

1302

OCT - 7 2005

**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

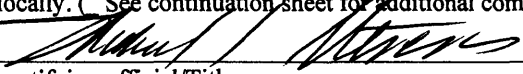
historic name Freitag Homestead
other names/site number Hillside Dairy

2. Location

street & number N7053 State Highway 69/39 N/A not for publication
city or town Town of Washington N/A vicinity
state Wisconsin code WI county Green code 045 zip code 53570

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 Date 10/4/05

Signature of certifying official/Title
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

Freitag Homestead

Green County

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:)

Ethan H. Beall

11.15.05

[Signature]
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
4	1 buildings
1	sites
	4 structures
	objects
5	5 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/agricultural outbuildings

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuildings

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Queen Anne

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation STONE

walls BRICK

Weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD

Narrative Description

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

Freitag Homestead
Name of Property

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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.
- Da 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

Industry

Period of Significance

1869-1906

Significant Dates

1869

1906

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Freitag, Dietrich

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Rote, Robert L.

Karlen & Steinman

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Freitag Homestead
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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
- X Other

Name of repository:
Freitag Family Archives

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 12 acres

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

1 16 285780 4737300
Zone Easting Northing

3 16 286070 4737200
Zone Easting Northing

2 16 285930 4737400
Zone Easting Northing

4 16 285940 4737110
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. Heggland	date	May 13, 2005
organization	Consultant for: Freitag Farm, Inc.	telephone	608-795-2650
street & number	6391 Hillsandwood Rd.	zip code	53560
city or town	Mazomanie	state	WI

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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.)

name/title	Barbara Freitag McPhee/vice president	date	May 2005
organization	Freitag Farm, Inc.	telephone	1-479-925-4450
street & number	9067 Loraine Lane	zip code	72756
city or town	Rogers	state	AR

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**

Section 7 Page 1

Freitag Homestead
Town of Washington, Green Co., WI

Description

The historic complex known as the Freitag Homestead consists of a 12.00 acre portion of a larger 165-acre former dairy farm located on State Highway 69/39 approximately one-and-one-half miles northwest of the village of Monticello in Green County. The oldest of the five buildings in the complex is the still largely intact, Greek Revival style-influenced Gable Ell form residence (Map No. 1, C) built ca.1862 by Fridolin Streiff, the first owner/occupant of the farm.¹ The other four buildings in the complex all date from the Freitag family's period of ownership, which began in 1869, when Dietrich and Verena Freitag bought the farm from the Streiffs. The Freitags subsequently made the Streiff's farmhouse their own residence and, ca.1880, built the large, gable-roofed dairy barn (Map No 3, C) that is now the complex's second oldest building. Also built about the same time was the complex's smaller gable-roofed hog barn (Map No. 2). After Dietrich Freitag's death in 1900, the farm was taken over by a son, Nicholas Freitag. In 1906, he built a large, elaborate, brick-clad Queen Anne style residence (Map No. 4, C) just to the northwest of the original house. It was considered to be one of Green County's finest farmhouses when it was built and which is still highly intact today. Also built prior to 1950 and toward the end of Nicholas Freitag's period of ownership was the two-car gable-roofed garage building (Map No. 5, NC) located near his 1906 house. Today, the farm continues to be owned and managed by fourth and fifth generation members of the Freitag family and while the farm outbuildings in the complex are no longer in use, they are still highly intact, as are both houses, which continue to be occupied and are in excellent condition. Taken together, the Freitag Homestead's resources are believed to be of both architectural and historical significance because they represent both the stylistic and the socioeconomic evolution of the two Swiss-American families who have farmed this land. In addition, these resources also represent 143 years of continuous agricultural activity and history as well as the continuous ownership of five successive generations of the locally prominent Freitag family.

The resources within this complex are grouped on the northeast-facing slope of a ridge that forms the west side of the valley that was created by a small stream that still runs along the valley floor. This stream flows in a southeasterly direction towards the West Branch of the Little Sugar River, which it joins in the nearby Village of Monticello. Paralleling its course and the two sides of the valley is STH 39, whose route at this point also runs in a northwest-southeast direction. Access to the buildings in the complex is via a 250-foot-long gravel driveway that enters the farm at a right-angle from this highway. The east end of this driveway intersects with a deteriorating, concrete-surfaced road that is located at the foot of and runs parallel to the ridge. This road, which also runs parallel to the present

¹ Fridolin Streiff bought the original portion of this farm in 1849 from George Washington Bain, a native of Ohio who first settled on this land in 1844.

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STH 39, is, in fact, a surviving section of the previous State Highway 39. This earlier highway originally split the Freitag's farm complex into two separate parcels, which explains the arrangement of its buildings. The 1862 house and the pig barn were originally located on the east or downhill side of the earlier highway while the dairy barn, the 1906 house, and the garage were all located across this highway on its west or uphill side. After the present highway was built, the surviving portion of the earlier highway that runs through the property was retained by the Freitags for use as an internal service driveway, an arrangement that remains to this day.

The following inventory lists each resource in the complex by map number and gives a description of each, the original and current use, whether the resource is contributing or non-contributing to the complex, and an assessment of each resource's physical condition.

Map No. 1	Fridolin & Katharina Streiff Residence	Contributing	Ca.1862
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This building is the original farmhouse built ca.1862 by Fridolin Streiff and it is a typical example of a Gabled Ell form house that also exhibits Greek Revival style design elements.² The house has an "L"-shaped plan, and measures 40-feet-long by 26.5-feet-deep. The overall design is typical of early "L" plan examples of the Gabled Ell form house in Wisconsin in that it has a front-facing gabled main or upright wing and a slightly lower perpendicularly placed side gabled wing. Both of these wings are rectilinear in plan. The upright wing is two-stories in height and measures approximately 19.5-feet-wide by 26.5-feet-deep. This wing is surmounted by an asphalt shingle-clad gable roof whose ridgeline runs in an east-west direction, and there is also an eight-foot-wide by three-foot-deep, one-story, hip-roofed bay window attached to its west-facing principal elevation. The side wing is shorter but it is also two stories in height and measures approximately 20-feet-long by 18.5-feet-deep, and it is also surmounted by an asphalt shingle-clad gable roof and its ridgeline runs in a north-south direction. In addition to these two main elements there is also a one-story gable-roofed ell that measures 14-feet-long by 10.5-feet-deep attached to the south elevation of the upright wing.

The exterior walls of both wings and their supporting framework rest on roughly coursed stone foundation walls that have been painted white and which enclose a full basement story under the two wings. The exterior walls that rest on this foundation are all now covered in narrow gauge aluminum or steel clapboards that cover the original narrow wooden clapboards, this being the only significant alteration to the exterior of the house. All the exterior walls terminate in shallow, overhanging open

² Building construction date from records in the Freitag Family archives.

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eaves and the gable ends of the upright wing, in typical Greek Revival fashion, also exhibit returned cornices.

West-Facing Main Facade

The west-facing side of the house, which originally faced onto the old highway, is the building's principal facade. This asymmetrical facade is composed of the west-facing elevations of the upright wing on the right (south) and of the side wing on the left, with the taller upright wing visually and physically dominating the side wing. The 19.5-foot-wide west-facing elevation of the upright wing is two bays wide. The first story's left-hand bay features a small, rectilinear window opening that is flanked by a pair of louvered wooden shutters and it contains a one-over-one-light double hung window that is the only non-original window in the house. The right-hand bay consists of the hip-roofed bay window that was mentioned earlier. This bay window has a rectilinear plan and it has two two-over-one-light double hung, wood sash windows that face west, while both its north and south-facing sides each contain a single window of the same size and design.³ Each of this elevation's second story bays contains an original rectilinear window opening that still contains its original six-over-six-light, double hung, wood sash window. Centered in the gable end above is a semi-circular-arched lunette window that is divided into four lights by three radiating bars. The eaves of the gable end are also decorated by scrollsawn wooden bargeboards; both elements are visible in a 1902 photograph of the house. In addition, a tall, narrow, red brick chimneystack is placed on the ridge of this wing's roof.

The three-bay-wide first story of the twenty-foot-long west-facing elevation of the side wing is sheltered by a rebuilt, one-story, full-length, hip-roofed open porch that has a poured concrete pad foundation, a simple wood balustrade, and wood supporting posts.⁴ This elevation's two left-hand bays both consist of a rectilinear window opening, each of which contains an original six-over-six-light, double hung wood sash window, while the right-hand bay contains a door that opens into the house's living room. The porch roof also shelters a second door opening that is set into the north-facing side elevation of the upright wing and this door leads into the kitchen. The remainder of this elevation, this being that small portion of the upper wall surface of the wing that is visible above the porch roof, features two small oblong window openings that are placed directly above each of the two first story windows. These smaller openings both contain fixed three-light wood sash windows.

³ It is probable that this bay window is a later addition to the house. If so, however, it is definitely an early addition since it is shown in place on a photo dated 1902 in the Freitag Family Archives.

⁴ This modern porch replaced the original one, which was of similar design and size.

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Also contributing to the overall length of the house's west elevation is the west elevation of the small one-story, gable-roofed ell that is attached to the building's south-facing elevation. This elevation is 14-feet-long and it is asymmetrical in design and is two-bays-wide. The left-hand bay features a door opening whose inner door is now covered by a modern combination screen and storm door while the right-hand bay consists of a window opening that still contains an original six-over-six-light, double hung wood sash window.

South-Facing Side Elevation

The south-facing side elevation of the house consists of the south-facing side elevation of the upright wing and the south-facing end elevation of the small ell that is attached to it, and the slope of the site reveals portions of the foundations of both elements. The left half of the first story of the upright wing is mostly covered by the attached one-story ell, whose own south-facing elevation features a single window opening that contains an original six-over-six-light double hung wood sash window. Placed just to the right of the ell on the upright wing's elevation is a small rectilinear window opening that is now filled with a piece of plywood.

The second story of the upright wing features three evenly spaced window openings that each contains an original six-over-six-light double hung wood sash window.

East-Facing Rear Elevation

On the east-facing rear elevation of the house the taller upright wing portion occupies the left-hand (south) end, and both it and the lower side wing are aligned in the same plane. Also, because the land on the east side of the old highway slopes quite steeply downhill from west to east, the entire stone basement story of the rear elevation of the house is exposed. Centered in that portion of the basement story below the upright wing is a single door opening that is filled with a heavy door made of vertical wood boards. Placed in the first story above are two window openings that both contain original six-over-six-light double hung wood sash windows and these openings are both flanked by louvered wooden shutters, which historic photos show were in place on the house by 1902.⁵ Directly above these windows, in the second story of the upright wing, are two more identical windows, both of which are also flanked by shutters. These two pairs of windows are actually positioned slightly off center to the left because a small rectilinear six-light window that lights an internal stair landing is placed to the

⁵ It is not known if the current shutters are the originals or early replacements but they are of the same size and design as those visible on the 1902 photo.

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right of them in-between the two stories. The four-light semi-circular-arched lunette window that is located in the gable end above, however, *is* centered.

