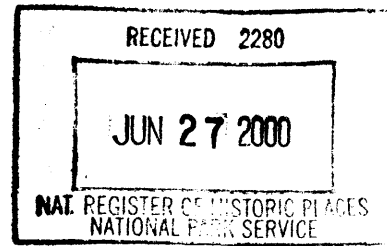


United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

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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 Bigelow School
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 4228 West Bonniwell Road N/A not for publication
city or town Mequon N/A vicinity
state Wisconsin code WI county Ozaukee code 89 zip code 53097

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.)

Alicia Z. Cooney June 20, 2000
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Deputy 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

Bigelow School
Name of Property

Ozaukee
County and State

Wisconsin

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 ___ See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the
 National Register.
 ___ See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the
 National Register.
 ___ See continuation sheet.
 removed from the National
 Register.
 other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall

7/27/00

for

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

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

private
___ public-local
___ public-State
___ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

building(s)
___ district
___ structure
___ site
___ object

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

contributing		noncontributing	
1		3	buildings
			sites
			structures
			objects
1		3	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)
EDUCATION/School

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
Foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Asphalt

other Stone

Narrative Description

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

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 1 Bigelow School
Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

DESCRIPTION

The Bigelow School is a former rural school building that sits along a country road in the northeastern quarter of the suburban city of Mequon, Wisconsin. Originally a rural town in Ozaukee County located just north of the city of Milwaukee, Mequon today is an incorporated city that is now about half filled with residential subdivisions of predominantly large homes. The remaining half of the city is still largely rural, consisting of farm land, old farmsteads, and occasional suburban houses, although every year, new subdivisions encroach into the rural portions of the city. The northeastern quarter of the city, where the old Bigelow School is located, is one of the areas that is still largely rural, but suburban development is only a couple of sections away.

The old school building, which has been converted into a single family residence, sits on a large, partially wooded site with a moderate set back from Bonniwell Road. An asphalt-paved semi-circular driveway runs from the road past the front entrance of the building. The topography of the site is flat in the front of the building, then the land slopes at a moderate pitch behind the building to a large, relatively level, back yard. The front lawn is densely interspersed with mature trees, primarily large conifers that partially obscure the building from the road. The rear yard is bordered by large, mature, primarily deciduous trees.

Like most rural schools, the Bigelow School was never formally landscaped. The first Bigelow School was located southwest of this building, closer to the road, and the front yard of the current building was used as a playground. An old piece of playground equipment is still extant. The rear yard was probably used for a ball field or for other games and was probably kept as open space. Some of the mature trees on the site may date from the era when the property was used for school purposes, but most of the large conifers in the front yard probably date from the 1960s, when the school was converted into a residence.

The school building, itself, has a one-story rectangular main block sitting on a tall, raised foundation. The building is accented with simple Classical Revival details and features a massive hip roof with wide, overhanging eaves. The walls are constructed of dark red bricks in a common bond. A belt course of vertical bricks separates the first story from the raised basement story and it is accented at the corners with small paneled limestone blocks. Similar blocks accent an oblong brick molding around a limestone panel above the main entrance to the building. On this limestone panel are engraved the words "Bigelow School."

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 2 Bigelow School
Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

The limestone panel is one of the decorative features of the entry pavilion, which projects from the southeast corner of the south-facing main elevation. Under the limestone panel is the main entrance to the building. It consists of a mid-twentieth century paneled door flanked by sidelights. This door and the sidelights are replacements for the school's original double front doors. Above the door is an original fanlight and the entire entrance is decorated with a round arch brick surround. The arch is accented by a large paneled stone keystone that matches the design of the limestone blocks. Two enclosed openings sit in the upper side walls of the entry pavilion, and a bronze plaque decorates the east wall. This plaque is engraved with the school's date of construction, the school board members at the time it was built, and the architect of the building.

The brick walls of the building are punctuated with a number of window openings. The most prominent are the six-over-one light double-hung sashes in the main elevation's first story and its raised foundation wall and the raised foundation wall of the west elevation. The main elevation's first story openings are decorated with flat brick lintels and all of the main elevation's windows are also currently flanked by decorative wooden shutters. A group of these same windows was originally located on the first story of the west elevation as well, but these have either been replaced with smaller modern sashes or with wood siding.

The window openings of the east and rear elevations of the building are more irregularly spaced and, in some cases, smaller than those on the other two elevations, and they contain simple sashes or single panes. On the first story, though, the openings are also decorated with flat brick lintels.

