very hard, but it paid; April 14, they again visited St. Louis, and from there went on to Independence, where their last dollar was paid for a poor outfit with which to cross the plains to California; they had three Norsemen as partners; and May 3, 1850, with three yoke of oxen joined a large party and started. The "hungry horrors" of that journey will never be effaced from the memory of Mr. Dahle; half-fare from the outset; several of the oxen were killed and eaten; and they were absolutely without food or water during the last forty-mile march before reaching Carson River; at a distance from twelve miles from it, the fainting oxen were unyoked and driven there to drink; only two of the poor brutes were then left; and the Dahles, with a

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<sup>13</sup> Perry Historical Center. *The Historic Perry Norwegian Settlement*. Daleyville, WI: Perry Historical Center, 1994, p. 19.

<sup>14</sup> Most contemporary accounts give Dahle's first name as Onon, which is used here, but it is also frequently (and correctly) spelled *Onun*. Contemporary accounts also frequently use *Daley*, which was Dahle's anglicized name.

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store of fried beef, bade their partners good-by, and started on foot, reaching Georgetown Aug. 24; on the way, they had the good luck to sell some spare clothing for \$24, and then "lived high," though *everything* edible cost \$1 per pound. The failure of their first week's mining disgusted them, and away they went to Sacramento, here they worked at \$75 per month on the levees, when suddenly dysentery broke out among the hands, and terrible sickness was the result. Finally recovering, they went via San Francisco to Salem, Oregon, where they spent the winter in a saw-mill, earning more than enough to purchase an outfit, in which they returned to the mines in Shasta or Eureka; here they spent a most successful summer in mining, and, the water giving out, Mr. D. started to look up better locations. They finally opened up a large claim on Humbug River; here they worked until Christmas; then went again to Shasta, and mined all winter and summer. Mr. D. visited the Rogue River country, and again taken sick, suffered several weeks. In the fall of 1851, they went to San Francisco, and well loaded with gold dust, shipped for home; crossed the isthmus, and arriving at St. Louis, were cruelly swindled out of about \$1,600 while making an exchange of their dust. At St. Louis, they made a resolve to go back to the mines the next spring with a drove of cattle; news reached them, however, of the departure of relatives from Norway; Mr. D. came to Wisconsin to meet his mother and brother; but the former died in Milwaukee before the son could reach her.<sup>15</sup>

Dahle's return to Wisconsin, coupled with the death of his mother and the arrival of his brother, Tarjie, permanently altered his plans to return to California.

Although his mother had died before he arrived, O. B. decided to keep his future linked with Tarjie's. This move had as much to do with changing him from the transient he had been into the community leader he would become, as did the \$5,000 or so he brought back from the gold fields. The two brothers began to look for a community where they could simultaneously pursue the very different lives for which they were suited.

Tarjie apparently sought a community where he could continue a traditional Norwegian peasant way of life and work on a self-sufficient family farm. O.B., on the other hand, apparently sought new opportunities for entrepreneurial and speculative success. The emerging historic Perry Norwegian Settlement had just what both were looking for.

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<sup>15</sup> Butterfield, Consul W. *History of Dane County, Wisconsin*. Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1880, pp. 1096-1097. Dahle later wrote a much fuller account of this period of his life for his family that can be found in Thomas Locke Dahle's 1984 publication: *A History and Genealogy of the Dahle-Kittleson and Locke-Ness Families*. See pp. 129-145.

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When they arrived in the spring of 1853, the settlers had just finished building the second schoolhouse in the community. O.B. and Tarjie were sure to have been taken to see this log structure [non-extant] in the western draw at the head of the valley in which what is now known as Syftestad Creek flows, about 500 feet southeast of the Hans Johnson Dale family's cabin which stood on the southern end of what is now [1994] Roger and Dawn Anderson's farm.

No one had yet bought or improved the 40 acres just to the north of the Dale's 40 from the federal government. So, it was still available at \$1.25 per acre, rather than the higher prices speculators and settlers who had improved their land, but were now moving on, demanded. Moreover, O.B. could see the commercial potential; that this land had to offer.