The single bay of the rear elevation of the adjacent side wing is also centered on the wing. The basement story of this bay features a single three-light oblong window, the first story above features a single six-over-six-light double hung wood sash window that is flanked by wood shutters, and the second story features a single small oblong window opening that contains a fixed three-light window.

North-Facing Side Elevation

The north-facing side elevation of the house consists of three elements: the end elevation of the building's side wing; the north-facing side elevation of the upright wing; and the north end of the previously described front porch. The end elevation of the side wing is two-stories-tall and two-bays-wide, and here too, the slope of the site reveals much of the basement story. Both the first and second stories of each of these two bays contain identical window openings that are filled with original six-over-six-light double hung wood sash windows.

The side wing covers most of the side elevation of the upright wing and the only opening in this elevation of the upright wing is the second entrance door opening mentioned earlier, which gives access to the kitchen. This opening is sheltered by the previously described front porch, which is the only other element of this elevation.

Interior

Because the Streiff House is now a rental property, the interior was not visited for this nomination. Never-the-less, while parts of the interior have undergone alterations over the years and while utilities and appliances have been updated, the original room layout still survives and much of the simple original woodwork is still intact. A full basement story with massive fieldstone walls underlies the main wing and large hand-hewn beams support the first floor above.

Map No. 2

Freitag Farm Hog Barn

Contributing

Ca.1880

This is a medium size, astylistic utilitarian form, gable-roofed bank barn that was built as a hog barn by Dietrich Freitag ca.1880. The barn is located to the south of the Streiff Residence and on the same side of the old highway. It is one-story-tall, has a sawn wood frame, a rectilinear plan, and measures 52.5-feet-long by 26.5-feet-deep. The building sits on thick fieldstone foundation walls that encloses a

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full basement story and the slope of the site has exposed part of the main facade's basement wall, all of both side walls and all of the rear wall of this story. The design of the walls that rest on this foundation directly reflect the function of the building and its interior plan. Both the north and south ends of the barn's first story are actually corn cribs and are clad in thin horizontal boards that have air spaces between them for ventilation. These walls also wrap around the corners of both the front and rear elevations of the barn and extend about a fourth of the way down the length of these elevations. They reflect the fact that corn used for hog feed was originally stored inside the barn behind these ventilated ends. The remainder of the front and rear elevation's exterior walls are clad in vertical boards, as are the two gable ends, and these walls are sheltered by the overhanging open eaves of the barn's gable roof. The ridgeline of this roof runs north-south and both its east and west-facing slopes are now covered in sheets of either corrugated metal or plastic, this being the only significant change that has affected the exterior of the barn. There is also a fine, intact, square plan, two-stage wooden ventilator centered on the ridge of the roof. The four sides of the taller first stage of this ventilator are all identical and each features a pair of tall, narrow, segmental-arched openings that are filled with wooden louvers. This lower stage is sheltered by a cross-gable roof and centered on this roof is a much smaller, second stage of identical design that is crowned with a small spire.

The principal facade of the hog barn faces west and it is three bays wide. The left (north) and right-hand bays of this facade are nearly equal in size and comprise portions of the ventilated corn cribs mentioned above that form the north and south ends of the barn. The facade's much wider middle bay is clad in vertical boards and its left-hand portion consists of a large door opening covered by a sliding barn door. A stone loading ramp that is now partially covered in concrete leads up to this door. The slope of the site reveals the top portion of the facade's stone foundation wall.

The south-facing side elevation of the barn is one bay wide and its entire stone basement story is visible and is now covered with a coat of stucco. Centered on this story, which originally housed the farm's hog pens, is a door opening that permits access to the barn's interior. A narrower door opening is placed slightly off-center to the right in the ventilated wall of the first story above, and another rectilinear opening filled with wooden louvers for ventilation is centered in the gable end.

The north-facing side elevation of the barn is almost identical to the south-facing elevation. Here too, a door opening is centered on the exposed basement story, a second, smaller door opening is placed off-center in the story above, and a ventilator is centered in the gable end. On this elevation there are several differences: the stone foundation wall is not covered in stucco; a second, smaller entrance door opening is placed to the left (east) of the main door opening; the opening in the first story above still retains its original door, which consists of a frame clad with ventilating boards; and the ventilator in

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the gable end has a semi-circular-arched top.⁶ In addition, there is also a makeshift shed-roofed entrance hood placed above the basement story's main door, although it is believed that this was a later addition to the barn.

The design of the three bay wide, east-facing rear elevation of the barn is very similar to that of the main facade and features a stone basement story and a first story that has a broad middle bay clad in vertical boards flanked by equal-width ventilated end bays. The only opening in this elevation's first story is a single door opening placed at the right (north) end of the middle bay about two-thirds down the length of the elevation from the left. The fully exposed basement story, however, has four small square window openings placed at more or less regular intervals along its length and these are positioned high up on the wall.⁷

The basement story of the barn is currently used for storage and it now has a poured concrete floor, its stone walls are plastered, and its sawn wood ceiling joists are supported by eight log posts. The barn's first story has a board floor and it is open up to the roof. Ventilating walls at the north and south ends of this story form the inside walls of the two corn cribs and they also divide this story into three separate spaces.

This building is still highly intact but it is now in deteriorating condition.

Map No. 3 Freitag Farm Dairy Barn Contributing Ca.1880/1965

The principal farm building is the very large astylistic utilitarian form, gable-roofed bank barn located on the west or uphill side of the old highway nearly opposite the hog barn. The original portion of this barn was built by Dietrich Freitag ca.1880 and it is one-story-tall, has a sawn wood frame, a rectilinear plan, and measures 90-feet-long by 40-feet-deep. This portion has thick fieldstone foundation walls that enclose a full basement story and the slope of the site exposes much of the basement story, including all of the east-facing wall and nearly all of the north-facing side wall. The much taller upper story that rests on this foundation is of frame construction and its exterior walls are sided with vertical wooden boards. The walls of this upper story are sheltered by the overhanging open eaves of the gable roof that covers the building and this roof has a ridgeline that runs north-south and it is covered in corrugated sheets that are laid over the original wood decking. In addition, two identical, small, square

⁶ This semi-circular-arched ventilator opening is similar in design, if not in size, to the segmental-arched ones that are found on the ca.1880s dairy barn.

⁷ Portions of this elevation's basement wall have also been stuccoed over, although some of this has since fallen off. Exposing the stone beneath.

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plan wooden ventilators are placed equidistant from one another on the roof's ridge and they have sides made of wooden louvers, pyramidal roofs, and help to ventilate the barn's interior.

The 90-foot-long west-facing elevation of the original portion of the barn is clad in vertical boards and it is nearly symmetrical in design, is seven bays wide, and nothing of its foundation is visible above grade. The centered middle bay contains a large opening filled with a sliding wood barn door and a small, nearly square opening is placed high up on the wall surface and just under the eaves in each of the three bays that are located on either side of this door.

The north-facing side elevation of the barn is forty-feet long, its stone basement story is completely exposed, and this story is four-bays-wide and asymmetrical in design. A later window opening is located in the left-hand (east) bay, a door opening is located to its right, and a small, nearly square window opening is located in each of the two right-hand bays. All four of these bays are sheltered by an open, shed-roofed, porch-like structure that spans the entire length of the elevation and whose length is continued past the east end of the elevation for almost twenty more feet.⁸ The vertical board-clad principal story of the north-facing elevation is symmetrical in design and three-bays-wide. The left and right-hand bays both contain tall, identical, segmental-arched openings that are filled with wooden louvers and a third such opening is centered in the gable end above and occupies the middle bay.

The ninety-foot-long east-facing elevation of the barn is its most visible one and the slope of the site completely exposes this elevation's basement story. Historic photos show that this story originally had nine window openings that were positioned at more or less regular intervals along its length.⁹ Today, the original two left-hand bays are covered over by an attached, 22-foot-wide by 16-foot-deep, rectilinear plan, one-story, gable-roofed milk cooling shed that has concrete block walls and was built soon after 1950. Additional modernization activity at this time also resulted in the removal of the remaining seven original window openings. These openings were eliminated when the entire top half of the original stone basement wall was torn out and replaced by concrete block. In their place, eleven new window openings were created, along with a single entrance door opening, which resulted in the twelve-bay-wide basement story that is visible today. Reading from left (south) to right the first six of these bays consist of rectilinear window openings, the seventh bay consists of a door opening that is filled with a two part wooden Dutch door, and the remaining five bays also consist of rectilinear window openings. All of these window openings are filled with glass blocks and all but two have a

⁸ This shed-roofed element becomes a gable-roofed one once it projects beyond the east end of the north-facing elevation.

⁹ Historic photos in the Freitag Family archives show that the barn originally had a full-width forebay that extended over this entire story and that eight braced wood posts supported it. This forebay was later eliminated when the east-facing wall of the basement story was moved forward into the same plane as the story above.

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small rectilinear opening set into them for ventilation. The wall surface of this elevation's first story is clad in vertical wood boards and it is symmetrical in design, five-bays-wide, and each bay contains a tall, segmental-arched opening that is filled with wooden louvers, all of which help ventilate the barn.

The upper portion of the south-facing side elevation of this barn was originally identical in design to the north-facing elevation but it is now largely covered over by a lower, rectilinear plan, one-story wing that was constructed across the south end of the barn in 1965.¹⁰ This wing measures 38-feet-long by 44.5-feet-wide and it has an asphalt shingle-clad gable roof whose ridgeline runs north-south. The wing's foundation consists of a poured concrete slab that also has two-foot-tall sides that form the lowest portions of the wing's east, west and south walls. The upper portions of the east and west walls are of concrete block, while the remaining portion of the wing's south-facing end elevation's wall is clad in drop siding and has a gable end above that is clad in vertical boards. Numerous window and door openings are located in the side and end elevations of this wing, but they are now all filled with panels of drop siding. The first story of this wing originally housed 20 dairy cows. It has a poured concrete floor into which are inset feed mangers and drain channels and there are three aisles of metal cow stanchions. This story's wooden board ceiling is supported by beams that are themselves supported by rows of metal posts, and the story above, which was originally used as a hay loft, is open up to the roof decking.

When the 1965 wing was built, the south-facing basement wall of the original barn was also removed, which allowed the interiors of the new wing and the original barn's basement story to be run together, creating a single 128-foot-long space. The interior of the basement story of the original barn has stone walls that are now covered in stucco or plaster and it too has a poured concrete floor with feed mangers and drain channels inset into it and it also has two full length aisles of metal cow stanchions. Massive hand-hewn wood beams supported by metal posts support the floor joists of the upper portion of the barn, which has a floor of wooden boards. This upper story consists of a single enormous room that once functioned as the hay loft and this space is open to the roof decking. Two rows of eight-inch-square wood posts help support the barn's roof and walls and they are supplemented by paired trusses.

The exterior of the original barn and much of its interior is still intact and is in good condition, although the building itself is no longer in use. Its significance is undiminished by the later south addition and by the later cooler house.

¹⁰ The sole visible survivor of this elevation's three original segmental-arched ventilated openings is the one in the gable end.

