

NPS Form 10-900  
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(Approved 3/87)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United State Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register form (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only archival paper (20 pound, acid free paper with a 2% alkaline reserve).

1. Name of Property

historic name Society Hill Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number see inventory N/A not for publication

city, town Portage N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Columbia code 021 zip code 53901

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>195</u>	<u>38</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>195</u>	<u>38</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.      See continuation sheet.

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official  
State Historic Preservation Officer-WI  
State or Federal agency and bureau

1/22/92  
Date

In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register criteria.      See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

~~Entered in the~~  
~~National Register~~

entered in the National Register.  
     See continuation sheet

[Signature] 3/5/92

     determined eligible for the National Register.      See continuation sheet

     determined not eligible for the National Register.

     removed from the National Register.

     other, (explain):                     

Signature of the Keeper

Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions

Current Functions

(enter categories from instructions)

(enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling  
DOMESTIC/secondary structure

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling  
DOMESTIC/secondary structure  
EDUCATION/library

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials  
(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival  
Italianate  
Queen Anne

foundation Stone  
walls Weatherboard  
Brick  
roof Asphalt  
other wood

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

General Description

The Society Hill Historic District is a large residential neighborhood a few blocks northwest of downtown Portage, Wisconsin, a small city in central Wisconsin. Portage received its name because it was a place where early fur traders and travellers could "portage" between the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers, making travel between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River and points beyond an almost continuous journey. And, in fact, with the construction of the Portage Canal in the mid-nineteenth century, a continuous water link between the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers was realized. While today's city of Portage did not really develop until the mid-nineteenth century, the Portage location was an important and strategic site in early nineteenth century Wisconsin. Both trading posts and a military fort were established there during the fur trading days of early Wisconsin.

The district is called Society Hill because many locally prominent families lived in the neighborhood during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. A picturesque area of Portage, the district indeed sits on a small hill that reaches its peak at about the intersection of W. Franklin St. and Dunn St., almost exactly at the center of the district. The rest of the district slopes gently downward to the four geographical boundaries of the district.

The streets of the district are typical urban residential streets and they are improved with concrete curbs, gutters, and sidewalks. Many of the district's homes have large, mature trees that are well kept. Most of the lots in the district are well-maintained and the lawns and shrubbery around houses are generally neat and attractive. Some of the older homes sit on large lots with longer setbacks from the street. Most of the other houses in the district sit on standard-sized urban lots with the same setbacks, creating attractive streetscapes. And, while there are over 200 buildings in the district, there is no impression of intense density along the streetscapes. In fact, a stroll through this district leaves one with the impression of a spacious, elegant neighborhood, much as it might have been during the period of significance.

Some of the houses in the district date from the 1850s and 1860s, but most of the buildings were constructed between 1870 and 1910, when prominent families moved to this area to build homes on larger, more spacious lots. Another factor that

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contributed to the development of this district was the establishment of a large complex of railroad facilities for the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad just north of this district. This proximity led many of the railroad's skilled employees, such as engineers and conductors, to build some of the more modest houses interspersed between the larger homes in the district.

An examination of the 1873 and 1890 plat maps for Portage (showing houses) illustrates the rapid development of the district during this time. The 1873 plat map shows only a few houses in each square block of the district, but the 1890 plat map shows that the number of buildings in the district more than doubled. And, by 1910, the vacant lots seen on the 1890 plat were almost all built on.

There are clear physical boundaries that separate this district from the rest of the city of Portage. And, there are common building details that define this district as a cohesive entity in the city. For example, there is a very low incidence of non-contributing or intrusive structures in the district. And, most of the garages and carriage houses in the district are contributing (64 of 96, 67%). Of the 137 primary buildings of the district (garages and outbuildings excluded), only six or four percent are non-contributing.