Also on the site are three outbuildings, all built after the school was closed and the property became residential. The largest of these outbuildings is a "pole" type barn in the rear yard. It is a one-story gable-roofed structure with vertical wood siding and shed overhangs on both the north and south side elevations. Large doors on the main elevation lead into this outbuilding, which has been used for animal and equipment storage. The modern garage sits just to the east of the school building. It features a gable roof, wide siding, and a large garage door. A small shed sits just to the southwest of the building. It has a gable roof and wood siding. All three of these buildings are non-contributing to the property.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 3 Bigelow School
Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

The interior of the Bigelow School has been remodeled into a two-story residence. Much of this remodeling occurred during the 1960s, when the building was first converted from a schoolhouse. The original interior consisted of a large classroom on the first floor and a combination gymnasium-cafeteria in the basement. Because of the needs of residential living, this floor plan has been largely altered, although there are still some interior school features extant.

The interior of the entry pavilion consists of a small foyer and a wide staircase that both leads up to the former classroom area, and down to the old gymnasium-cafeteria. Although the original school entry doors are not extant, the original staircase has all of its features, including a wide baseboard, wide steps, and a wooden baluster attached to the wall with metal fixtures. The stairs are currently carpeted.

The former gymnasium is currently used as a living room-kitchen, separated by a partial brick wall. A raised floor was placed over the original concrete floor of the school's gymnasium and modern carpeting and flooring have been applied to this subfloor. Modern paneling and wallboard was placed over the original walls of this level and kitchen cabinets and a fireplace were added. The ceiling is covered with paneling and is decorated with wooden beams. Also added on this level were closets and a bathroom.

The first floor of the building was once the classroom, and it has been partitioned into four rooms plus a bathroom with the addition of walls and doors. Also, the area above the staircase in the entry pavilion has been converted into loft space. In the old classroom area, the four rooms include a small family room and three bedrooms. The original wooden classroom floor is carpeted in the family room and two of the bedrooms. In the third bedroom, though, the original wood floor is exposed, along with some of the original classroom features, including a built-in bookshelf and set of drawers, and an old-fashioned blackboard. The ceilings of all of the rooms on this level are dropped ceilings of modern acoustical tile. The original ceilings of the classroom are still extant above the dropped ceiling.

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Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 4

Bigelow School
Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

The remodeling of the interior was completed prior to the present owner's occupancy. The present owner hopes to restore some of the old school features to the building, including the original front entrance, the west elevation windows, and some of the interior details. Since the original floor of the classroom is still extant, as well as the ceiling, features of this room could be restored by removing the modern materials, such as carpeting and ceiling tiles. In spite of the changes to both the physical appearance and the use of the building, the former school retains good architectural integrity. The overall condition of the school building is excellent, as it has been well-maintained both during its school years and its years as a residence.

Bigelow School
Name of Property

Ozaukee
County and State

Wisconsin

8. Statement of Significance

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

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Education

Period of Significance

1929-1949 (1)

Significant Dates

1929 (2)

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Redden, William J. (2)

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 1 Bigelow School
Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

The Bigelow School is being nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C at the local level. It is being nominated under criterion A for history because it best represents the growth and development of the Mequon school system at a time when the city was still a rural town. Four new rural schools were built in Mequon in 1929 and 1930, modernizing much of the town's existing system of rural one-room schools. Although these new schools were also one-room schools, the buildings were larger and more substantial than the old schools they replaced and included modern facilities such as gymnasiums. These new schools were the culmination of the growth and development of Mequon's school system prior to the school consolidation movement of the 1960s, and the Bigelow School is the best remaining example of this era.

The Bigelow School is also being nominated under criterion C, architecture, because it is a fine example of a simple Classical Revival building and because it is a good example of a rural school building constructed during a formative period in Mequon's educational history. It is a good example of an endangered resource type, an early twentieth century one-room schoolhouse, and is the last of this type of school building to be constructed in Mequon. Because of its good level of integrity, the Bigelow School can be studied to help understand the growth and development of rural school buildings in Wisconsin during the pre-Great Depression era.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Land in southern Wisconsin was opened up for formal settlement shortly after the Blackhawk War of 1832, when white militias defeated the last resistance effort of Native Americans to signing over their land rights. White settlement began in Mequon in 1835 when the federal government allowed the sale of some of the land in southern Wisconsin, including the area in Mequon east of Range Line Road. Land west of Range Line Road was officially sold in 1839, but some of this land was settled as early as 1836 by "squatters" who did not hold official title until the sale in 1839. (3)