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Map No. 4 Concrete Silos Group Non-Contributing post-1950

Four large circular plan silos are located immediately to the west of the dairy barn's later wing. These silos are grouped in a row and the three northernmost ones are all equal in height, while the southernmost of the four is markedly taller. All four, however, exhibit the same construction technique, being of concrete staves that are reinforced with steel bands, all four have identical diameters, and all four have identical domical roofs that are of either stainless steel or aluminum.

It is possible that the northernmost silo was built first and was already extant by 1950, but its actual date of construction is unknown. Dated historic photos of the farm make it clear that the other three silos were all built between 1950 and 1965.

All four of these silos are in still in excellent original condition today but are no longer in use.

Map No. 5 Automobile Garage Non-Contributing ca.1945 – 1950

This astylistic utilitarian two-car garage is located on the west (uphill) side of the old highway and it is situated at the foot of a curving poured concrete driveway that leads from this highway up to the Nicholas Freitag residence (Map No. 6). The garage was built for Nicholas Freitag between 1945 and 1950 and it is almost square in plan, measures 24-feet-long by 22-feet-deep, and has a poured concrete pad foundation and exterior walls that are of rose-colored concrete blocks. These walls are sheltered by an asphalt shingle-clad gable roof and this roof has slightly overhanging open eaves and a ridgeline that runs north-south.

The principal elevation of the garage faces north towards the house and it has two 24-panel wood overhead garage doors and a gable end above that is clad in drop siding and which has a square opening centered on it.¹¹ There are also two oblong window openings located on the east-facing side elevation of the building that are both filled with fixed six-light wood sash windows, these being the only windows that are located on either of the garage's side or rear elevations.

This garage is still in excellent original condition today. It is non-contributing because it is outside the period of significance.

¹¹ The third row of panels from the bottom in each door consists of six single-light windows.

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total width and the nine-foot-wide center portion of its first story features a large window opening that contains a single-light plate glass window surmounted by an oblong glass transom filled with a single light of plate glass that bears an etched design.¹³ The ell's slanting sides both feature a smaller double hung, one-over-one-light window and all three of these windows have dressed limestone sills and massive concrete or stone lintels. All three provide light for the front parlor inside. Three identical windows are located in the second story of the ell, where they provide light for the master bedroom, but these windows all have lintels fashioned out of two courses of header course bricks instead of the stone that is used below.

The second (or right-hand) bay of the main facade is part of the main block of the house and its first story contains the main entrance door opening. This opening is enframed with a wood molding and it contains the original wood entrance door, which features a single large sheet of plate glass that has beveled edges. Located just to the right of the entrance door is a window opening that contains a single etched glass light that helps illuminate the lower landing of the staircase inside. Both the door and window have massive stone or concrete lintels, unlike the single double hung window that is placed above the entrance door in the story above, whose lintel is fashioned of double courses of header brick.¹⁴

Crowning the main facade is a full-width, front-facing gable end, which features the same overhanging eaves ornamented with console-like brackets as the rest of the house. A pair of five-over-one-light double hung windows are placed in the center of the gable end, the upper sash in both consisting of a centered diamond-shape light that is surrounded by four five-sided lights. The wall surface that surrounds these three windows is divided into three separate sections, one on either side of the paired windows, and one above. All three are filled with painted wood boards that fan out from a point to form sunburst patterns.

The entire first story of the principal facade is sheltered by an elaborate, entirely original wraparound wooden veranda that also extends around the easterly third of the south-facing side elevation. The roof of this veranda is slightly hipped and its eave features a soffit decorated with carved wood console brackets that are similar in design to the ones that decorate the main roof's soffits, but are smaller in size. This roof is upheld by single and grouped wooden Tuscan Order columns and the ceiling of the veranda and its floor are both fashioned from tongue-and-groove boards. All sections of the veranda are edged by a fine wooden balustrade that is composed of turned balusters placed just below a beveled

¹³ For brevity's sake, note that all of the house's window openings are rectilinear and contain either movable or fixed wood sash.

¹⁴ These three east-facing second story windows are the only ones on any of the four elevations that lack stone lintels.

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handrail. Located just below, and hiding the crawl space underneath from view, is a very fine screen composed of scrollsawn wood balusters.

The east-facing principal portion of this veranda is divided into two unequal-length sections. The ten-and-one-half-foot-long section that shelters the right-hand bay and the entrance door features a gablet that is located above the entrance door. This gablet has the form of a classical triangular pediment and is supported by two columns on either side, while a single column located to the left helps support the veranda roof and another located to the right upholds the veranda's northeast corner.¹⁵ The longer eighteen-and-one-half-foot-long section that covers the first story of the left-hand bay of the main facade also has a circular plan roof turret that forms the veranda's southeast corner. This turret has a conical roof in cove pattern wood shingles and it is supported by three columns.

The fifty-foot-long south-facing side elevation of the house consists of three separate elements, the middle element being a large, polygonal plan, two-and-one-half-story-tall gable-roofed ell that roughly bisects the elevation. The left-hand (west) element of this elevation is two-bays in width and its first story has a single window opening that contains a one-over-one-light window and which is located to the right of a roughly centered entrance door opening that opens into the kitchen inside. Two one-over-one-light double hung windows are also located in the second story above, the one on the right being substantially smaller than the one on the left.¹⁶ The entire first story of this element is sheltered by a wood porch whose very shallow pitched roof is supported by wood posts. This porch has a wood board floor and ceiling and it is now screened. While much less elaborate than the veranda described above, it is original and in a highly intact state.

The two-and-one-half-story gable-roofed ell that forms the middle element of this elevation gets its five-sided polygonal shape from its two two-story-tall cutaway corners, the uppermost portions of which are both embellished by large, decorative wooden scrollwork brackets. The plan of the first two stories of this ell gives it an eleven-foot-wide south-facing main surface, five-foot-wide southeast and southwest-facing sides, and four-foot-wide east and west-facing sides. The angled southeast and southwest-facing sides both have single one-over-one light windows placed in their first and second stories while there are identical door openings placed in both the east and west-facing sides of the ell's first story. The first story of the main south-facing surface of the ell contains a large window that lights the dining room. This opening contains a single very large plate glass light that is surmounted by an equally wide glass transom, while the second story above contains an identical window that lights a

¹⁵ A flight of concrete steps flanked by wrought iron balustrades leads up to the veranda and this modern addition is the only recent change that has affected the exterior of the house.

¹⁶ There is also a small red brick chimneystack located on the ridge of the roof above this portion of the elevation.

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bedroom. This ell is crowned by a gable end that has a single small, centered, fifteen-over-one-light double hung window, and the gable end is edged by continuations of the elaborate bracketed eaves of the main roof.

The right-hand bay of the south-facing elevation is one bay wide. Its first story has a single window opening placed to the left that contains a one-over-one-light window and a window of identical design is also located in the second story directly above. The first story of this bay is sheltered by a continuation of the veranda that spans the width of the main facade. This portion also has a gablet designed in the form of a classical triangular pediment, which, in this case, is located above the first story window, and it is supported on either side by two Tuscan Order columns.¹⁷ A flight of wooden steps flanked by its original wooden newel posts and turned wooden balustrades leads up to the veranda beneath this gablet. There are also single columns located to the left and right of the gablet that help support the veranda's roof.

The twenty-eight-foot-wide west-facing rear elevation of the house is asymmetrical in composition and its first story is four bays wide. The second bay from the left (north) contains the rear entrance door to the house, while the other three bays each contain an opening that is filled with a one-over-one-light double hung window. The second story of this elevation has just a single opening, this being another window opening filled with a one-over-one-light double hung window and it is placed in the second story of the right-hand bay.¹⁸

The north-facing side elevation of the house is less elaborate in design than the otherwise similar south-facing side elevation. The composition of the north elevation is comprised of three separate elements, the center one is a two-and-one-half-story-tall rectilinear plan ell that roughly bisects the elevation and which is surmounted by a gable end. The right-hand (west) element of this elevation is two bays wide. Its right-hand bay contains a small opening that is filled with a one-over-one-light double hung window, and its second story contains a larger window of the same design. The left-hand bay contains a single square opening positioned midway between the first and second stories and this opening lights a service staircase inside and contains a fixed one-light window.

The cross-gable ell that forms the middle element of the north elevation has a rectilinear plan and measures fourteen and one-half-feet-wide by three-feet-deep. Both the first and second stories of this ell have a pair of window openings centered on them and these each contain a one-over-one light

¹⁷ The position of this gablet reflects the placement of a secondary entrance door just to its left in the east-facing side of the middle ell.

¹⁸ Because the rear (western) end of the main roof is hipped, there is no gable end crowning this elevation.

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double hung window. The ell is then crowned by a gable end that has a single window opening centered on it that contains a smaller one-over-one-light double hung window and this gable end is also edged by continuations of the elaborate bracketed eaves of the main roof.

The left-hand element of the north-facing elevation is two bays wide and two stories tall, and each bay contains just a single window opening. The first story of the left-hand bay contains an oblong opening that is placed relatively high up on the story and it contains a fixed two-light window. The second story of the right-hand bay contains a single one-over-one-light double hung window that lights the middle landing of the main staircase.

Interior

The asymmetrical design of the exterior of the Nicholas & Elsbeth Freitag house is reflected in the plan of its elaborate and extremely well-preserved interior. The front (east) third of the first story consists of the stair hall to the right (north) and the front parlor to the left. The middle third is occupied by the second parlor or library, which is located directly behind the stair hall, and by the dining room, which is located directly behind the front parlor. The rear third of this story is occupied by the kitchen, which is located directly behind the dining room, and by the pantry, rear stairs and rear entrance hall, which are located behind the second parlor or library.¹⁹ The second story has a central hallway off which are located five bedrooms and a bathroom. Some materials are used throughout the house. For instance, all of the floors on the first and second stories are of hardwood, all of the walls and ceilings are plastered, and all exposed woodwork is varnished, save only for the very thin strips of painted crown molding that are used in the first story's principal rooms. Fortunately, all of the original woodwork and decorative features of the house have survived intact, as has most of the original furniture, and the first story is especially notable for the high quality of the varnished woodwork that is found in its principal rooms.

A full basement story underlies the entire house and it has stone perimeter walls, a poured concrete floor, and it is divided into a number of smaller rooms by partition walls, some of which are of the same red brick as the exterior walls of the house. Of special note is the house's original acetylene press, which is located in one of these rooms and which was used to produce the acetylene gas that was, along with electricity, one of the original methods of illumination used by the Freitags.

¹⁹ The first story of the house has no hallways.