Other cohesive elements of the district include architectural styles, dates of construction, building materials, roof shapes, and number of stories. The architectural styles of the buildings reflect the primary development of the district between 1870 and 1910. The most common styles from that era include the Italianate, Second Empire, and Queen Anne styles; and the Gabled Ell and Side Gable vernacular forms. Of the 137 primary buildings in the district, 15 (11%) are Italianate, four (3%) are French Second Empire, 31 (23%) are Queen Anne, 17 (12%) are Gabled Ells, and 20 (15%) are Side Gabled for a total of 87 buildings or 69 percent. The remaining buildings include 11 (8%) Bungalows, three (2%) American Foursquares, four (3%) Front Gabled, six (4%) One Story Cubes, eight (6%) Two Story Cubes, and 18 (13%) other styles, including at least one fine Greek Revival house and several interesting Gothic Revival houses.

As stated earlier, most of these buildings were constructed between 1870 and 1910. Specifically, of the 137 primary buildings of the district, 17 (12%) were constructed during the 1850s and 1860s; 22 (16%) were built during the 1870s, 23 (17%) were built during the 1880s, 23 (17%) were built during the 1890s, 22 (16%) were built during the 1900s, six (4%) were built during the 1910s, 17 (13%) were built during the 1920s, and seven (5%) were built after 1930. During the four decades of 1870-1910, 66 (48%) buildings were constructed in the district, compared

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to the eight decades before and after this time when 71 (52%) buildings were constructed.

The importance of the brickmaking industry in the community is well illustrated in this district. Of the buildings that still retain their original cladding, brick-constructed houses are the most common (58 of 137, 42%). Only 11 of the 137 primary buildings (8%) still retain their original clapboard siding. Probably originally clapboard buildings, 52 houses (38%) have had some type of aluminum or vinyl siding applied to their facades. Sixteen buildings in the district (12%) have some other type of wall surface, most commonly asbestos shingles over clapboards. Fortunately, most of the largest and most important buildings of the district were constructed of brick and have not lost their original wall material.

Two other details add to the cohesive nature of this district. Of the 137 primary buildings in the district, 81 houses (59%) have gable roofs and 50 (37%) buildings have hip roofs. Only six buildings (4%) have other roof types. Of the 137 buildings in the district, most (93 or 68%) are two stories in height while 11 (8%) buildings have one story, 17 (12%) buildings have one and one-half stories, and 16 (12%) have two and one-half stories. All of the above details combine to give the district cohesive and harmonious streetscapes that distinguish it from other parts of the community.

There are many early garages still extant in this district, but only a few carriage houses. Of the 96 outbuildings in this district, only nine (10%) are carriage houses. The remaining outbuildings are garages. Of the 87 garages, 31 (36%) are non-contributing because they are of recent construction or are older garages that have been altered so much that they have lost their integrity as historic garages. Most of these outbuildings abut alleys and are set well back from the primary buildings in the district.

The district is separated from the largely residential area surrounding it by several elements. To the north and west of the district are neighborhoods of more modest houses that have a smaller size and scale than those found in the district. Also to the north of the district is the large complex of railroad tracks and this area is increasingly mixed with both residential and commercial structures. To the east, across MacFarlane Road, is a large complex of school buildings and open playground space. Just south of the school complex is an older neighborhood that is centered around a number of historic churches. To the south of the district boundary is a neighborhood of newer, period revival residences that may be eligible for the National Register as another historic district.

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The neighborhood lying east of this district is also a potential historic districts. It would be centered around the historic churches just north of the downtown. Both this neighborhood, and the period revival neighborhood to the south of the district developed separately from the Society Hill Historic District. As such, they were not included within this district's boundaries, but exist as potential future historic districts.

As stated earlier, there are only a few non-contributing or intrusive buildings in this district. Buildings were considered contributing if they were built within the period of significance for the district and if they retained much of their integrity as historic structures. While a large percentage of buildings that were probably covered with clapboards are now sided with modern materials, this factor alone did not result in a building being considered non-contributing. Only if the building had lost most of its historic features and integrity was it designated non-contributing. Because most of the significant buildings in the district have retained a high level of integrity, they largely overshadow the non-contributing elements in the district and the buildings that are contributing but have lost some integrity. Buildings constructed after the period of significance were also considered intrusive and non-contributing in the district.

The overall appearance of this district suggests middle and upper-middle class ambience. The many large and gracious historic homes of the district, some on large lots, create an atmosphere of wealth and high society--hence, the name "Society Hill Historic District." It is this ambience, captured in the architecture of the individual buildings of the district that makes the Society Hill Historic District a distinctive neighborhood in Portage.