This land was on a ridge, which along with Clay Hill and an adjoining swatch of level, oak savannah thrusts like a spear point of high ground between the two sets of interconnected valleys which eventually made up the Perry Settlement. This high ground was relatively easily accessible to everyone. This made it a better commercial site than the promontory on which the settlers from the northern set of valleys and the northernmost arm of the southern set of valleys had placed their church the year before. Equally important, a high road from the area's best superhighway, the Military Ridge Road, led directly to this ridge. O.B. could see that the land was a natural town site.

Consequently, he brought the 40 acres — not concerned with the fact that its soil, up there atop the ridge, was bound to be thin and that no technology then available was going to make getting water up there easy — and built a store and log cabin.<sup>16</sup> Tarjie, on the other hand, bought 80 fertile, well-watered acres about a mile west of his brother. ... O.B. became, almost immediately, one of the most visible men in the community. The nearest post office was at Blue Mounds, more than seven miles north of Dahle's new store. Dahle helped organize a private service which hired a person to go to Blue Mounds each week and bring the mail to Dahle's store where he distributed it and collected outgoing mail. This service, which continued until 1857 when the federal government established a special mail route through the community and appointed Anders (Andrew) Sanderson as the first Perry Postmaster, not only relieved residents of what in the 1850s was not an inconsequential trip, but also assured Dahle that many residents, from even the most distant edge of the Perry Settlement, would stop at his store routinely, once a week if possible.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> This land consisted of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 8, Town of Perry.

<sup>17</sup> Perry Historical Center. Op. Cit, pp. 25-26.

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The following year, 1854, Dahle married Betsy Nelson of Racine and when the Town of Perry was officially organized in the same year and held its first elections, Dahle was elected its first Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, Justice of the Peace, and Superintendent of Schools.

Seven months later, when the congregation meeting in the 1852 log church split into two factions over whether to call an ordained minister from Norway and recreate, as close as possible, the State Church of Norway in this new land or to subordinate liturgical worship and the sacraments to the personal experience of awakening and conversion. O.B. Dahle was one of the two men elected to conduct the election of the Trustees at the November 5, 1854 meeting at which the State Church faction organized its own congregation.

By the turn of the year, Dahle had purchased another 40 acres, just south of his initial 40. At a February 19, 1855, meeting at the schoolhouse east of Dahle's store, the newly organized Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran congregation decided to buy two acres of that new land from Dahle for \$1.25 an acre. At a December 27, 1855, meeting at Dahle's home the congregation decided to build a stone church on the land it had bought from him. On March 21, 1856, Dahle was appointed to the two-man building committee for the church.

Thus, by the time the 1858 Christmas Day service was held in what is now [1994] Perry Lutheran Church, Daleyville consisted of the partially finished church, O. B. Dahle's store, his log cabin, the log school down the hill east of the store, [and] two Norwegian immigrant families' farm houses on either side of the school. ... It also included, west of Dahle's store, the Gulbran Renden family's house and, southwest of the store, a "Yankee" family's farm, the Prindables.<sup>18</sup>

The year 1855 had already seen the birth of Onon and Betsy Dahle's first child, Herman Bjorn Dahle (1855-1920), and this was followed, in 1863, by the birth of their first daughter, Marie Dahle (Peterson) (1863-?), and a year later, by their second son, J. Theodore Dahle (1864-1908).

The next year [1864], O. B. Dahle, now married for ten years and the father of several children, built a large stone house north of the church. ... By 1870, O.B. Dahle had built a new, larger (24' - x 50') store directly north of his new house [non-extant]. The next year the Perry Post Office moved into the "village." From 1857 to 1871, the Post Office had been in Andrew Sanderson's farm house. In 1871, the federal government relocated it to Dahle's new store. By

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<sup>18</sup> Perry Historical Center. Op. Cit, p. 26.

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1873, Dr. C.J.B. Hirsch had moved into the village and started a medical practice. Erich Dumholdt had, moreover, opened a blacksmith shop [non-extant] across "the village green" from Dahle's house and store.

By 1877, when the first really comprehensive history of Dane County was published, Onon B. Dahle was already one of the best known and most respected members of the county's sizable Norwegian-American community and this was duly noted in the new publication.