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One enters the house by passing through the plate glass main entrance door, which opens directly into a rectilinear plan stair hall that occupies the northeast corner of the first story. This hall measures approximately 10-feet-wide by 17-feet-deep. A five-panel oak door that leads into the second parlor or library is placed on its west wall directly opposite the entrance door. The staircase itself has a U-plan and begins with a single landing positioned just to the right of the entrance door, and a window that is also placed just to the right of the entrance door overlooks this landing. This flight of stairs then turns 90° and ascends in an open straight run of steps that follows the north wall of the house up to a second landing. It then turns 90° once again and ascends via a second, mostly closed, straight run of steps up to the second story. The staircase begins with a square, paneled oak starting newel post. The hand rail assembly that connects to the post is supported by thin, turned, square-top balusters (there are three per tread), all of which are also varnished, as are the risers, treads, and three-dimensional scroll bracketed stringers that decorate the outer ends of the risers. Also of varnished oak are the tall wall stringers that are placed along the base of the wall surface on these runs of the stairs and these stringers are identical with the varnished oak baseboards that are used throughout the first and second stories. The triangular-shaped spandrels that enclose the spaces under both runs of stairs consist of oak paneling that is made up of a grid of mostly triangular and oblong-shaped panels. This paneling fills the space below both runs and it is also used on the underside of the second run.

An especially striking feature of the hall is its very elaborate parquet floor. This floor has a border that consists of a chain of interlaced lozenge-shaped elements made of strips of maple placed on a dark, walnut field. This border encircles a large central area fashioned out of maple that is decorated with four rows of oblong panels of walnut, oak and cherry, on each of which is placed two diamond-shaped lozenges that are also made out of maple.²⁰

To the left of the stair hall is the front parlor, which occupies the rest of the front portion of the house. Separating these rooms from each other is one of the glories of the house, a varnished oak colonnade that supports a very elaborate varnished wood grillework that spans the full width of the uppermost portion of the space between the two rooms. This grillework consists of three sections: two smaller identical end sections, and a wider central section. The two end sections are both rectilinear in form and both have an oval-shaped element centered on them that is filled with a grid composed of ball and dowel spindle work, and these ovals are supported within their rectangular frames by elaborate scrollsawn ornamentation. Supporting each of these two sections is a colonnade consisting of a Corinthian half-column attached to the wall and a free-standing column of identical design, both of which are supported by a paneled oak pedestal. The grillework of the wider center section is more

²⁰ Another notable feature of the hall is a stepped cast iron steam radiator that is located next to the lowest part of the staircase and which echoes the shape of the staircase steps behind it

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flowing and freeform in design. A centered, pendant-like wood element that hangs from the underside of the lintel is flanked on either side by mirror-image portions that have roughly triangular forms with edges trimmed with undulating scrollsawn elements and these edges enframe a grid composed of ball and dowel spindle work. The colonnade and its grillework is set within an oak casing whose uppermost edge is ornamented with minute denticulation.

The front parlor measures fifteen-and-one-half feet wide by 17-feet-deep and its east end consists of a three-sided bay that has three windows placed in it and a fourth window is placed on the south wall. The room's dominant feature is its oak floor. This floor is completely encircled by an even wider and more elaborate parquetry border than the one in the entrance hall, this border also is composed of light and dark wood strips that are laid in an interlaced diamond pattern. Interestingly, there is no fireplace in this or any other room in the house. Such features are typical of the Queen Anne style but they are absent here because the house used a hot water and steam heating system instead; the radiators are found throughout the house.

A large, five-foot-wide opening centered in the west wall of the front parlor opens into the dining room. The opening can be closed off, if desired, by the use of a pair of five-panel varnished wood pocket doors. The south end of the twenty-two-foot-long by seventeen-foot-wide dining room consists of the three-sided first story of the polygonal ell that bisects the south elevation of the house and the three windows at this end admit large quantities of light to the room. Flooring in this room is also composed of oak flooring of normal width. The elaborate multi-color parquetry bordering found in the front portion of the house is absent here, being represented solely by the extra effort that was taken to bend the flooring strips around the angled corners created by the bay window. A fine, built-in sideboard is centered on the room's west wall and there is a single five-panel door located to its right that opens into the kitchen behind.

Centered on the north wall of the dining room is another large five-foot-wide flat-arched opening that opens into the back parlor. It, too, can be closed off, if desired, by the use of a pair of solid five-panel varnished wood pocket doors that still retain their original hardware (as do all the other doors and windows in the house). The twelve-foot-square back parlor is lit by a pair of windows on its north wall. A door opening on the room's west wall opens into a small bathroom that is located under the rear stairs and two similar doors on the east wall of the room open into a closet on the left (north) and into the entrance hall on the right. All three of these doors are of the five-panel design that is used throughout the house.

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The fifteen-foot-square kitchen that makes up the southwest corner of the first story is largely intact and retains most of its original counters and cabinets, although modern appliances have been added from time to time. A side entrance door in the room's south wall exits from the kitchen onto the side porch. Three additional doors on the east wall open into, reading from left (west) to right: the rear stair hall, the pantry, and the rear stair hall. This pantry retains its full complement of almost floor-to-ceiling varnished wood cabinets, which are fronted with paneled doors.

Both the rear stairs and the main stairs lead up to the second story, which has five bedrooms and a bathroom that open off a center hall. The position of these rooms corresponds roughly to the position of the principal rooms of the story below.²¹ The doors used throughout the second story are of the five-panel type and the wood casing that enframes all the doors and windows of this story is varnished as well. There is also a door located in the north side of the center hall that opens onto the staircase that leads up to the attic story. This staircase is located next to the separate rear stair hall that contains the rear staircase that descends to the first story. The finished attic story has a board floor and it is divided into several rooms that have five-panel doors and plastered walls and ceilings. The door and the window openings in these rooms are enframed with simple wood casings.

The present generation of the Freitag family is fortunate to possess a house that was so well cared for by the generations that preceded them. More than anything else this single fact explains why all the most important features of the house, such as the wooden grille in the front parlor and the elaborate flooring are still intact, as is all the original door and window hardware. Also notable for having survived is the entire inventory of historic family furnishings and family records. These features combine to make the Nicholas & Elsbeth Freitag house one of Green County's finest and one of its most complete examples of the Queen Anne style.

Today, the outbuildings of the complex are no longer in use, although much of the surrounding acreage is rented out to others for farming purposes. When the farm was in use, the gabled ell Dietrich & Verena Freitag house was used as the residence of a resident farm manager and his family and it is still rented out to a family that acts as caretakers today. And, while the now widely scattered Freitag family descendants no longer occupy the Queen Anne style Nicholas & Elsbeth Freitag house the year round,

²¹ Interestingly, there is also a single pocket door located at the top of the main staircase that can be used to close off the second story when desired.

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the house is still used by the Freitag family as the site of its annual get-together and it continues to be exceptionally well maintained.

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Significance

The Freitag Homestead is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) for its local significance under National Register (NR) criterion B and criterion C. Research was undertaken to assess this potential utilizing the NR significance areas of Industry and Architecture, both themes that are also identified in the State of Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP). This research centered on evaluating the resources in the farmstead utilizing the Greek Revival style, Queen Anne style, and Agricultural Outbuildings subsections of the Architectural Styles study unit and the Industrialized Dairy Production study unit of the Agriculture theme portion of the CRMP.²² The results of this research is detailed below and it determined that the excellent Queen Anne style Nicholas & Elsbeth Freitag farmhouse is locally significant under criterion C for its architectural significance. The several largely intact agricultural outbuildings associated with this farmhouse as well as the original Greek Revival style Fridolin and Katharina Streiff farmhouse are also contributing resources to the complex.

Research also determined that the Freitag Homestead is locally significant under NR criterion B for its historic associations with Dietrich Freitag, who played an important role in the history of agriculture and industry in Green County. Fridolin Streiff, the first owner and occupant of the farmstead's oldest surviving building, was one of the two founders of the nearby village of New Glarus, which is one of the most significant historic sites associated with Swiss emigration to Wisconsin.²³ Streiff came to Wisconsin in 1845 in order to locate land for a colony of Swiss emigrants from the canton of Glarus in Switzerland. In 1848, having successfully established this colony, Streiff then purchased for his own use land in Washington Township that is now part of the Freitag Farm. In 1862, Streiff built the still extant Greek Revival style farmhouse on this farm for himself and his wife, Katharina, but in January of 1869, they sold both the house and the 230 acres of land associated with it to Dietrich & Verena Freitag. Later in that same year, Freitag was approached by Nikolaus Gerber, a Swiss-born cheese maker from New York state who persuaded him to turn Streiff's original log house on the farm into a factory (non-extant) to manufacture Swiss style cheese. This was the first such factory in Green County and was the start of what would become one of Green County's most important industries. By 1939, Green County cheese factories were producing 28% of all the Swiss cheese made in the United States. In that same year the Green County Historical Society placed a memorial plaque at the Freitag Farm in recognition of its importance as the site of the county's first such factory.

²² Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*. Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, 1986. Vol. 2.

²³ New Glarus Township, which contains the village of New Glarus, abuts Washington Township to the north.

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In addition to its role as the site of the beginning of Green County's highly important Swiss cheese industry, the Freitag farm is also of interest as the home of five successive generations of the Freitag family. After purchasing their farm in 1869, this Swiss-American family prospered and the evidence of this prosperity can be seen in the buildings they built in the ensuing years. It is also evident in the accomplishments of its members, the family having become, by the end of the nineteenth century, one of the most prominent in this part of Green County.²⁴

Industry

The original farmhouse on the Dietrich and Verena Freitag Farmstead is eligible for listing in the NRHP under NR criterion B for its locally significant associations with Dietrich Freitag. Freitag purchased this farm from Fridolin Streiff in 1869, and with it he also acquired the Greek Revival style farmhouse that Streiff had built in 1862, the no longer extant log building that had been Streiff's original house, and an unknown number of no longer extant farm outbuildings. The same year, Freitag was approached by Nikolaus Gerber, a cheese-maker from Switzerland, who successfully persuaded Freitag to let him convert the former log house on the farm into a factory to make Swiss cheese. Freitag, in association with four other local farmers, supplied Gerber with milk from their dairy herds and the successful factory that resulted was the first such factory in Green County; by 1938 was producing one-fourth of all the Swiss cheese made in the United States. The historic importance of this industry to Green County would be difficult to overestimate. Although the building where this industry began is no longer extant, the adjacent house where Freitag lived when this important event took place is still a valued and well-cared-for part of the Freitag Homestead and it is now the sole surviving historic resource present on the farm when this locally important event took place.

History

Josiah Pierce and Noah Phelps were the two earliest Euro-Americans to settle in Washington Township, both having moved there from New York state in 1837. In the decade that followed, a number of other easterners would join them, but by far the largest number of pioneer settlers who arrived in the county during this decade were members of a group of Swiss immigrants who came from the Canton of Glarus in 1845. Because the history of the Freitag farm is closely related to the history of this group, the story of their journey to this country is worth retelling.

²⁴ Taylor, Mary E. *An Intensive Architectural and Historical Survey of Green County*. Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, 1980, pp. 38-39. This farmstead was previously recommended for NRHP listing in this survey.