Like most of southern Wisconsin, the first settlers in Mequon were Yankees who came to the area to exploit the water power of the Milwaukee River and its tributaries and to farm the fertile soil of the town. Moving settlers through the area was the old Indian Trail which ran north to Green Bay. This old trail ran north from Milwaukee along the Milwaukee River to Saukville, then traveled along the western shore of Lake Michigan to Manitowoc, before moving inland again to Fort Howard at Green Bay. In 1835, the federal government

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 2 Bigelow School
Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

surveyed the trail for use as a military road between Fort Dearborn in Chicago and Fort Howard. The military road followed the trail between Milwaukee and Saukville, but north to Green Bay, the road ran through Sheboygan Falls and Manitowoc Rapids before returning to the old trail to Green Bay. The military importance of this road ceased when the government abandoned the forts at Chicago and Green Bay, but the road became an important transportation route for early settlement in eastern Wisconsin and in Mequon. (4)

During the early 1840s, some of the most intensive settlement occurred in Mequon. Joining the Yankee families were many groups of German immigrants and a number of Irish immigrants, as well. The German immigrants, though, made the most significant architectural and cultural contribution to Mequon. The first Germans in Mequon were William Opitz, his father and mother, and his sister and brother-in-law who immigrated in 1839. About a half dozen families from Saxony, led by Andreas Geidel, also came in 1839, creating the Altenburg Settlement along what is now Wauwatosa Road. A larger German immigrant group that came in 1839 became one of the most significant German groups in Mequon. This group consisted of about 40 families from Pomerania who settled in western Mequon and established a community known as "Freystatt" (Freistadt). Known as "Old Lutherans," these Germans left Germany rather than join the state church. By 1850, many more German families settled in Mequon, filling in all the available land of the town (5)

In the center of the old town of Mequon, a village grew up during the 1840s. Named Thiensville for John Thien, who built the first grist mill, the community grew into a thriving village during the nineteenth century. Freistadt was another village that grew up in Mequon during the nineteenth century. Although much smaller than Thiensville, Freistadt was located in the heart of the German immigrant community and by 1880, it had two churches, a general store, a post office, two shops, and about 24 houses. Other concentrations of houses appeared at the crossroads of the town's major arteries, but none developed into villages like Freistadt or Thiensville. (6)

The old town of Mequon was originally a part of the large Old Washington County, established in 1836. Officially, the Town of Mequon was established in 1846, and in 1853, Washington County was split into two counties and Mequon became a town in the new Ozaukee County. For most of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Mequon was a rural town surrounding the village of Thiensville. Many of the town's farms were large, and some families held several hundred acres of land at a time. The rural character of the town can be seen in its population during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In 1850, Mequon's population was 2,100 and it would stay between 2,500 and 3,000 through the Great Depression of the 1930s. (7)

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Section 8 Page 3 Bigelow School
Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

During the early twentieth century, the beginnings of Mequon's suburbanization could be seen along the major arteries of the town. During the 1910's and 1920's, bungalows were built on large suburban-style lots that were divided off of farm land along Cedarburg, Green Bay, Freistadt, Wauwatosa, and Port Washington roads. Also during this time, especially along the Milwaukee River and the Lake Michigan shoreline, some wealthy families built suburban estates featuring fine Period Revival style homes. (8)

Despite these developments, the rural character of the town so prevailed that the citizens did not even build a formal town hall during most of its history, rather, town officials conducted meetings in private homes. But, by the late 1930s, the necessity for a modern government building was met with the construction of the Mequon Town Hall in 1939. The new town hall housed offices and the fire department. A swimming pool and bath house were also erected next the town hall building. (9)

After World War II, modern subdivisions began to appear in Mequon, which was just a short automobile trip from Milwaukee. During the 1950s and 1960s, Mequon began losing its rural identity in favor of one as a Milwaukee suburb. In fact, between 1940 and 1960, the population of the town more than doubled to 8,543 residents, and most of the growth was due to the new subdivisions and modern houses being built in the town. But even with this growth, the town of Mequon still largely resembled a rural community. (10)