For the growth and progress of Perry, much credit is due to A. Sanderson, the first chairman, and to O. B. Daley, the first clerk. They were both indefatigable in encouraging the settlement and contributing largely to its growth and progress. To O. B. Daley, Esq., is mainly due the honor of getting the Norwegian Lutheran congregation effectively organized, and it may well be said, without exaggeration, that O.B. Daley, Esq., is justly deserving of the universal respect and esteem in which he is held by the community of which he is an honored member.<sup>19</sup>

Dahle was not content to rest on his laurels, however, and in 1877 he established a second dry goods store in the hamlet of Mt. Vernon, which is located in the Town of Springfield seven miles northeast of Daleyville. To run his new store, Dahle chose as his manager and partner his oldest son, Herman B. Dahle, who, after graduating from the University of Wisconsin in that same year, had married Anne Kittleson of Perry. Like his father, Herman Dahle seems to have been able to turn all his ventures into successes and in 1887, after ten successful years in Mt. Vernon, he sold his store and moved with his family to the much larger nearby village of Mt. Horeb, which had railroad facilities and where he had earlier established an ice house (non-extant) that provided cold storage for the butter and eggs distributing business that he had developed as an adjunct to his general store. In Mt. Horeb, Dahle built a new general store (extant) that was subsequently enlarged in 1904 and which was Mt. Horeb's principal retail store until it ceased operations in 1929.<sup>20</sup> In addition, Dahle, his father, and another man also incorporated the State Bank of Mt. Horeb in 1891. In the same year Dahle also brought his brother, Theodore, into the business, and they were subsequently joined by their third brother, Henry L. Dahle (1865-1916). Together, the three sons of Onon B. Dahle would eventually have roles in the economic and social life of Mt. Horeb that were similar in importance to the one their father had had in the history of Daleyville.

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<sup>19</sup> *Madison, Dane County, and Surrounding Towns; Being a History and Guide*. Madison: Wm. J. Park & Co., 1877, p. 296.

<sup>20</sup> *Mount Horeb: Presettlement to 1886*. Mount Horeb Area Historical Society, 1986, pp. 22-23 (illustrated).

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During this period, Onon B. Dahle continued to successfully operate his own general store in Daleyville and most of the houses and the few other places of business in the hamlet that were built in the 1880s and especially the 1890s were constructed on lots that Dahle sold off from his land holdings there. Finally, in 1895, Dahle retired, sold his business and undeveloped land in Daleyville to others, and moved to Mt. Horeb, where the impressive new brick-clad Queen Anne style house at 409 E. Main St. that he built for himself and his wife still stands.<sup>21</sup> A year later, his son Herman ran successfully for the office of U.S. Congressman from this district, an office he would fill until 1902. Finally, on Feb. 17, 1905, Betsy Dahle died in Mt. Horeb and Onon B. Dahle died there shortly thereafter on July 31, 1905 at the age of 82.<sup>22</sup>

It is the forty-two year-period that Onon B. Dahle spent in the Town of Perry, however, that is believed to be the period of his long life during which he gained the significance that makes his Daleyville house eligible for NRHP listing based on its associations with him. Dahle's decision to build a general store in 1853 in a totally rural setting in what was then still a part of the Town of Primrose was the first step in the creation of the community that subsequently developed at this place and it was primarily due to his efforts that this happened. Not only did he create the first retail operation in this part of the county but he also organized the first mail service there, served as its first postmaster, and was instrumental in establishing the Perry Lutheran Evangelical Church, which has been the center of the area's spiritual and social life ever since. He also served as the Town of Perry's first Town Clerk, first Town Treasurer, first Justice of the Peace, and its first Superintendent of Schools and in these multiple roles did more than anyone else to ensure that the fledgling community would achieve success. Dahle's involvement in the community was not limited to just its formative years either. Dahle served for many years as the Superintendent of the Town's schools, he was a Justice of the Peace from 1854 to at least 1880, was elected Town Chairman in 1859, and was officially appointed Postmaster in 1871, a position he still held in 1880. During his years in the hamlet that would eventually bear his name, Dahle built two stores, in 1853 and 1870, and two homes, in 1853 and 1864. Of these, only the stone house that he built in 1864 still survives. It is also now the oldest intact building in this community and it is fitting that this concrete expression of Dahle's success should be the one that has survived to give physical expression to the years he spent in this community.