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Agitation and unrest pervaded Swiss society [in the 1840s] and "culminated in the idea that an organized emigration, under the care and control of the government, would be the best, surest, and most reliable method of affording the necessary relief." The canton of Glarus financed a search for a suitable colonization site in America, and an emigration society was formed to lay out the ground rules for the use of common funds and property once the site was located and acquired. Aside from a few Swiss who had drifted into the [Wisconsin] territory in the 1830s and early 1840s, Swiss settlement in Wisconsin took root in the organizational efforts of the Glarus authorities. One hundred and eight of the 193 colonists who left their home at the headwaters of the Rhine arrived in Wisconsin in August of 1845. They founded the New Glarus communal experiment in Green County on land that had been purchased a month earlier (July 17, 1845) by canton representatives, Nicholas Duerst and Fridolin Streiff. The Glarus Emigration Society (Switzerland) was to hold all landed property (1280 acres) until the agreed upon sum could be advanced by the colonists. Land was to be drawn by 20 acre lots with shared rights to timberlands, streams, and springs; money for provisions was to be supplied by the Society; and all colonists were to share the natural obligations of mutual aid and assistance.²⁵

While the work of locating the new colony was shared jointly by the two commissioners that the Emigration Society sent to America, the lion's share of the responsibility for ensuring the success of the colony soon fell on Fridolin Streiff's shoulders.

Early in 1845 the Emigration Association of Glarus determined to relieve the crowded population of that canton by sending a colony to the United States, and Fridolin Streiff and Nicholas Duerst were delegated to come in advance of the colony and select a place for the settlement. They left Switzerland March 8, 1845. At the conclusion of a long voyage they were met in New York by friends of the society, and on the 11th of May they started with Joshua Frey of Pennsylvania, on their search for a new home for the colony. They arrived at Chicago the morning of the 19th of May, and here the search began. They traveled over Illinois and a large part of Missouri, Iowa, and Wisconsin. Their aim was to find a place with a healthful climate, convenient markets, good soil and water, and plenty of timber. They selected the township named by them New Glarus, and on the 25th of July they purchased twelve-hundred acres in sections fourteen, fifteen, twenty-two, twenty-three, and twenty-seven of that township. The purchase was made at Mineral point, where Mr. Streiff took the first step towards becoming a citizen of the United States. ...

²⁵ Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). Op. Cit., Vol. 1, Settlement, p. 3-6.

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The first work of the commissioners was to lay out a road from Green's Prairie to the prospective village, after which, on the 6th of August, Mr. Frey left them to return home. Meanwhile, Messrs. Duerst and Streiff had hastily erected a few shanties for the colonists who were daily expected. The society had not wished to send the colony so soon, but the emigrants became so impatient that it was impossible to restrain them, and they were permitted to start the 16th of April. The colonists went to St. Louis and thence to New Glarus, where they arrived August 12. Their progress had been delayed by some misunderstanding on account of which the commissioners were looking for them in Chicago while they were waiting in St. Louis for instructions from the commissioners. At first they were crowded together in a few shanties. Then, as they were able, they built log houses, and whenever a house was built, a shanty was taken down and the lumber used to make the floor and the door of the new house. Few of the houses had two windows, none had more than two. The doors had wooden hinges that Mr. Streiff made himself. Two months after the land was bought, Mr. Duerst, who had never intended to remain in this country, returned to Switzerland, shaking as he went with the ague. The whole care of the colony now devolved on Mr. Streiff. Some of the colonists had a little money, but most of them were so poor that, as one of them expressed it, "if they had to pay six cents for a cat, they couldn't buy it." A few went to Thompson's settlement to work, and a few spent the winter in Galena, but as a whole the colony was so helpless that Mr. Streiff was compelled to ask for help. The Association sent him \$1000, with which he bought provisions, oxen, seed, agricultural implements, and whatever else was indispensable before the people could take care of themselves. Provisions were brought in quantity, and sold to the families at the lowest possible price. There was little in the houses and little room for anything besides the folks and the beds.²⁶

By the end of 1845 the colonists, led by Fridolin Streiff, had built twenty houses, of which thirteen were in the village of New Glarus, they had cleared 109 acres of land, and raised 700 bushels of corn. The following year saw the construction of the colony's first school, which was also the village's first frame building. The year after that, the first stores were begun in the village. Gradually, the bitter hardship that the colonists experienced in their first two years gave way to a more ordered and comfortable life, although the communal aspects of the colony soon fell by the wayside.

The communal plan naturally included much rough and worthless land, and not unexpectedly, colonists quickly abandoned the rules and regulations of the Society when they learned the practicality of independent, large-scale ownership. By the mid-1850s, all federal lands in the

²⁶ Bingham, Helen M. *History of Green County, Wisconsin*. Milwaukee: Burdick and Armitage, 1877, pp. 247-249.

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area had been alienated, "and the colony as a mutual institution under the control of the directors had ceased to exist."²⁷

Although the communal ideals that the colony was founded on did not prevail, the colonists themselves did, and New Glarus and Washington townships quickly grew up to become one of the most important centers of Swiss settlement in Wisconsin.

The Swiss migration into Wisconsin constituted a trek to the countryside and small towns, with Milwaukee and its sizable Swiss neighborhood furnishing the only sizable exception. All Wisconsin counties recorded persons of Swiss-birth in the census of 1920, with Green (54.1 percent), Lafayette (18.6 percent) and Sauk (4.4 percent) at the forefront. Four contiguous counties, Dane, Rock, Iowa, and Lafayette, known as the "heartland" of Swiss settlement in Wisconsin and bearing the nickname "Swissconsin," emerged as "the largest center of Swiss agriculture and dairy farming in the United States." Only California houses a higher percentage of Swiss stock in its population than Wisconsin.²⁸

Fridolin Streiff, meanwhile, passed on the responsibility of overseeing the colony to J. Jacob Tschudi in 1846. In 1848, Streiff and his wife, Katharina, purchased land in Section One of Washington Township from George Washington Bain, formerly of Ohio, who had first entered a government claim for the land on December 1, 1844.²⁹ In the years that followed, Streiff gradually enlarged his farm and prospered. In 1862 he was able to build the Greek Revival style house for himself and his family that is now the oldest remaining building on the Freitag property.³⁰ After his new house was completed, Streiff was finally able to vacate the old log house on the farm that for many years had been the family's dwelling place. Both buildings, as well as an unknown number of agriculture-related outbuildings, were extant when Streiff sold his by now 230 acre farm to Dietrich Freitag and his wife, Verena, in 1869.

Dietrich Freitag (1834-1900) was born in Elm, Switzerland in the canton of Glarus, on December 28, 1834. He emigrated to the United States in 1864, locating first in the village of New Glarus. There he

²⁷ Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). Op. Cit., Vol. 1, Settlement, p. 3-6.

²⁸ Ibid, p. 3-5.

²⁹ Letter from Emory Odell, publisher of the *Monroe Evening Times* newspaper to Nicholas Freitag, dated September 13, 1939. Freitag Family Archives. Bain subsequently went to California in 1850 and froze to death there in the winter of 1852-53.

³⁰ Documents in the Freitag Family Archives show that Fridolin Streiff added 40 new acres of land to his original holdings in October, 1854, 80 more new acres in 1855, and an additional 21.5 new acres in 1866.

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met his future wife, Verena Elmer (1834-1918), who was also a native of Elm but who had arrived in the United States in 1847. The two were married on May 3, 1866, after which they engaged in farming in New Glarus Township. On January 11, 1869, Dietrich and Verena bought the 230-acre Fridolin & Katharina Streiff farm in Washington Township for the sum of \$6000 that they named "Hillside Dairy".³¹ At the time of the sale the Freitags already had one child, Verena Freitag [(Hosli) 1867-1932], and the birth of the second one; Euphemia Freitag [(Durst) 1869-??] followed two months after the sale. The year 1869, was also notable for the Freitags because it was in that year that Freitag was approached by Nikolaus Gerber with a proposition for starting a cheese factory to produce Swiss (a.k.a. Emmenthaler) cheese.

Nikolaus Gerber (1836-1903) was a native of Berne, Switzerland, and he had already had cheese making experience when he arrived in the United States in 1857 at the age of 21. Gerber married his first wife in the same year and soon thereafter resumed the practice of his profession in the small rural New York state community of Boonville, where he began making limburger cheese.

His [Gerber's] limburger factory in Boonville was the first one in New York. He made cheese there for six years and then had a factory five years at Wheeling, Illinois. Here his wife died in 1867 leaving a family of six children. Knowing about the Swiss colony he came to New Glarus, where he met Albert Babler, ... and through him Gerber became interested in the cows—scarcely fifty in all—as offering openings for a cheese factory.³²

Gerber's arrival in Green County was timely because the county's mostly Swiss-descended farmers were then just beginning to experiment with dairying as an alternative to the wheat farming that had been their principal activity up until that time. Gerber's first cheese factory was begun in 1868 in an old log barn (non-extant) on Babler's farm in New Glarus township and this was the first factory dedicated to the manufacture of Limburger cheese in Green County and in Wisconsin. The following year, Gerber approached Dietrich Freitag with a similar proposal for manufacturing Swiss cheese, which resulted in the first factory dedicated to the manufacture of Swiss cheese in Green County.

The first log house on the farm was used for the cheese factory. Mr. Gerber bought the milk. The cellar of the farm house was used for the cheese for the first few years. Henry Freitag and [his brother] Dietrich sold their milk to Gerber until 1875, when the farmers took over the factory. Mr. [Nicholas] Freitag has the book records kept by his uncle, Henry Freitag, from

³¹ Warranty Deed between Fridolin Streiff & Wife and Dietrich Freitag. Green County Registrar of Deeds. Vol. 39 of Deeds, p. 113.

³² *Monroe Evening Times*. September 11, 1939, p. 6.

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April 1, 1875, showing the milk accounts of the five farmer patrons; Dietrich Freitag, Yost Voegeli, Dietrich Stauffacher, Hans Blumer, and Melchoir Schlittler.³³

In the meantime, Gerber had married Catherine Pfund of Jefferson township in 1870, and in the same year he organized a second limburger cheese factory, this one located in Washington township and belonging to Messrs. Becker and Wittenweyler.³⁴ These three factories were soon followed by three more located elsewhere in New Glarus and Washington townships, but by the mid-1870s others had begun building cheese factories and cheese factories were springing up all over the county.³⁵ Gerber's, however, were the first, and he was also the most active entrepreneur in the fledgling industry.

Mr. Gerber put makers in charge of his factories and closely supervised them. A partner in Chicago found market for the output. The business paid him well from the first but he met with reverses later. Twice his accumulations were swept away. He retired from the cheese business in Monroe in 1882 to engage in other business. He moved to western Iowa in 1893 to make another start in the cheese business. He again made cheese. He was still a pioneer at 67.³⁶

The factory on the Freitag farm, meanwhile, had, as was previously noted, been taken over by Dietrich and Henry Freitag and the four other participating farmer patrons in 1875. In 1876, Henry Freitag died and, in 1877, Dietrich Freitag, in partnership once again with Nikolaus Gerber, took over the factory from the remaining patrons. In that same year, the old log factory building on the Freitag farm was torn down and a new factory building was built in its place and was located very close to site of the original.³⁷

³³ *Monroe Evening Times*. September 11, 1939, p. 6.