DESCRIPTION OF SELECTED INDIVIDUAL BUILDINGS AND GROUPS OF BUILDINGS IN THE DISTRICT

Greek Revival

<u>Map</u>			<u>Date of</u>
<u>Number</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Construction</u>
133	532 W. Wisconsin St.	Corning-Clark House	c.1855 (1)

This cream brick Greek Revival house has a gabled ell form with a two-story main block and a one-story ell. Topping the main block is a full pediment that features a lunette window. Windows are primarily tall, multi-paned double hung sashes decorated with architrave trim. The first and second story windows on the north-facing facade of the main block appear to have floor-to-ceiling openings.

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The main entrance features a simple door topped with a transom and flanked by narrow sidelights. A simpler door leads into the ell and is trimmed with a lintel. Separate porches span the front facade and the ell. They both have fine Doric columns, flat roofs, and undecorated friezes.

W. W. Corning and his wife, Cornelia owned the house between 1869 and 1903. W. W. Corning was a hardware merchant in downtown Portage. He was active in local politics and served as both alderman, mayor, and county commissioner. In 1872 he was elected to the State Assembly. After the Cornings the Ansel Clark family occupied the house. Ansel Clark was born into slavery in 1839 and came to Wisconsin after the Civil War. He was active in local affairs as a deputy sheriff, fireman, and he was the first City Humane Officer. When he died in 1932 he was regarded as a prominent citizen of the community. To honor this noted black American, in 1967 the mayor of Portage and the Governor of Wisconsin proclaimed an Ansel Clark day. Between 1937 and 1982 Dr. James and Mabel MacGregor owned the house. (2)

Italianate

19      704 Cass St.                      George Jurgens House                      c.1855

This fine Italianate house has several details that also suggest the Gothic Revival style. It is a two-story cream brick structure with a steeply-pitched multi-gabled roofline. It has a square plan with a rear one and one-half story ell. The main block has an "L" plan with a rear one and one-half story ell. A square tower with a steeply-pitched hipped roof rises from the middle of the east-facing front facade. The roofs have wide overhanging eaves that are decorated with brackets and dentils.

In the peak of the main gable there is a small pointed-arch single light window. Other windows are generally single-pane double hung sashes. A very large window comprised of four large panes surmounted by a transom is centered on the first floor of the main gable and is sheltered by a wooden, gable-roofed hood. There is a very tall, narrow, shuttered window in the second floor of the tower. The main entrance consists of a wood and glass door topped by a transom. A small entry porch features a bracketed frieze, spool and spindle posts and larger corner brackets.

There is a square one-story bay on the south elevation of the main block of the house that is decorated with a projecting gable hood. The rear ell is attached to the east elevation of the main block and its south-facing elevation has a simple porch with square columns and a plain balustrade. The house is covered with ivy and its "Gothic" details give it an unusual picturesque quality.

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The house was probably built for George Jurgens, who died about 1865. His wife or daughter, Emilie, continued to own the property until 1881, when it was purchased by August Rusch, a railroad engineer. The Rusch family lived here until the late 1970s. The last Rusch family occupant was Julia Rusch, a prominent local educator who has had a school named in her honor. (3)

90      714 MacFarlane Rd.      Miles & Melissa Alverson House      1867

This two-story cream brick Italianate house looks more diminutive than it actually is. The house has a rectangular plan and a two-story projecting entry pavilion is centered on the main, east-facing facade. The wide overhanging eaves are supported by large brackets. Most of the first floor windows are multi-paned double hung sashes decorated with segmental arches and shutters. On the second floor of the main facade of the house are small paired round-arched windows. The entry pavilion features round arched openings on the second floor behind a balcony. The balcony overhangs the main entrance, which is decorated with a transom and plain pilasters. On the side walls, the second floor windows are plain double hung sashes. On the south wall is an octagonal bay with a hipped roof, brackets, and dentils. The openings in the bay are tall, narrow, round arched single-pane double hung sashes. A one and one-half story ell extends back from the rear of the house.