Architecture

The Onon B. and Betsy Dahle house is believed to be eligible for listing in the NRHP for its local architectural significance first and foremost because it is an excellent rural example of designs that

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<sup>21</sup> *Mount Horeb: Presettlement to 1986*. Op. Cit., p. 51 (illustrated).

<sup>22</sup> *Wisconsin State Journal*. July 31, 1905. Obituary of Onon B. Dahle.

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illustrate the transition that took place in the 1850s in Wisconsin's cities, and somewhat later in its rural countryside, when the formerly dominant Greek Revival style began to give way to the newer, more fashionable Italianate Style. The Dahle house is also a fine example of a locally significant method of construction that saw buildings being built entirely out of locally quarried, regularly coursed ashlar limestone blocks. Both areas of significance are heightened by the excellent, highly intact condition of the house.

The Greek Revival style subsection of the Architecture Study Unit of the CRMP gives the temporal boundaries of the occurrence of this style in Wisconsin as being from 1830-1870 and notes that:

The Greek Revival style is typified by symmetrical and formal patterns that echo classical architecture. Greek Revival buildings are often characterized by porticos and pilasters reflecting the three Grecian orders: Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian. Eaves of Greek Revival buildings are typically detailed to resemble classical cornices and prominent gables are framed with heavy moldings. Roofs tend to be low-pitched and simple and look heavy compared to later styles. In Wisconsin the use of brick, fieldstone, and quarried-rock structures contrasted with clapboard versions more common in other regions of the country.

In addition to those rare examples of relatively pure Greek Revival buildings are the many vernacular structures that are basically astylistic, but which display limited Greek Revival details and possess fairly simple gabled forms. Typically, these vernacular Greek Revival buildings exhibit the rectangular massing, regular fenestration, and returned cornices characteristic of the style. Sometimes, a doorway with transom and sidelights is included. The style is attributed to vernacular buildings with the main façade (entry) either in the long wall or the gable wall.<sup>23</sup>

The Dahle house, with its symmetrical, five-bay-wide, two-story-tall main façade, its centered entrance door enframed by sidelights and transom, and its equal-size six-over-six-light wood sash windows, is essentially a distinctive, characteristic vernacular example of the style as described above. Indeed, all that is lacking in order for it to be classified as a true example of the Greek Revival style is a classical cornice, a gabled roof, and returned eaves. It is especially instructive to compare this house with another very similar, somewhat earlier example that was built in the Town of Berry in northwest Dane County in the early 1850s. This is the Adam Dunlap House, which is located at 9646 Dunlap Hollow Road and was listed in the NRHP in 2001. Like the Dahle house, the Dunlap House is also

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<sup>23</sup> Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). Op. Cit., Vol. 2 (Architecture), p. 2-3.

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symmetrical in design, five-bays-wide, two-stories-tall, has a centered entrance enframed by sidelights and a transom, and has walls that are constructed out of regular coursed ashlar limestone blocks. The Dunlap house even has a sloping site that exposes portions of its basement story. What differentiates these otherwise identical houses is their roofs. The Dunlap house has all the features listed above plus a side gabled main roof and returned cornices. The main block of the Dahle house, however, has a shallow-pitched hip roof with overhanging boxed eaves under which are placed repeated pairs of Italianate Style paired wooden brackets. It is this last feature that marks the Dahle house as a transitional example sharing elements of both styles.

Transitional examples that combine elements of two or more styles can be found that represent every shift in architectural taste in Wisconsin as well as elsewhere in the country, one good example being the Montgomery House in Marshall, Michigan, which is a three-bay-wide, two-story-tall, symmetrically designed, brick-clad example built in 1850 that Virginia & Lee McAlester describe as being a "transitional example [that] combines Italianate brackets under a wide overhang with Greek Revival door and window detailing" in the Greek Revival style section of their *A Field Guide to American Houses*.<sup>24</sup> Such a description applies equally well to the Dahle house, even though it was built fourteen years later.