³⁴ In the same year, Dietrich and Verena Freitag also their third child, Barbara Alma Freitag [(Elmer) 1870-??].

³⁵ The history of Green County published in 1877 (op. cit.) lists fourteen cheese factories in Washington township alone, one of which was Gerber's, and an additional twelve in New Glarus township, three of which were Gerber's.

³⁶ *Monroe Evening Times*. September 11, 1939, p. 6. The city of Monroe is the county seat of Green County.

³⁷ *Ibid.* The second factory building was used as such until about 1909, after which it was converted into a machine shed. This building was originally located on the west side of the old STH 39 but was moved to the east side when it was converted. Its new location was just to the north of the still extant Fridolin Streiff house on the opposite side of the driveway that now leads east to the present STH 39. The 1877 building survived until the late 1950s, when it was torn down. A number of historic photos of it have survived, however, and they show that it was a one-story, side-gable form frame construction building that had a salt-box style gable roof. The exact final location of this building is known and is identified as a contributing site.

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By 1882, Freitag had become the sole owner of his factory and he continued to operate it until his death in 1900. Freitag's small factory was typical of the factories that were associated with the early years of cheese production in Wisconsin, but it proved to be instrumental in helping the Freitag family achieve prosperity in the ensuing years. One measure of this prosperity was the increasing size of the Freitag family. Between 1869, when Euphemia Freitag was born, and 1880, seven additional children were born to Dietrich and Verena: Barbara Freitag [(Elmer) 1870-??]; Nicholas Freitag (1872-1952); Regula Freitag [(Hefti) 1874-??]; Henry Freitag (1875-??); Maria Freitag [(Streiff) 1876-??]; and Dietrich Freitag (1880-??).³⁸ Another measure of the farm's increasing prosperity was the construction, ca.1880, of what are now the two oldest surviving farm buildings: the large dairy barn (Map No. 3) and the hog barn (Map No. 2). And these barns were needed. Even by 1876, the then 263-acre Freitag farm was one of the twenty-five largest in Washington Township and by 1891, thanks to Freitag's subsequent purchase of an additional 137 acres, the now 400-acre farm, which was called the Hillside Dairy, had grown to become one of the five largest in the township.³⁹ Besides his highly successful farming career, Freitag was also one of the founders of the German Reformed Church in the nearby village of Monticello and he served as its president from 1887-1899.

Freitag's active farming career ended in 1895, when he and Verena, their youngest daughter, Marie, and their youngest son, who was also named Dietrich, all moved to a new house in the nearby village of Monticello. By the time of his death on March 28, 1900, Freitag, besides having been one of Green County's most successful farmers, was also one of its best known and best liked citizens. As his obituary noted:

The funeral of the late Dietrich Freitag, who died about noon on March 28, occurred at the German Reformed church on Sunday afternoon and was one of the largest attended ever held here, many being unable to gain admission to the church. ... Mr. Freitag was a kind-hearted, genial gentleman, very popular with those who knew him best, and was credited with doing his full share of good in this world.⁴⁰

Three year later, on May 9, 1903, Nikolaus Gerber also died. Following financial reverses, Gerber had abandoned the cheese business and moved to Monroe, where he ran a saloon. Some years later he moved to western Iowa, where he again made cheese and still later he moved to Omaha to engage in

³⁸ An eighth child, born in 1871, did not survive.

³⁹ Bingham, Helen M. *Op. Cit.*, p. 214. This book has a listing of the largest farms in the township. See also: *Plat Book of Green County, Wisconsin*. 1891.

⁴⁰ *Monticello Messenger*. April 4, 1900, p. 1. Obituary of Dietrich Freitag.

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the retail cheese business with a son. Gerber returned to Green County just two weeks before he died and was survived by his wife and twelve children.⁴¹

During Freitag and Gerber's lifetime, the practice of agriculture in Green County changed significantly and both men played an important part in that change. Farmers in the county were struggling when Nikolaus Gerber arrived in 1868.

The Swiss had raised cows almost as soon as they settled in Green County. ... Swiss immigrants had also brought with them their knowledge of cheese making and their taste for good cheese. But they, like other immigrants who settled in Wisconsin, got caught up in the wheat-growing craze. The Swiss who settled in Green County planted acre on acre of wheat—and they did little else but grow wheat until 1870. When wheat growing collapsed, the Swiss, along with other southern Wisconsin wheat growers, looked to dairy farming as an alternative. Conrad Zimmerman, who wrote an 1884 history of New Glarus, said, "[It was] Either cheese or nothing, and happily we got cheese. The old wheat fields were seeded with clover and grass. Cows were put on them. Cheese factories were built. After the fact was proved that there was a ready market for cheese, it only took four or five years until cheese making was the main branch of work for the whole farming population. It not only pays better but the farms are constantly more productive."⁴²

Indeed, by 1870, just one year after Gerber organized the county's first Swiss cheese factory on the Freitag farm, the total amount of cheese produced in Green County had reached 348,830 pounds and the amount nearly doubled by 1873, 250,000 pounds of it having been produced by Gerber's four factories. In addition, nearly 2,000,000 pounds of butter was also being produced in the county by that year, over one-half of which was exported, and Green County was by then the biggest producer of cheese in the state. The impact on the county was considerable. As a contemporary newspaper account put it:

A few years ago such a thing as a cheese factory was unknown, and the co-operative system of cheese-making was unheard of. Now the product amounts to hundreds of tons, consuming the milk of several thousands of cows.⁴³

⁴¹ *Monroe Sentinel*. May 13, 1903, p. 1. Obituary of Nikolaus Gerber.

⁴² Apps, Jerry. *Cheese, the Making of a Wisconsin Tradition*. Amherst, WI: Palmer Publications, Inc., 1998, p. 29.

⁴³ *Monroe Sentinel*. March 4, 1874, p. 3.

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Cheese-making quickly became important not just to the farmers of Green County but to farmers throughout the state, but despite competition from others, Green County farmers would continue to be leaders in Wisconsin's dairy production.

By the 1880s, cheese manufacturing was concentrated in three counties: Sheboygan (87 factories), Green (47 factories) and Jefferson (36), with Walworth, Manitowoc, and Dodge counties next in descending order.⁴⁴

The manufacturing of cheese continues to be of prime importance to Green County farmers to this day and the Freitag farm, where the industry began, was and is emblematic of the prosperity it produced.

Dietrich Freitag was survived by his wife, Verena, and eight children, two of whom, Nicholas and Henry, had purchased the farm from their parents in 1895. Nicholas Freitag (1872-1952) was born on his parent's farm and attended the Voegli School in Washington Township and later the Milwaukee Business College. In 1894, Nicholas married Elsbeth Hefty in a locally famous triple wedding ceremony that united three of the area's most important Swiss-American families: the Freitags, the Heftys, and the Voegelis.⁴⁵ Shortly thereafter, Nicholas purchased his parents farm with his brother Henry. Shortly after their father's death, Nicholas bought out Henry and became the sole proprietor of the farm, which has remained the property of his descendants ever since.

By the time Nicholas took over the farm, however, he was no longer producing his own cheese. Improved transportation and advances in refrigeration were making it both safe and profitable for farmers to ship their milk further afield to the larger, more modern industrial scale cheese factories that were then being built, rather than to small, outmoded local factories of the type represented by the one on his own farm. But if cheese production on the farm had ended, prosperity had not and in 1906, Nicholas and Elsbeth, who by this time possessed three children of their own, had a new house built on the farm for themselves and their family. This was the fine brick Queen Anne style house that is still extant today and which, more than anything else, served to announce to the world the rise in the family's fortunes.

Nicholas Freitag continued to operate his farm for the rest of his life, but he also found time to serve as a director of the Bank of Monticello and was a pillar of the Zwingli Evangelical and Reformed Church in Monticello. Elsbeth Freitag, meanwhile, took advantage of the family's prosperity to ensure that her

⁴⁴ Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). Vol. 2, (Agriculture), pp. 10-1 - 10-2.

⁴⁵ The members of the wedding were Nicholas Freitag and Elsbeth Hefty; Albert Voegeli and Rosina Hefty, and Fred K. Hefty and Regula Anna Freitag.

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children had access to the larger world beyond the farm. In a day when college attendance was unusual for those born in rural Wisconsin and was even more so for young rural women, she made sure that all four of her children attended college. All three daughters attended Milwaukee Downer, then a prestigious teaching school, while her son, Rufus, graduated first from Cornell University, then received an MBA from Harvard University, and later studied bacteriology in Zurich.

In 1939, the agricultural heritage that the Freitag Farm exemplifies was officially recognized when the Green County Historical Society erected a memorial bronze plaque at the farm honoring the creation of the county's first Swiss cheese factory.

Taking route 69 towards Monticello the marker at the location of the first Swiss cheese factory is at the Nick Freitag farm a few miles south. The boulder stands on the embankment at the right side of the road between the brick farm house and the barnyard. Across the road still stands the remodeled cheese factory formerly used and resulted from the first Swiss cheese factory opened in 1869. The marker here reads as follows:

NIKOLAUS GERBER IN 1869 HERE FOUNDED GREEN COUNTY'S FIRST SWISS
CHEESE FACTORY.

Tablet placed to mark the site and honor the achievement as well as the memory of the man entitled to credit for his vision in launching the region's distinctive cheese industry, later to become the basis of Green County's prosperity.⁴⁶

Nor was the tablet overstating the role of cheese making in Green County's history. By 1938, Green County was producing 10,714,00 pounds of Swiss cheese and Wisconsin as a whole was producing 29,377,000 pounds in a year when the total U.S. production was 43,084,00 pounds.⁴⁷ Green County was therefore producing over one-quarter of the nation's total Swiss cheese production at a time when the nation and Green County were just recovering from the Great Depression, a fact which does much to explain why the Freitag farm site was considered to be of such local importance.

Two years later, in 1941, Elsbeth Freitag passed away and Nicholas Freitag followed her in 1952.⁴⁸ After Nicholas's death, his four children, Helena Verena Steussy (1897-1966), Elsie Marie Sammond

⁴⁶ *Monroe Evening Times*. September 11, 1939, pp. 1, 6. See also: September 21, 1939, p. 2, 4; October 2, 1939, p. 6; and *Monticello Messenger*, April 27, 1939, p. 3.

⁴⁷ *Monticello Messenger*. November 30, 1939, p. 2.

⁴⁸ *Monroe Evening Times*. April 8, 1952, p. 1 (Obituary of Nicholas Freitag).

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(1901-1975), Ruth Rosalia Fisher (1903-1994), and Rufus Thomas Dietrich (1907-1973), continued to operate the farm with tenants. But even though they no longer lived on the farm, they still took an active interest in its operations and maintenance and were responsible for having additions built on to the main dairy barn and for the construction of the concrete silo group next to it, all of which took place between 1950 and 1965. During the same period they also approved of the demolition of the old and seriously deteriorated cheese factory building, which had been moved and converted into a machine shed by Nicholas Freitag at the turn-of-the-century. Fortunately, most of this building's original cheese-making equipment had been saved and this was donated to the Swiss Historical Village in New Glarus, where it is now on display in the cheese barn.