During the 1950's, Mequon's residents became concerned about town property being annexed to either Thiensville in the town itself, or to cities to the north and south of the town. The town citizens' solution was to incorporate, which was completed on May 24, 1957, making Mequon an official city. In 1970, the now city of Mequon's population had grown to over 12,000 residents, and fueled by continued suburban development, the population in Mequon in 1980 was slightly over 16,000. (11)

During the 1980s and 1990s, favorable economic conditions resulted in skyrocketing suburban development in the city of Mequon, and today, almost the entire eastern half of the once-rural town of Mequon is filled with suburban residential development. The city is now considered a suburb of Milwaukee, not a farm community, although many areas in the western half of the city are still filled with fields and farmsteads. But, most of the farmsteads are now occupied by non-farmers and it may be only a matter of time before the remaining fields are filled with houses as suburban development moves west. Because of this type of suburban pressure, it has been and continues to be, a challenge to maintain the historic rural features of the city's history.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 4 Bigelow School
Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

ARCHITECTURE

The Bigelow School is locally significant for architecture because it is a good example of a Classical Revival style-influenced rural school building. It is also significant for being a fine, largely intact example of an endangered resource type. It is an early twentieth century rural one-room school building; this being the last era when this type of school was constructed in Mequon. Adding to the building's significance is its good level of integrity; it is the best preserved of all of Mequon's existing historic public school buildings. The 1990-completed intensive survey of the city of Mequon noted that eight historic elementary school buildings were then still extant in the city. Of these eight buildings, seven were one-room public schools. The Bigelow School has the fewest alterations and has retained the best architectural and historic integrity of these seven.

The Bigelow School has details from the Classical Revival architectural style, a still-popular style when the school was constructed in 1929. According to Wisconsin's *Cultural Resource Management Plan*, the Classical Revival style was popular in Wisconsin between 1895 and 1935. The style was developed by prominent architects in the United States, many of whom studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. The style was further popularized at the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago, a world's fair that featured a "white city" of formal, classical buildings painted white. Classical Revival buildings usually have symmetrical form and massing and heavy classical details. Because Classical Revival details are usually so formal and weighty, the style was used primarily for public and institutional buildings. (12)

The use of the Classical Revival style for the Bigelow School was both a typical and unusual choice. It was typical because in 1929, the Classical Revival style was still a popular style for institutional buildings in Wisconsin. It was an unusual choice because the Classical Revival style was not normally used for small buildings such as a rural school house. Even though the classical details are simple, they make the Bigelow School a very stylish building for a rural school. The hip roof, multi-light window openings, red brick exterior, and round-arched entrance with fanlight are well-executed and well-proportioned details that do not overwhelm what is essentially a small building. Instead, these details give this small school an elegant and formal appearance that suggests its important use and belies the fact that it is a small rural school building.

The Bigelow School is also important as a good example of a highly endangered resource type, this being a one-room schoolhouse built in the early twentieth century. By 1929, the construction of one-room schools was on the wane.

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Section 8 Page 5 Bigelow School
Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

Educators and state officials were pushing rural consolidation and some rural districts were building larger, multi-room schools to provide more modern facilities for rural children. Mequon, though, clung to its one-room school tradition, erecting four new one-room schools in 1929 and 1930. These schoolhouses included modern facilities and gymnasiums, but kept the one-room tradition alive. Of the four schools built in Mequon in 1929 and 1930, the Bigelow School is the most intact and best surviving example and it represents the culmination of the one-room system in the town.

Preservation of Mequon's rural heritage as the city becomes increasingly suburban is important, and the Bigelow School, the best example of twentieth century rural school construction in the city, is an important architectural resource that reflects the city's rural educational system. The building has a good level of integrity on the exterior and is the best preserved of all the 1929-30 schools buildings in the city. Although the interior has been remodeled, some of the old school features are still extant, such as the staircase, wooden classroom floor, blackboard and cabinet, and probably the original classroom ceiling; and the current owner has plans to eventually uncover and restore more of the interior details. Despite the loss of integrity on the interior, the Bigelow School still has the overall appearance of a schoolhouse, one of Mequon's important architectural resources.

EDUCATION

The Bigelow School is also being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places because it is the best example of the last one-room schools that were built in the town of Mequon. The one-room school house was one of the most common features of the rural Wisconsin landscape in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, but by 1930 this type of school was rapidly being replaced by larger consolidated schools. Mequon was unusual in clinging to the one-room school type long after it had fallen out of favor elsewhere in the state and the town's remaining examples are thus some of the last of this type to be built in Wisconsin. Of the four Mequon examples built in 1929-1930, the Bigelow School is both the best and the most intact.