Built for Miles T. Alverson and his wife, Melissa, the Alversons lived here until the late 1910s. Born in New York, Miles Alverson came to Columbia County in 1854 where he taught school in many locations. He also attended business school, farmed, and was a carpenter. He became the county treasurer for six years and then engaged in the abstract, real estate, loan, and insurance business. Between 1881 and 1909 he was Cashier of the City Bank of Portage, the city's most important bank. (4)

41      1004 Dunn St.      Martha Reed House      1881

This fine two-story cream brick Italianate house features a generally square plan and has several gable-roofed projections. The large hipped main roof has wide overhanging eaves that are decorated with brackets and a row of dentils running along the frieze. Windows of the house are single-pane double hung sashes with segmentally-arched brick label moldings. A two-story bay projects from the south side of the house.

Brick corbelling extending from the foundation to the roof of the main, east-facing wall of the house delineates the mass of a large chimney that extends above the roofline. The chimney above the roofline features fine brick corbelling, as well.

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The front entrance to the building consists of double doors topped with an arched transom. An entry porch with a gable roof, returned eaves, and brick posts and balustrade is probably a later addition to the house. On the south wall, a small one-story addition is attached to the house, probably dating from the early twentieth century.

This house was built in 1881 for Martha Reed, who married Theodore Reed in 1863 after her first husband was killed in a railroad accident. Tax rolls indicate that the Reeds probably occupied a smaller house on this lot prior to the construction of this fine late Italianate house. Theodore Reed was a ticket agent and telegraph operator for the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad in Portage. He died in 1873. Mrs. Reed continued to live in this house until 1894. It was then owned by A. D. Moore until 1900. Isabella McConnell owned the house between 1901 and 1910. William Carroll, a railroad conductor, owned the house during the 1910s. (5)

71      303 W. Franklin St.      G. J. Owen House      1880

This fine cream brick late Second Empire influenced Italianate house has two stories, a mansard roof with wide overhanging eaves that are decorated by brackets and a row of dentils. A gable projection breaks up the roofline on the south-facing main wall, and in this gable is a pointed arch window. On the south-facing wall is a two-story octagonal bay with a tall octagonal roof. A gable-roofed dormer projects from the tower roof decorated with metal cresting.

Windows are generally tall and narrow single-light double hung sashes topped with brick label moldings. The front entrance is a single door topped by an enclosed transom and flanked by partially enclosed sidelights. The entry porch features a mansard roof topped with a balustrade decorated by pointed finials. The porch roof is supported by bracketed posts and decorated with dentils. A side porch is similarly decorated, but does not have a surmounting balustrade. The house features a ballroom on the top floor.

The house was built for G. J. Owen, a salesman, who owned it until around 1900. E. L. and Louisa Memhardt owned it between 1900 and the 1910s. Memhardt was a photographer. During the 1920s, 30s, and 40s, this was the home of Patrick McBride, a railroad engineer. Mrs. McBride was a member of a prominent women's club and is credited with naming this neighborhood "Society Hill." For about the last 20 years this has been the home of Thomas Foley, an attorney and former editor for the Portage Daily Register, who is now a reporter for the Madison Capital Times. (6)

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33 703 Dunn St. C. J. & Martha Goss House 1880

The Goss House is a two-story cream brick late Italianate building that features a large hipped roof with a deck. Several gabled projections interrupt the cornice of the house, the most prominent being the two-story central entry pavilion on the west-facing main wall. The overhanging eaves are decorated with paired brackets and a paneled frieze. Inside the gable of the entry pavilion is a round-arched window with a brick surround. Other windows of the house are generally single-light double hung sashes decorated with heavy brick label moldings and footed sills. A two-story bay with a gable peak projects from the south wall. The front entrance consists of elegant double wood and glass doors topped with an arched transom. The one-story semi-circular portico is probably an addition from the early twentieth century. It features Doric columns supporting a flat roof that has an iron balustrade.

