

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 15 1976
DATE ENTERED APR 11 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Hanchett-Bartlett Farmstead

AND/OR COMMON

Bartlett Memorial Historical Museum

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2149 St. Lawrence Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Beloit

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Wisconsin 53511

CODE

55

COUNTY

Rock

CODE

105

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Beloit Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

2149 St. Lawrence Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Beloit

VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin 53511

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Rock County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

51 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Janesville

STATE

Wisconsin 53545

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Rock County Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE

1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Rock County Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Janesville

STATE

Wisconsin 53545

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Hanchett-Bartlett farmstead, now known as the Bartlett Memorial Historical Museum, at 2149 St. Lawrence Avenue, consists of nine structures located on 1.875 acres, just within the western limits of the City of Beloit. The land itself is a slight knoll and was the southwest corner of a 19th century 40-acre farm which comprised the SW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 34, Town of Beloit. This farm was originally immediately outside the city limits, which had encompassed the eastern half of Section 34 by 1856. At the southeastern corner of the farm, about 1/4 mile east of the homestead site, is a limestone quarry. This quarry is said to have furnished the stone for the masonry house, barn and smokehouse on the site, as well as for other buildings in Beloit. (A two-story building, recently used as a house, is still at the back of this quarry. The lower 2/3ds of its walls are limestone. It may have been a barn or quarry storehouse.)

The Rock County Atlas of 1873 shows an orchard across the south portion of the 40-acre farm, up to the quarry on the southeastern side. This area is now largely filled with scrub trees and some small houses, but there are some apple and plum trees on the northeast side of the 1.875-acre plot. The back of the nominated site is still used for agricultural purposes as a vegetable garden, and cornfields extend to the north beyond that, on neighboring land, so that the land surrounding the nominated site helps to preserve the parcel's rural flavor.

The farmhouse, most commanding building on the site, is at the southwest corner of the complex and faces south towards the road. The front portion is a bracketed, two-storied, hip-roofed limestone block 28 feet wide across the front and 34.4 feet wide on its east side. This block is topped by a bracketed white frame observatory or cupola with green louvered Palladian windows. A 1½-story, gable-roofed limestone wing extends 40.4 feet to the rear, or north. The west side of this wing is a flush extension of the west wall of the house, 74.4 feet long without a seam in construction. The east wall of the wing is recessed about eight feet, but the resulting open space is now an enclosed veranda. The back gable features a returned cornice.

The house is in transitional Greek Revival-Italianate style, combining straight Greek Revival limestone lintels over the entrance and windows with simple Italianate bracketing under the broad eaves. The heavy lintels are flush with the walls; the sills project slightly. The facade is treated somewhat more richly than the sides, but the entire building presents a sober, conservative appearance.

The entrance to the 3-window front is on the left. It is recessed about two feet and framed by white wood panels with rounded moldings. A handsome triple-paneled door is surrounded by sidelights and a transom. The two first story windows on the main facade are long 4/4 double-hung sash which extend to the water table, a structural refinement found only across the front. Windows on the second story front and across the sides are shorter 6/6 double-hung sash. The cream buff limestone is varied in color with greenish overtones. On three sides of the house, tan mortar bands framing the random-cut limestone were employed, emphasizing the horizontals. The rear wall was troweled more simply. Due to the relative softness of the stone, cracks have developed which have been tuck-pointed in the past, but much more such repair is needed. Otherwise the house is structurally sound and in fine condition.

The interior is plastered and painted, including stenciled decorations in several rooms. The front two-story wing is used as a museum of Beloit history, including that of the Bartlett family, who were twentieth century occupants of the building. The front parlor, the most ornate room in the house, has a handsome ceiling plastered

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	Association with locally important physicians.
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1857, 1901 BUILDER/ARCHITECT James Henry Hanchett

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
 The Hanchett-Bartlett farmstead has multiple significance. First, it is important architecturally and agriculturally as a mid-19th century farmstead with a transitional Italianate farmhouse in fine repair and several outbuildings, including a stone barn and a smokehouse. Secondly, it is important to local medical history as the longtime homestead of the Bartlett family. This family included three sisters who became physicians, an unusual occurrence in the early 20th century.

James Hanchett built the house and barn--"a large, handsome stone residence, with barns, etc.,"--about 1857.¹ He had come to Beloit in 1840 and was a contractor and builder of dams. He built at least two dams in Indiana and a number on the Rock River in both Wisconsin and Illinois, including the first dam across the Rock River at Beloit in 1844. In 1856 he built Hanchett's Hall in Beloit, where Lincoln spoke in 1859 and which still stands. He died in 1866, but his family stayed on the farm until Mrs. Hanchett's death in 1887. Their son Charles later sold the land in two parcels. In 1901 the Bartlett family bought the western half, which included the house, barn, and outbuildings. Herrick Bartlett, the father of the family, had died by this time; his children John and Lillie actually purchased the property.