The first "public" schools in America were usually only partially funded by the public. The remainder of their funding came from subscriptions, fees, or supplies and services provided to the school or teacher. The first national school-organization law was passed in 1841, but most schools were locally controlled by teachers and/or local school boards. In the 1840s, a movement to establish entirely free public education took hold. Led by Horace Mann of Massachusetts, this movement was strong in antebellum New England. When New Englanders began coming to Wisconsin in the 1830s, they brought the idea with

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Section 8 Page 6 Bigelow School
Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

them. The Wisconsin Constitution of 1848 contained a provision for the establishment of free, universal education to be supported by state funding and local taxes. But this idea was not well-implemented, and Wisconsin's early schools were often poorly equipped, ungraded, and poorly attended. During the late nineteenth century, and especially during the twentieth century, new state and local laws in Wisconsin promoted increased attendance, graded schools, better qualified teachers, and eventually large, consolidated school districts. (13)

Because most of the state's population in the nineteenth century was widely dispersed in rural areas, most school districts in Wisconsin were small, rural, and totally local. In fact, by 1900, there were 6,529 school districts in Wisconsin, of which 6,185 were in charge of one-room schools. After 1900, educators and state officials began to push for a consolidation of most of these districts in order to improve school facilities and educational curriculum for rural children. But many rural areas fought consolidation efforts because residents feared loss of local control, or had a disinterest in "modern" educational methods, or assumed that better education would draw children away from farm and rural life. Little progress was made toward consolidation in rural areas by World War II, when Wisconsin still had over 6,000 one-room school districts in its rural areas. (14)

Because rural school districts would not consolidate voluntarily, state officials began to force consolidation, first by restricting state educational aids to schools with low populations, then by forcing districts to consolidate through administrative procedures or state law. Success in consolidation of rural schools came only during the 1960's, when state law forcing school consolidation was enforced. During that decade, most existing rural schools were closed. The few new rural schools constructed during the last 30 years were not built by independent school districts, but were connected to urban school systems and were built only because rural populations deemed them necessary. And, these schools were not the small, rural schools of the early or even mid-twentieth century. They were full-fledged six to eight-year elementary schools with all of the amenities of urban schools. (15)

The history of Mequon's rural school system is typical of rural districts throughout Wisconsin, and the city retained its one-room school tradition as long as possible. The first settlers in Mequon opened a school as early as 1839 in a log house. This cabin was owned by Peter Turck and his 17-year-old daughter, Mary, acted as school teacher until 1840. The first building constructed specifically for public school purposes was the log cabin "Bonniwell School," built in 1843 on land owned by the Bonniwell family. The Bonniwells were one of the largest families to settle in Mequon, arriving in

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Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 7 Bigelow School
Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

1839 with 21 family members. The Bonniwells purchased over 800 acres of land and their large family necessitated a formal school. (16)

Three years earlier, though, the German settlers of Freistadt had also constructed a log cabin school building. This school was a church school, but it eventually became a public school also, supported by tax dollars. It operated in this dual capacity until the 1890s, when the State of Wisconsin ordered a separation between the church school and the public school. In 1899, a public school in the area, Lindenwood School, was built, and the old Freistadt Lutheran elementary school was replaced by a new church school in 1927. (17)

By 1849, Mequon had four schools outside of Thiensville, including the quasi-parochial school at Freistadt. During the remainder of the nineteenth century, more schools were built in the town, and at one time there were as many as 14 school districts in the old town of Mequon. Most of these were stone or frame construction one-room school buildings. Town of Mequon residents retained their one-room school district system well into the twentieth century, rejecting state suggestions to consolidate. The adherence to this type of system was further cemented in 1929-30, when new school buildings were needed. Instead of forming small consolidated rural districts and building larger multi-room schools, four of Mequon's districts built new, modern one-room schools, including the Bigelow School. The Bigelow School was named for one of Mequon's earliest settlers, Isaac Bigelow, who came to the town in 1836. (18)

The adherence to the one-room school in Mequon may have stemmed from the town's heavily German population, who wanted to use the schools to retain their ethnic heritage, or it may have stemmed from the general fear of rural Wisconsinites of school consolidation discussed earlier. The result was that the new schools built in 1929-30 in Mequon were the last of their kind in the old town and they were the culmination of the growth and development of the one-room school system in the city.