In 1969, members of the Freitag family held a major celebration at the farm to mark the 100th anniversary of their ownership. This reunion brought together the children, grandchildren and the great-grandchildren of Nicholas and Elsbeth Freitag, who came from all over the country to celebrate their heritage and to place bronze plaques of their own on the farm's two houses.⁴⁹

On March 21, 1972, the family incorporated the farm as Freitag Farms, Inc. and it is still owned by members of the fourth and fifth generations of the Freitag family today. Since Nicholas's death, his Queen Anne style house has remained unoccupied save for annual summer visits by family members. The Streiff house, however, was used by the farm's tenants after Nicholas' death and it is still rented out today, as is most of the 165 acres of land that is associated with the farm.

Architecture

The Freitag Homestead is eligible for listing in the NRHP under NR criterion C, Architecture, for its local significance. The Queen Anne style Nicholas and Elsbeth Freitag House is an excellent example of the style. Furthermore, the multi-generational family homestead contains highly intact buildings that represent various architectural styles and building types from every period of the family's historic ownership. The oldest building in the complex is the Greek Revival style Fridolin Streiff house, which was built ca.1862, seven years before the Freitags purchased the farm. Next oldest is the farm's large early dairy barn and its hog barn, both of which date from the 1880s. As noted above, the most impressive of the farmstead's buildings is the outstanding Queen Anne style house built in 1906 for Nicholas and Elsbeth Freitag. Built to a design produced by Monroe architect Robert L. Rote, this large, exceptionally intact, brick-clad house also boasts an elaborate and totally intact interior and is one of rural Green County's finest farmhouses.

⁴⁹ *Monroe Evening Times*. August 25, 1969, pp. 1 and 3.

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The oldest building in the farmstead is the Fridolin Streiff house, built in 1862. The Greek Revival subsection of the Architectural Styles 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 was the first national style to have a wide-ranging impact on Wisconsin building. It originated in the East during the late eighteenth century and was brought to maturity in the architecture of Benjamin Latrobe and two of his contemporaries, Robert Mills and William Strickland. From the east coast the style was carried westward with the great population surge of the first half of the nineteenth century.⁵⁰

The Greek Revival subsection then goes on to list features that are characteristic of the style.

The Greek Revival style is symmetrical, formal, and orderly. It is often characterized by porticos and pilasters reflecting the three Grecian orders: Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian. Eaves of Greek Revival buildings are typically detailed as classical cornices, and prominent gables are framed with heavy moldings. Roofs tend to be low-pitched and are generally heavy-looking and simple compared to later styles.⁵¹

The purest expressions of the Greek Revival style are examples of the so-called "temple front" variants that have a symmetrical main facade consisting of a gabled portico or pilastered design surmounted by a triangular pediment, resulting in a facade that bears a considerable resemblance to classical Greek temples. Such buildings are, however, very rare in rural Wisconsin.

In addition to these relatively 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.⁵²

The Gabled Ell form is a vernacular form consisting of an upright gable-roofed wing joined to a perpendicularly placed gable-roofed side wing of equal or lesser height. When such buildings exhibit Greek Revival elements at all they are usually confined to the simplest details such as returned

⁵⁰ Wyatt, Barbara (ed.). Vol. 2, (Architecture), p. 5-1.

⁵¹ Ibid, p. 3-10.

⁵² Wyatt, Barbara (ed.). Vol. 2, (Architecture), p. 2-3.

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cornices, six-over-six-light double hung wood sash windows, and less commonly, small semi-circular windows that are usually placed in one or more of the gable ends. Such buildings are the most frequently encountered rural expressions of the Greek Revival style in Wisconsin and the Streiff house is a typical example of such a building and one which features all of the elements listed above. In addition, the Streiff house is largely intact today, even though its original (and still extant) narrow wooden clapboards have now been covered over with narrow gauge aluminum equivalents.

Of individual architectural significance is the Nicholas & Elsbeth Freitag house (Map No. 6), which is an excellent example of the larger Queen Anne style residences that some successful Wisconsin farmers were building on their farms between 1880 and 1910. This significance is considerably enhanced by the high degree of integrity that is present in the fabric of the Freitag house today. The design of this house was furnished by Robert L. Rote, a young architect located in the nearby city of Monroe, Wisconsin, and the builder was the firm of Karlen & Steinman, which was located in the still nearer village of Monticello.⁵³

Robert L. Rote (1877-?) was the son of Alvin F. and Mary K. Rote.⁵⁴ The father, Alvin F. Rote, was born in Wisconsin in 1859 and graduated from the University of Wisconsin's Engineering School in 1882. In 1903, after first pursuing a career superintending schools in a number of Wisconsin cities, Rote purchased a lumber, coal, and cement yard in the city of Monroe, Wisconsin. He operated this yard in the years that followed and was also a general contractor and a practicing but unregistered architect.⁵⁵ His son, Robert L. Rote, was born in 1877 and in 1910, at the age of 33, R. L. Rote also became a graduate of the University of Wisconsin's School of Engineering. Rote qualified as a registered architect in 1918, this being the first year that the State of Wisconsin issued licenses for this profession. He continued to practice his profession until at least 1946.⁵⁶ Prior to achieving registered status and for seven years prior to his 1910 graduation, Rote was already working as an architect, with an office in the city of Monroe, and it was during this period that he prepared the designs for a house for Nicholas & Elsbeth Freitag.

⁵³ The original signed blueprints for the house are still in the possession of the Freitag family.

⁵⁴ U.S. Department of Commerce & Labor—Bureau of the Census. Thirteenth Census of the United States: 1910. Green Co., Monroe, WI. Series 1704, pg. 210A.

⁵⁵ Wisconsin Examining Board of Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers, and Land Surveyors Applications for Licenses. Wisconsin Historical Society Archives, Series 1591, A. F. Rote File.

⁵⁶ Wisconsin Examining Board of Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers, and Land Surveyors. Applications for Licenses. Wisconsin Historical Society Archives, Series 1591, R. L. Rote File.

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Rote's design for the Freitags is a good example of the "Front Gabled Roof subtype" of the Queen Anne style that was identified by Virginia & Lee McMasters in their important work *A Field Guide to American Houses*.⁵⁷ His design makes good use of the "irregularity of plan and massing" and the "asymmetrical facade" composition that are hallmarks of the Queen Anne style that are specifically mentioned in the Queen Anne style subsection of the Architectural Styles study unit of the CRMP. He also uses variegated exterior surface materials, wall projections, steeply pitched roofs, cutaway bay windows, a dominant front-facing gable, and a wrap-around veranda, all of which are also elements mentioned in the CRMP as being specific attributes of the style.⁵⁸ In addition, the Freitag house features an uncommon porch roof turret, which is positioned over the southeast corner of the house's veranda.

The builder of the house was the firm of Karlen & Steinman of Monticello. John C. Steinman, a Monticello merchant and businessman, had purchased a half share in the Studly & Karlen Lumber Company in that village in 1904, and renamed it Karlen & Steinman. As the largest lumberyard in the area, this firm was an obvious choice for the Freitag's commission, whose construction was considered to be significant enough to warrant continued local newspaper coverage.

Nic. Freitag, the well known and prosperous farmer, residing a few miles northwest of town on the New Glarus road, is making preparations for the erection of a large and modern house. The structure will be built of brick and the contract for the entire job, including the work and materials used in its construction, has been awarded to Karlen & Steinman. When completed, Mr. Freitag will doubtless have a farm residence that will rank among the finest in the county.⁵⁹

* * *

The brick work on Nic Freitag's new farm house in Washington township was commenced the first of last week and will be rushed to a speedy finish. Bauman & Keister, of Monroe, have the contract for this part of the work.⁶⁰

* * *

The interior work on the handsome brick residence which has been in the course of construction on the farm of Nick Freitag for several months has finally been completed and Mr. Freitag and family have taken possession of same. The structure is without doubt the finest farm home in this part of Green county. Besides being large and roomy, it is thoroughly modern in every particular, in this respect being the equal of a city home. It has a system of

⁵⁷ McMasters, Virginia & Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Knopf, 1984, p. 263-265.

⁵⁸ Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). *Op. Cit.*, Vol. 2, 2-15 (Architecture).

⁵⁹ *Monticello Messenger*. May 22, 1906.

⁶⁰ *Monticello Messenger*. June 12, 1906.

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water works, steam heat and a gas lighting plant, and, besides these conveniences, the family enjoys telephone connections, both local and long distance. With the addition of the rural mail service which Uncle Samuel provides, there seems to be little left in the way of modern conveniences that the family does not enjoy.⁶¹

Besides its two houses, the Freitag Homestead is also enhanced by the survival of its two very intact nineteenth century agricultural outbuildings. The study of agricultural outbuildings as distinct architectural entities is still in its infancy according to the CRMP's Agricultural Outbuildings study unit and the systematic work necessary to identify such buildings and to develop a morphology that describes them has not yet been completed. In the absence of such research, "A correlation between crops, technology, ethnicity, and architecture cannot always be made."⁶² What has been identified and quantified at this time are such visually distinct types as half-timber and centric barns and types related to single purpose, highly specific usages such as hop houses, corn cribs, tobacco barns and the like. For the more common multi-use types of agricultural outbuildings found on the Freitag farmstead, most of the background material that will allow them to be properly evaluated has yet to be produced.

However, it is possible to evaluate these buildings according to the standards embodied in the CRMP, which states: "Like other building forms, the most significant vernacular ... examples will be those with the highest integrity."⁶³ Using integrity as an indicator of significance for vernacular and astylistic buildings it appears that the surviving outbuildings associated with the farmstead may rightly claim to be contributing resources. The farmstead's two contributing nineteenth century outbuildings are its hog barn (Map No. 2, ca.1880) and its dairy barn (Map No. 3, ca.1880/1950-65). Both date from the Dietrich Freitag period of ownership and both display the typical characteristics of their type as described in the Agricultural Outbuildings subsection of the CRMP. They maintain a high degree of integrity and are generally in very well maintained condition. The Freitag Homestead also has four non-contributing structures, these being the four concrete silos (Map No. 14) that were built between 1950 and 1965. It also contains one non-contributing building, the garage.

The Freitag Homestead is therefore believed to be eligible for listing in the NRHP as an intact multi-generational homestead that contains both historic agricultural outbuildings and the houses that have historically been associated with them. Groupings such as this are becoming increasingly rare in every part of Wisconsin due to age, obsolescence and changes in agricultural practices. As a consequence, identifying these groupings and nominating them to the NRHP is becoming an important priority.

⁶¹ *Monticello Messenger*. February 22, 1907.

⁶² Wyatt, Barbara (Ed.). Vol. 2, (Architecture), p. 5-1.

⁶³ *Ibid*, p. 3-10.

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Intact farmsteads such as the one established by Dietrich Freitag and continuously improved by his descendants are thus of considerable importance in providing information that can be used to establish the significance of other farmsteads in the state. The Nicholas and Elsbeth Freitag House is also significant as a highly intact and very good example of the Queen Anne style.