By the time the Dahle house was under construction the shift in architectural taste in Wisconsin towards the Italianate style was already well underway and examples are common, thanks in part to the great increase in population the state experienced during the period of this style's greatest popularity. The Italianate style subsection of the Architecture Study Unit of the CRMP gives the temporal boundaries of the occurrence of this style in Wisconsin as being from 1850-1880 and notes that:

Italianate houses abound in Wisconsin and have distinctive wide eaves with numerous brackets, gently-sloping hipped or gable roofs, and frequently, a polygonal or square cupola atop the roof. Typically square with boxy proportions, sometimes these houses are "L"-shaped and wrap around a square three-story tower. Frequently, windows have hoodmolds or even pediments, and sometimes they are round-headed. Nearly every Wisconsin city and village has its examples, often surviving in near-original form in upper-story wood, stone, or iron hoodmolds, brackets, and cornices.<sup>25</sup>

The Dahle house is much more deeply rooted in the Greek Revival style than the Italianate. Nevertheless, it is a fine distinctive, representative transitional example that combines elements of both and it is

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<sup>24</sup> McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *Op. Cit.*, pp. 186-187.

<sup>25</sup> Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). *Op. Cit.*, Vol. 2 (Architecture), p. 2-6.

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believed that its intact survival adds significantly to knowledge about architectural tastes in rural Dane County in the period during which it was built.

Besides being a significant example of architectural design, the Dahle house is also notable for its method of construction, its exterior walls being fashioned completely out of large, regularly coursed ashlar limestone blocks. Indeed, when one considers that The Town of Perry was never, historically, a rich farming area, it is remarkable that all of the houses and other buildings that were constructed of stone in the Town of Perry utilized the expensive dressed ashlar method of construction rather than the less expensive coursed rubble stone method that was more frequently employed in examples in other western Dane County Towns such as Berry and Roxbury. Not that their numbers are numerous, however. The recently completed Town of Perry Intensive Survey found just five surviving historic buildings of all types in the Town whose walls are constructed entirely out of stone.<sup>26</sup> Besides the Onon B. Dahle house, these buildings also include: the Gulbert & Bertha Jensvold house located at 1033 STH 78 and built in 1868; the Perry Evangelical Lutheran Church located across the highway at 1051 STH 78, both of which are also in Daleyville; the Italianate Style Hans Grinder house located at 693 STH 78 and built in the 1870s, and the Syftestad Farm's stone barn, which is located across the highway at 666-670 STH 78. What is notable is that all five of these buildings have walls that were fashioned out of large, locally quarried ashlar limestone blocks of uniform size that was laid in regular courses. In addition, the houses also have raised mortar joints as well, a feature that was usually found on only the finest stone buildings of the period such as North Hall (1851, NHL - 10/15/66) on the University of Wisconsin campus in Madison.

The Onon B. and Betsy Dahle house utilizes the same construction method as the other buildings listed above, including the use of raised mortar joints, and it is arguably also the most intact example of this method of construction as well, thanks to its continued history of good maintenance. Regrettably, no information has been found on the builder of Dahle's house and this is true for the Town's other stone buildings as well, with the exception of the Perry Lutheran Church. Church records show that the foundation of the church was laid in 1856 by Gunholf Jackson and that Wilhelm Larson was the chief mason in charge of erecting the walls, which happened in the following year.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> Heggland, Timothy F. *Town of Perry Intensive Survey Report*. Town of Perry: 2006. At least two other buildings in the Town are also known to have utilized ashlar limestone stone blocks for their exterior walls: the first school built for the Forward School District, built in 1875; and the first school building built for the Tyvand School District, built in 1873. Both of these one-story Front Gable vernacular form buildings have since been demolished but photos of them survive and are included in *The Historic Perry Norwegian Settlement* cited elsewhere. See pp. 91 & 107.

<sup>27</sup> *The Historic Perry Norwegian Settlement*. Op. Cit., p. 191.

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Other nearby townships are richer in examples of the stone building tradition than Perry. In fact, northwestern Dane County and the adjacent part of Sauk County is an area that is specifically singled out in the Stone subsection of the Construction Materials and Methods section of the CRMP for its associations with this technique and for its "distinctive stonework."<sup>28</sup> Much of this stonework, however, consists of coursed rubble stone construction that is accented by ashlar stone work, which is typically found at the corners and around doors and windows. The tradition of building with large ashlar stones is much more prevalent in the Mineral Point area in Iowa County, which is located about twelve miles to the west of the Town of Perry. Here, the stone work was the product of Cornish and Welsh stone masons who built numerous buildings in and around this earliest of Southwest Wisconsin cities in the 1850s and 1860s, and it is possible that this work and the similarity in the building stone that was available in both places acted as an influence on those early settlers in Perry who were striving for permanence and possibly a degree of opulence in their buildings.