Consequently, the Bigelow School is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places because it is a good example of an early twentieth century rural one-room school, an historically significant resource type. The four one-room schools built during 1929-30 in Mequon provided modern, updated facilities for local children while still retaining the old system of rural education preferred by local residents and the Bigelow School has the highest level of integrity of these four.

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Section 8 Page 8 Bigelow School
Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

Notes to Section 8:

(1) The period of significance includes the years during which this building was used as a rural school in the Town of Mequon.

(2) The date of construction and the name of the architect are embossed in the plaque attached to the east wall of the building.

(3) Don Silldorff, "Mequon's Early One Room Schools," April 1996, unpublished manuscript on file in the Planning Department, City of Mequon, Mequon City Hall, Mequon, Wisconsin, p. 2; Carol Lohry Cartwright, Donald Silldorff, and Sharon C. Robinson, *City of Mequon Intensive Survey Report*, Mequon: City of Mequon, 1990, p. 8.

(4) *Ibid.*

(5) Silldorff, p. 3.

(6) Cartwright, et. al., pp. 9-10.

(7) *Ibid.*, pp. 10-11.

(8) *Ibid.*, p. 12.

(9) *Ibid.*, pp. 11-12.

(10) *Ibid.*, p. 12.

(11) *Ibid.*, pp. 12-13.

(12) Barbara Wyatt, ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, Vol. II, Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, Architecture, p. 2-18.

(13) *Ibid.*, Vol. III, Education, pp. 2-1--2-10.

(14) William F. Thompson, *The History of Wisconsin Volume VI Continuity and Change, 1940-1965*, Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1988, pp. 494-495.

(15) *Ibid.*, pp. 496-506.

(16) Silldorff, p. 4.

(17) *Ibid.*

(18) *Ibid.*, pp. 4-5.

Bigelow School
Name of Property

Ozaukee
County and State

Wisconsin

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 4.75 acres

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

1	<u>1/6</u>	<u>4/2/1/9/6/0</u>	<u>4/7/9/0/5/6/0</u>	3	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	4	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		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	Carol Lohry Cartwright	date	7/1/99
organization	prepared for Mequon Landmarks Commission	telephone	(414) 473-6820
street & number	W7646 Hackett Rd.	zip code	53190
city or town	Whitewater	state	WI

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Section 9 Page 1 Bigelow School

Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cartwright, Carol Lohry, Donald Silldorff, and Sharon C. Robinson. *City of Mequon Intensive Survey Report*. Mequon: City of Mequon, 1990.

Silldorff, Don. "Mequon's Early One Room Schools," April 1996. Unpublished manuscript on file in the Planning Department, City of Mequon, Mequon City Hall, Mequon, Wisconsin.

Thompson, William F. *The History of Wisconsin Volume VI Continuity and Change, 1940-1966*. Madison, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1988.

Wyatt, Barbara, ed. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, Vols. II & III*. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986.

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Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The verbal boundary description of this property is as follows: Beginning at the intersection of the east lot line of 4228 W. Bonniwell Rd. and the right-of-way of Bonniwell Rd., then north 553 feet along the east lot line of 4228 W. Bonniwell Rd. to the north lot line of 4228 W. Bonniwell Rd., then west 375 feet along this line to the west lot line of 4228 W. Bonniwell Rd., then south 553 feet along this line to the right-of-way of Bonniwell Rd., then east 375 feet along this line to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This boundary includes the Bigelow School and the land historically associated with its site.

Bigelow School
Name of Property

Ozaukee
County and State

Wisconsin

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title	Thomas and Karen Hodgert		
organization		date	
street&number	4228 W. Bonniwell Rd.	telephone	(414) 242-3095
city or town	Mequon	state	WI
		zip code	53097

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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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