Archeological Potential

No information was found regarding any resources of pre-historic archeological significance on the farmstead and the fact that this land has been intensely cultivated since the middle of the nineteenth century makes such an occurrence somewhat unlikely. However, the site(s) of the two now non-extant cheese factory buildings that were once located on the farmstead may be of archeological significance. The final location of the 1877 factory building is known and locating both its original site and the site of the earlier original factory building may also be possible.

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Boundary Description

The Dietrich & Verena Farmstead Complex is located in the SE and SW quarters of Section 1, T3N, R7E, of the Town of Washington in Green County, WI. The northeast corner of this parcel begins at a point situated on the westerly ROW of the north-south running STH 39/69 that is located approximately 1150 feet southeast of the point where the east-west running Hefty Road intersects with STH 39/69. The line then turns 90° and continues in a southwesterly direction for approximately 625 feet, then turns 90° and continues in a southeasterly direction for approximately 950 feet, then turns 90° and continues in a northeasterly direction for approximately 625 feet to a point that is located on the westerly ROW of STH 39/69. The line then turns 90° and continues in a northwesterly direction along said ROW for approximately 950 feet to the POB.

The parcel described is rectangular in shape and contains approximately 12 acres.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the farmstead complex encompass the residences and the agricultural outbuildings and structures that have historically been associated with the Dietrich & Verena Freitag Farmstead. All the land that surrounds this complex has historically been cultivated and it is both visually and functionally distinct from the land within the complex's boundaries.

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Items a-d are the same for photos 1 - 15.

Photo 1

- a) Dietrich & Verena Freitag Farmstead Complex
- b) Town of Washington, Green County, WI
- c) Timothy F. Heggland, January 23, 2005
- d) Wisconsin Historical Society
- e) General View looking WSW
- f) Photo 1 of 15

Photo 2

- e) F. Streiff House. View looking E
- f) Photo 2 of 15

Photo 3

- e) General View looking NW
- f) Photo 3 of 15

Photo 4

- e) N. Freitag House. View looking NW
- f) Photo 4 of 15

Photo 5

- e) N. Freitag House, View looking N
- f) Photo 5 of 15

Photo 6

- e) General View looking S
- f) Photo 6 of 15

Photo 7

- e) 1939 Memorial Plaque, View looking W
- f) Photo 7 of 15

Photo 8

- e) Dairy Barn, View looking W
- f) Photo 8 of 15

Photo 9

- e) Dairy Barn with Silo Group, View facing E
- f) Photo 9 of 15

Photo 10

- e) Dairy Barn with later additions, View facing NW
- f) Photo 10 of 15

Photo 11

- e) Hog Barn, View facing SE
- f) Photo 11 of 15

Photo 12

- e) Dairy Barn Interior, View facing N
- f) Photo 12 of 15

Photo 13

- e) N. Freitag House, living room/stair hall, View facing N
- f) Photo 13 of 15

Photo 14

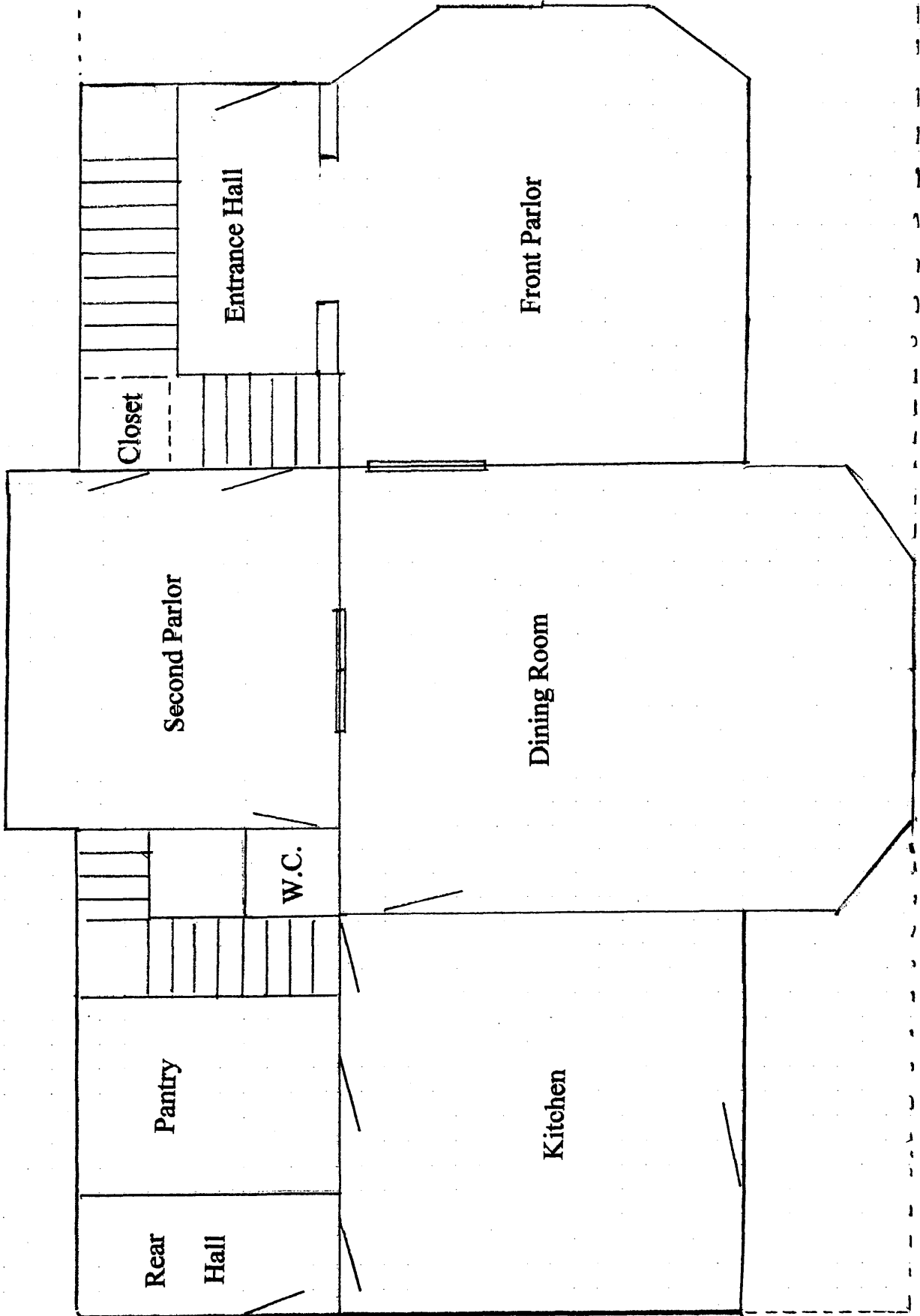
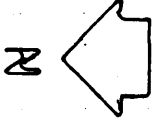
- e) N. Freitag House, living room/stair hall floor detail, View to SW
- f) Photo 14 of 15

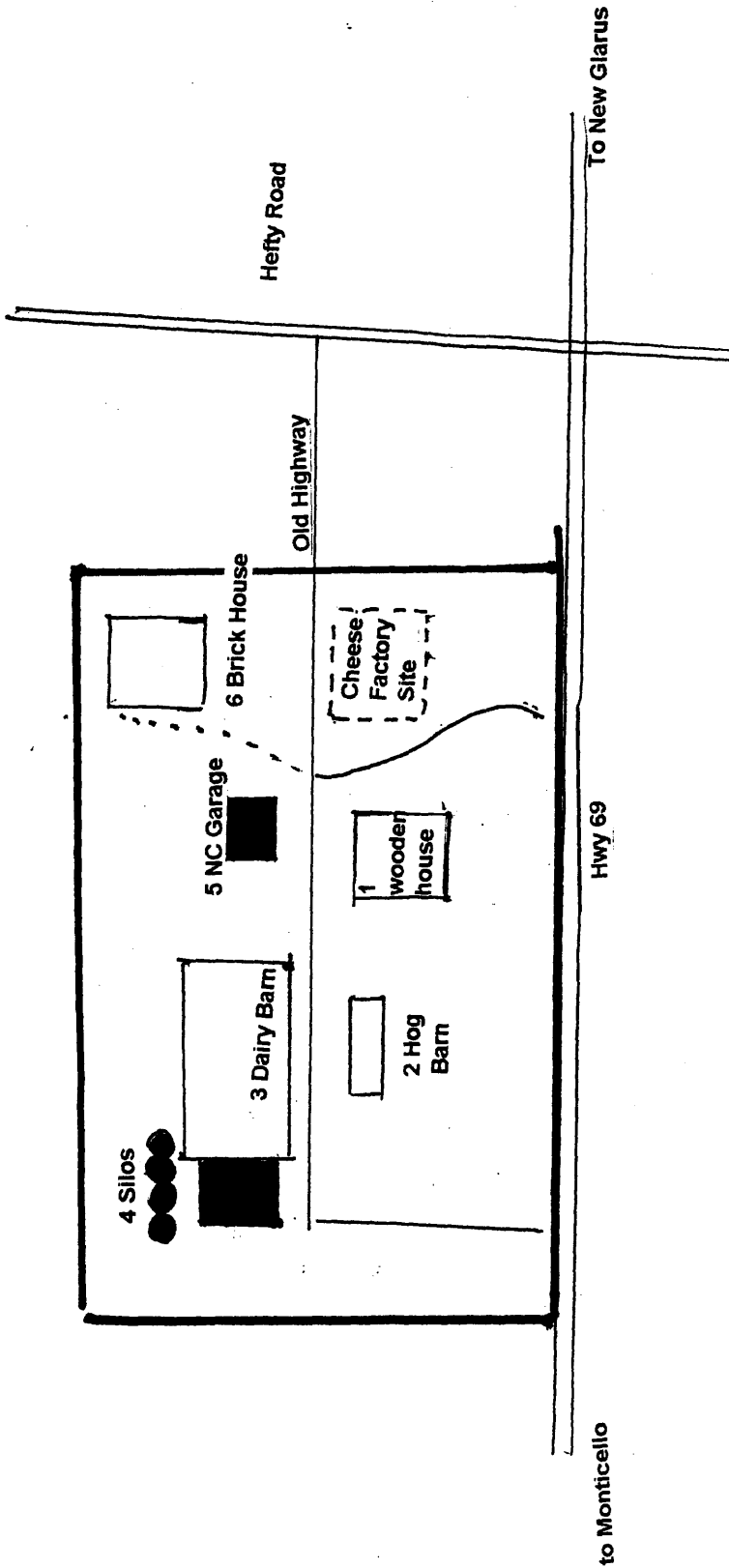
Photo 15

- e) N. Freitag House, looking SW from stair hall to dining room
- f) Photo 15 of 15

Nicholas & Elsbeth Freitag House
N7053 State Highway 69/39
Town of Washington, Green Co., WI

no scale





FREITAG HOMESTEAD
 Town of Washington, Green Co., WI

■ Not Contributing

— Boundary

Not to Scale