Summary

The Onon B. Dahle house is therefore believed to be eligible for listing in the NRHP at the local level of significance because it is both a fine example of transitional Greek Revival/Italianate style design and also an excellent example of a stone building technique that is a local tradition in its vicinity. Although relatively simple in its overall design, the Dahle house gains additional dignity from its massive stone walls, from the high quality of the materials used throughout, and from the care with which these materials were worked. All of these qualities have been preserved and enhanced during the present ownership.

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<sup>28</sup> Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). *Op. Cit.*, Vol. 2 (Architecture), pp. 4-6 and 4-7. The most distinctive stone work utilizes the "block and stack" technique, which consists of large cut blocks of stone that alternate with smaller stacks of unfinished or less finished stones.

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**Boundary Description**

The property that is the subject of this nomination consists of the easternmost 1.25 acres of the larger 10.95-acre parcel that is currently associated with the property. This larger parcel is described as follows: Lot 4, Certified Survey Map (CSM) CS60/318-320, 2/18/2002. F/K/A CSM 3641 & Assessors Plat of Daleyville, Outlot 6. Located in Section 8-5-6, part of SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, & Section 17-5-6, part of NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> (10.94 Acres exclusive of R/W). Subject to and together with joint driveway easement agreement [recorded] in Document #3853154.

This 1.25-acre parcel is described as follows: Beginning at a point that corresponds to the NE corner of the parcel, which is that is formed by the intersection of the east-west running Evergreen Ave. and the north-south running STH 78, the boundary then runs S along the W curblineline of STH 78 approx. 120-feet to the SE corner of the parcel. The boundary then turns 90° and continues W along the S lot line of the parcel a distance of 400-feet, then turns 90° and continues N for a distance of approx. 120-feet, then turns 90° and continues E along the N curblineline of Evergreen Ave. to the POB. This parcel encloses approx. 1.25-acres.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary encloses that portion of the original property that immediately surrounds the house and its associated outbuilding. This is the land that has historically been associated with the house and it omits extraneous agricultural lands that lack a significant connection to the house. The 10.95-acre parcel that now comprises this property was originally part of a much larger parcel that Onon B. Dahle owned during his lifetime (he owned at least 80 acres in 1890). The 1.25 easternmost acres of this 10.95-acre parcel contain Dahle's house and his adjacent barn, the eastern boundary of this smaller portion being the west edge of the north-south running STH 78 and the northern boundary, the south edge of the east-west running one block-long Evergreen Ave. The remaining 9.70-acres of this parcel are believed to be extraneous for the purposes of this nomination.

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Items a-d are the same for photos 1 - 13.

Photo 1

- a) Dahle, Onon B. and Betsy, House
- b) Town of Perry, Dane County, WI
- c) Timothy F. Heggland, November 2006
- d) Wisconsin Historical Society
- e) Main Facade, View looking S
- f) Photo 1 of 13