The farmstead's associative significance in the area of medicine derives from the fact that three of Herrick's daughters, Mary (1869-1959), Edith (1871-1949), and Lucy Etta (1872-1962), after graduating from Beloit High School, took premedical training at Valparaiso University and attended Hahnemann Medical College in Chicago, where they received their M.D. degrees. It is perhaps worthy of mention that the sisters traced their ancestors to their great-great-grandfather Dr. Josiah Bartlett (1729-1795), founder of the New Hampshire Medical Society and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Three of his sons and seven grandsons had also become doctors of medicine. Family tradition, therefore, may well have encouraged the Bartlett sisters of Beloit to pursue and broaden the profession.

Dr. Mary Bartlett practiced briefly in other Wisconsin communities, starting in Eagle in 1899, then returned to Beloit in 1907, where she practiced until 1958, the year before her death. Dr. Edith, after practicing in Troy Center from 1899 to 1905, moved to Janesville, near Beloit, and continued to practice there for the rest of her life. The third sister, Dr. Etta Bartlett Vaughn, spent her professional life practicing out of state, but returned to the house in Beloit in 1957-58 and died there in 1962. Hence the close association of the property with the three physician-daughters of Herrick Bartlett from the turn of the century to the 1960's. A nephew, Martin H. Bartlett, M.D., of Alamogordo, New Mexico has retained ownership of approximately 18 acres of the old Bartlett farm. Dr. Etta Bartlett Vaughn bequeathed the nominated property to the Beloit Historical Society because of its status as home base for a family of three early and well-known female physicians. In 1965 it was designated Wisconsin Registered Landmark Number 2.

1. Portrait and Biographical Album, p. 751

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Beloit Historical Society Files

History of Rock County, (Chicago, 1879), p. 751

Portrait and Biographical Album of Rock County, Wis., (Chicago, 1889), p. 751

Rock County Historical Society Files

Rock County Gazetteer. Directory and Business Advertiser, (Janesville, 1857), p. 80

Way, Royal Brunson, ed., The Rock River Valley, (Chicago, 1926), Vol. II, pp. 55-60

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1,875

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	6	3	2	9	9	6	0	4	7	0	7	6	1	0
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Nancy Belle Douglas, Preservation Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

Rock County Historical Society

DATE

September 2, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 896

TELEPHONE

608/756-4509

CITY OR TOWN

Janesville

STATE

Wisconsin 53545

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Richard H. Emery

TITLE

Acting Director,
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

11/11/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

CHIEF

[Signature]

DATE

4/11/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

5/26/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

with a radiating pattern of feathered plumes. Dadoes and door mouldings are well preserved, as is the fine dark-grained bannister.