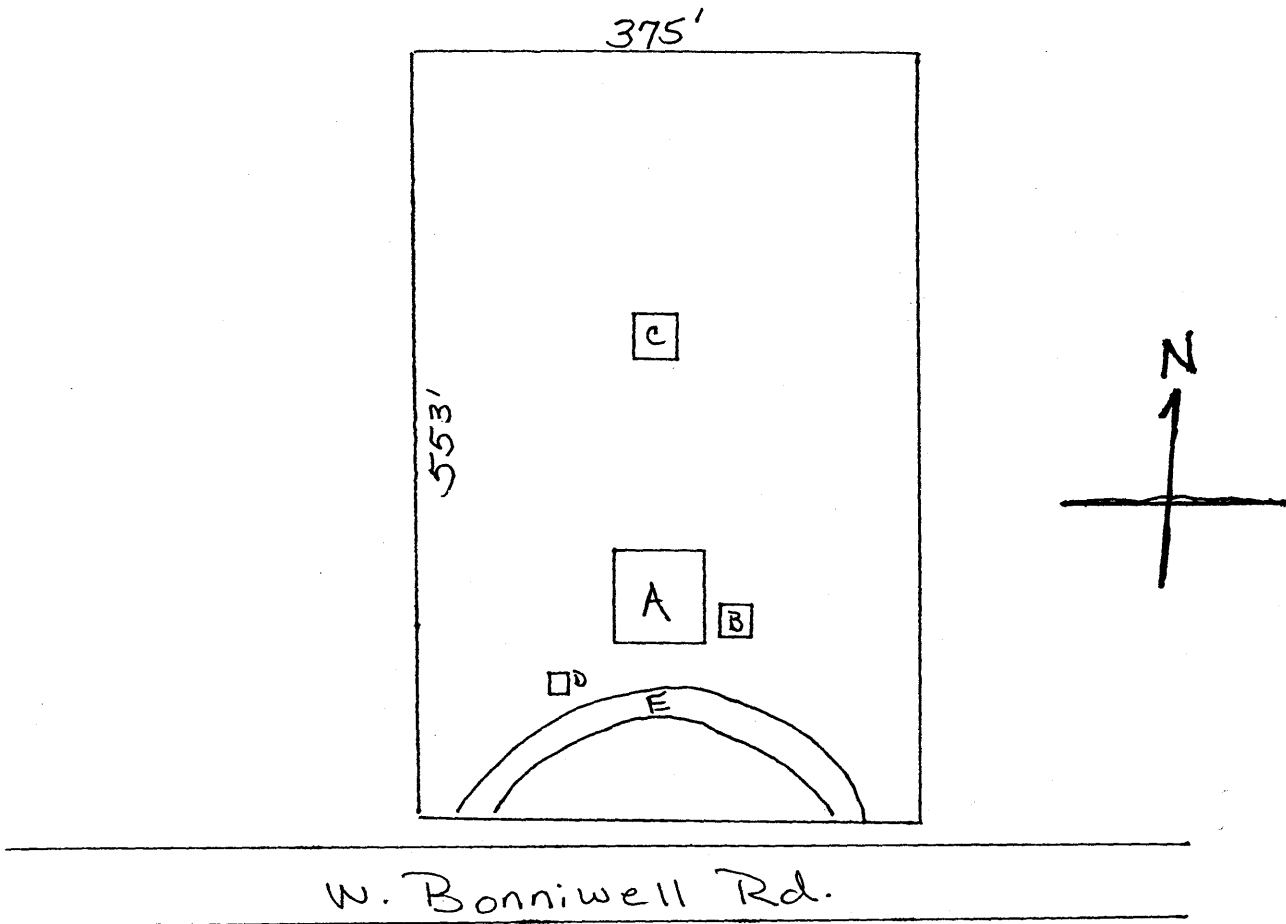
Section Photos Page 1 Bigelow School
Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

BIGELOW SCHOOL, Mequon, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin.
Photos by Carol Cartwright, May, 1999. Negatives on file in the Historic
Preservation Division of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison,
Wisconsin. Views:

- 1 of 8: Site view, from the south.
- 2 of 8: South elevation, from the south.
- 3 of 8: East elevation, from the southeast.
- 4 of 8: Southwest elevation, from the southwest.
- 5 of 8: Interior, living room (old gymnasium area).
- 6 of 8: Interior, kitchen (old gymnasium area).
- 7 of 8: Interior, old classroom fixtures.
- 8 of 8: Interior, old classroom bookshelf.

BIGELOW SCHOOL
4228 W. BONIWELL RD.
MEQUON, OZAUKEE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

SITE MAP



- Key:
- A: Bigelow School, contributing
 - B: Garage, non-contributing
 - C: Shed, non-contributing
 - D: Shed, non-contributing
 - E: Driveway

Map Not to Scale