Photo 2

- e) Main Facade, View looking S
- f) Photo 2 of 13

Photo 3

- e) East-Facing Side Elevation, View looking W
- f) Photo 3 of 13

Photo 4

- e) North-Facing Rear Elevation, View looking N
- f) Photo 4 of 13

Photo 5

- e) General View, View looking SE
- f) Photo 5 of 13

Photo 6

- e) Barn, View looking WSW
- f) Photo 6 of 13

Photo 7

- e) Barn, View looking SE
- f) Photo 7 of 13

Photo 8

- e) Entrance Hall Foyer, View looking N
- f) Photo 8 of 13

Photo 9

- e) Entrance Hall Stairs, View facing S
- f) Photo 9 of 13

Photo 10

- e) Living Room seen from Entrance Hall, View looking W
- f) Photo 10 of 13

Photo 11

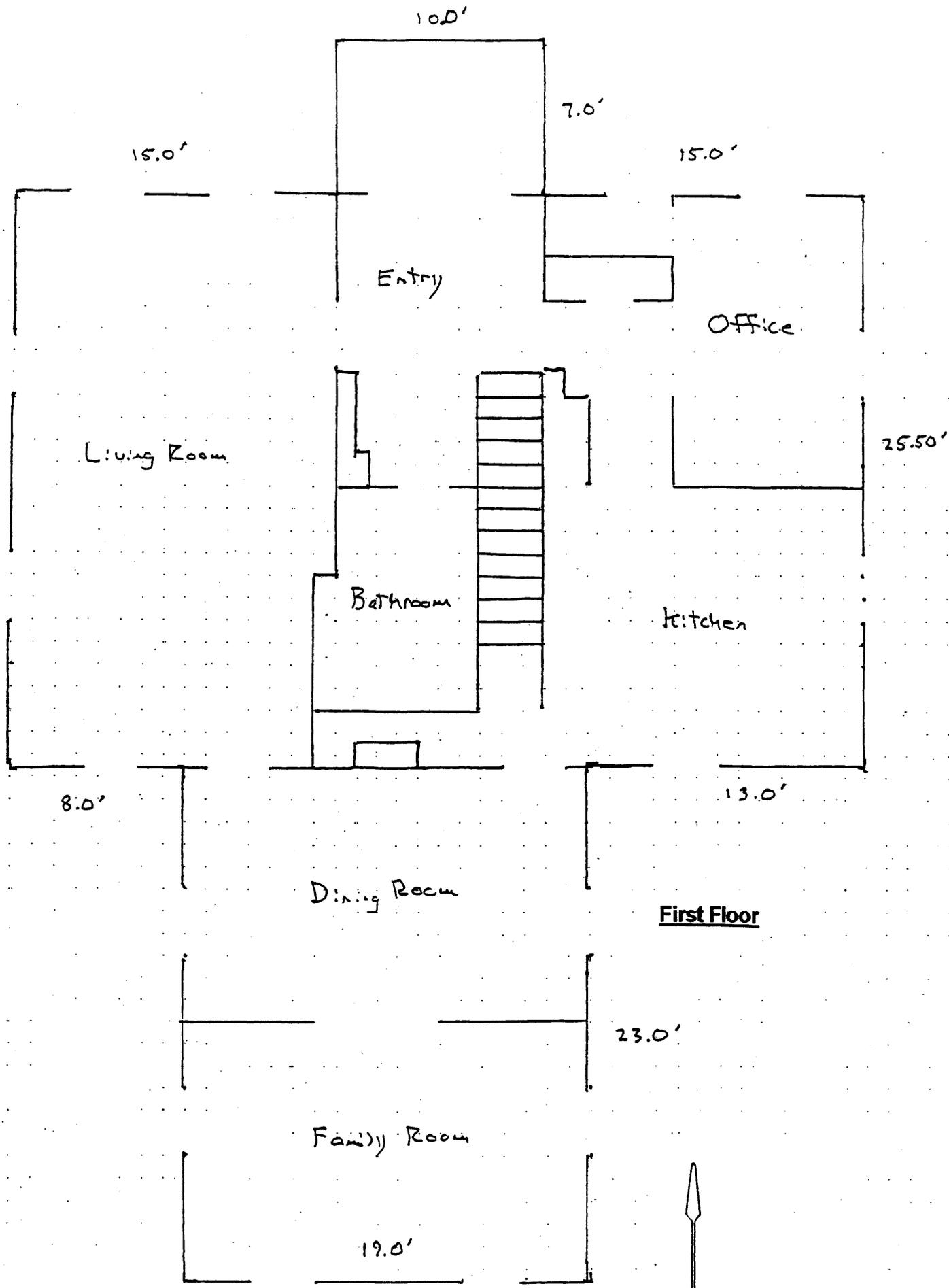
- e) Living Room, View looking SW
- f) Photo 11 of 13

Photo 12

- e) Dining Area and Family Room, View looking SW
- f) Photo 12 of 13

Photo 13

- e) Dining Room, View looking N w/ Living Room on Left
- f) Photo 13 of 13



**Figure #1**

**Onon B. and Betsy Dahle House**  
 10779 Evergreen Avenue  
 Town of Perry, Dane County, Wisconsin



**Figure #2**

**Onon B. and Betsy Dahle House**  
10779 Evergreen Avenue  
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