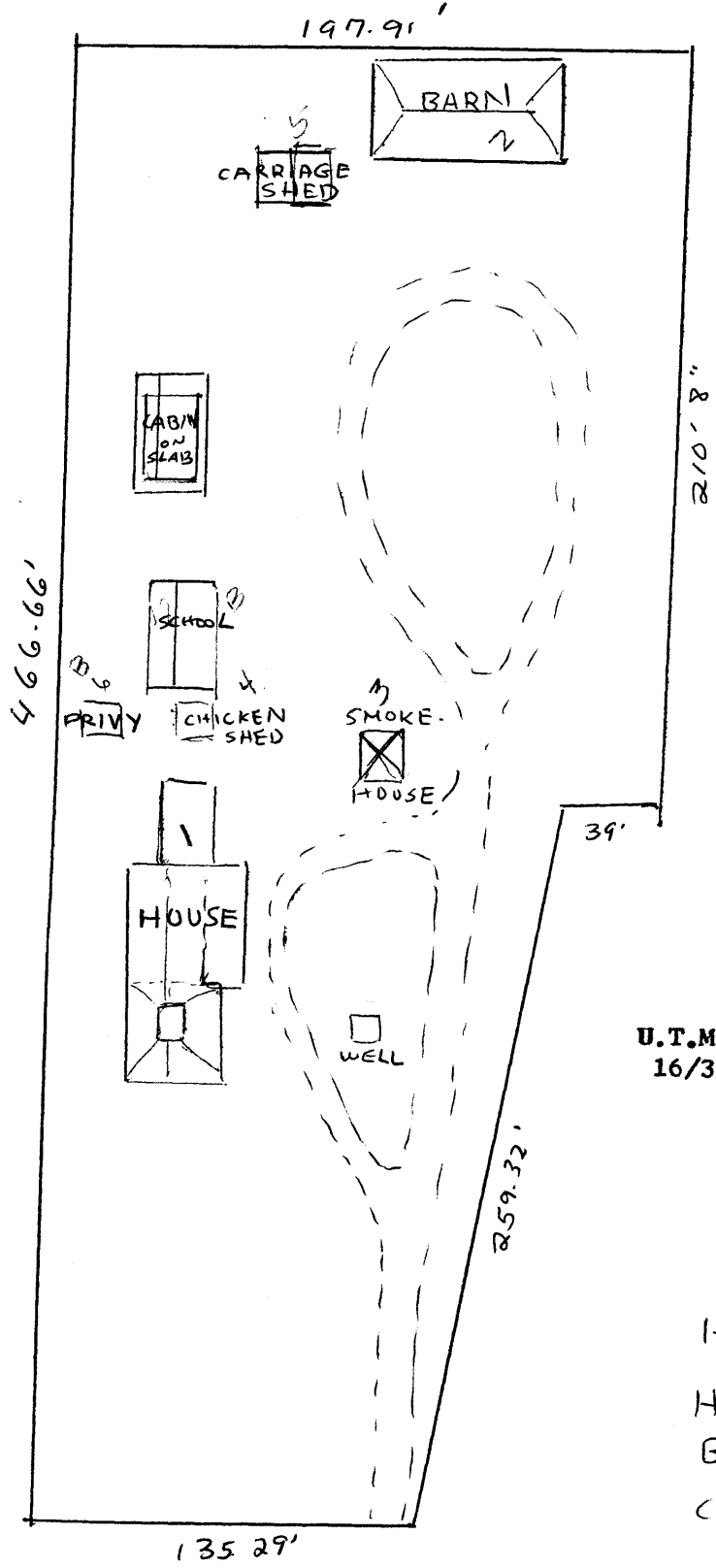
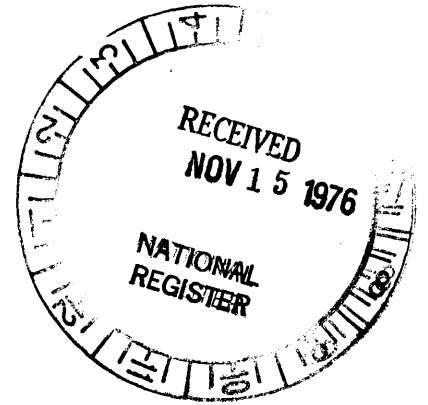
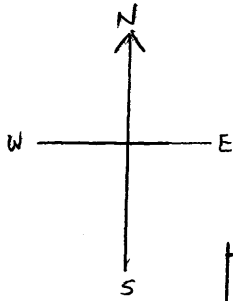
The enclosed veranda along the rear wing serves as the entrance to the wing, which now houses the offices of the Beloit Historical Society and caretaker's quarters. The base of this veranda is rough-cut random limestone; the body is frame and appears to have been enclosed around the turn of the century. About the same time, pedimented second-story dormers were added: three on the east side of the wing and one on the west side, enlarging smaller square "eyebrow" windows. In the rear of the house is a one-story 28' x 16' wooden wing, probably also added around 1900. It is used for storage and as an entry to the basement, where museum objects are stored. These alterations and additions do not detract from the basic character of the house.

On the north edge of the parcel, to the east of the house, is the stone barn, a hip-roofed oblong block. It is 40'6" across the south front, 30'6" deep, and features a pair of sliding doors. The door and the trim are painted deep red. The barn once had two lean-to-wings of limestone, which are now demolished, but the stone is still piled up for possible reconstruction. The barn is now a museum of farm and industrial implements from the Beloit area. The hayloft has been removed but other interior framing remains. Windows have been walled in for security reasons.

The 9' x 6'9" smokehouse, between the house and the barn, was built of random limestone and roughly troweled, like the barn. It is surmounted by a pyramidal roof. The interior walls are blackened with smoke. The trim is painted the same deep red as that of the barn.

In addition to these stone buildings, there are three frame buildings connected with the farm, either from the Bartlett family era in the early 20th century, or earlier. A 6'3" deep by 8'4" outhouse stands in back of the house to the west. It is painted white and in fair condition. Behind the house is a dilapidated shed-roof chicken house, 6'4" x 8'3". An unpainted carriage shed, 14'4" by 16'3", which was used as Dr. Mary Bartlett's garage, is just southwest of the barn. These buildings need repair.

Since 1962, when the site was donated to the Beloit Historical Society, three structures have been added to the grounds. These are not important to the nomination. One is the Dougan School, built c. 1873 and typical of the one-room schoolhouse of its time. Another is a reconstruction of the 1840 Borgwalt-Nicolai Roi log house from west of Beloit. The third is a fake well which was placed east of the Bartlett House.



U.T.M. Reference:
16/329960/4707610

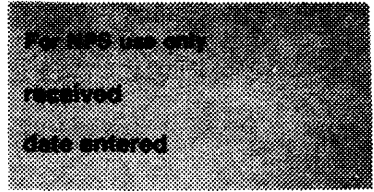
1.875 acres
Hanchett-Bartlett
Belvit WI
(Buildings not to scale)

St. Lawrence Ave.

(based on map 8/8/60 W.D.)
nsd 9/2/76

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet _____ Item number _____ Page _____

PROPERTY NAME Hanchett-Bartlett Farmstead

7 7 0 0 0 0 4 8

REFERENCE NUMBER

W I

STATE

1 0 5

COUNTY CODE

Correct other name is Bartlett ^{Memorial} ~~Memorial~~ Historical Museum

Jeff Dean

2/18/86

SIGNED, SHPO OR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

DATE