Charles J. Goss was a native of New York state who came to Portage in 1880. For about 40 years, he was a traveling salesman for a wholesale grocery business. The Goss family owned this house until 1890. The next owners were William and Mary Parry. William Parry was a native New Yorker who came to Wisconsin in 1854. He was part owner in the Parry & Muir department store and was active in local politics. In 1901 Frank Rhyme, a druggist, purchased the house. Most recently, this house has been the home of Walter Van Epps, a local businessman. It is also noted that writer Zona Gale spent her teenage years at this address. (7)

73 306 W. Franklin St. Arthur C. Flanders House c.1855, 1872

This house is a two-story cream brick house that consists of an Italianate block and a rear Gothic Revival ell. Historic maps and tax rolls indicate that nothing was on this lot until 1872, although some sources suggest that Andrew Dunn had a house on this lot prior to 1872 which he moved elsewhere. Since the Gothic Revival ell appears to have an earlier date of construction, it is possible that Flanders moved an old house to this lot in 1872, then remodeled it and built the remaining Italianate structure at the same time.

The Italianate section of the house is a square block with a hipped roof, wide overhanging eaves and brackets. Windows are generally tall and narrow and are topped with heavily bracketed hood moldings. A one-story bay on the east side elevation features a mansard roof, brackets, and dentils sitting on a paneled brick apron. The main entrance on the north-facing elevation features fine historic doors with a pedimented entrance hood.

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The rear, Gothic Revival, section of the house has a steeply-pitched multi-gable roofline. Its windows are generally tall and narrow and resemble those of the Italianate block. On the east side of this wing is a porch whose flat roof is supported by round columns and simple brackets. A large garage wing, added later, extends off the southwest corner of the house and slopes down to an alley that cuts through the block.

Arthur Flanders was the station agent for the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad in the late nineteenth century. He owned this house between 1872 and 1904. Henry E. and Ella Andrews then owned the property until around 1950. Henry Andrews was an attorney, and for a time the superintendent of the county's poor and insane asylum. During the next 30+ years, the home was owned by Phillip and Margaret Owens. Phillip Owens was an attorney. The home is currently owned by Dr. Timothy and Mary Rosin. (8)

83      331 W. Franklin St.      T.L. & Loa Kennan House      1881

The Kennan house is a two-story cream brick late Italianate house that has a low-pitched hipped roof and a prominent two-story hipped-roof projection centered on its south-facing main elevation. The wide overhanging eaves of the roof are supported by numerous brackets. All of the corners of the house are decorated with brick quoins. Most of the window openings are multi-paned double hung sashes that are covered with aluminum storm windows. These windows all have arched openings that are decorated with brick label moldings. In the front projection, though, the windows are tall, narrow, round arched, single pane double hung sashes. The main entrances to the house flank the front projection and appear to have been remodeled. These entrances are both sheltered by flat-roofed porches that have been partially enclosed. An addition that may have also been added later sits at the back of the building.

T. L. Kennan came to Wisconsin in 1851. He lived in Oshkosh, then came to Portage in 1855. He served during the Civil War, then lived in Pewaukee, Wisconsin for about 10 years before continuing on to St. Louis. He returned to Portage in 1873 and practiced law. The Kennans lived here between 1881 and 1891. The house was then purchased by John & Elizabeth Malony. John Malony was a railroad engineer and the Malonys lived here until around 1930. Many residents have occupied the house since that time. (9)

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107 309 W. Marion St. John & Emily Dalton House 1877

The skills of brickmason John Dalton are clearly seen in this house, and its similarity to the one just described above suggests that he built both. This house is a two story cream brick late Italianate residence. It has a rectangular plan and a low-pitched hipped roof. The wide overhanging eaves of the house are supported by large brackets. There is a two-story polygonal bay on the south-facing main wall of the house and other ells located towards the rear of the side elevations.

The window openings are all tall, narrow round arched openings. The arched portions, though, have mostly been filled in to fit smaller rectilinear single-light double hung sashes. The openings are lavishly decorated with heavy brick segmental arches that feature scroll corbels and foliated keystones. The corners of the building, like the Kennan House described above, all feature distinctive brick quoins. The front entrance to this house consists of a fine set of double wooden doors topped by an arched transom and a massive brick arch that is decorated like the window arches. A mansard-roofed overhang supported by large brackets with a cut-out design and a pediment sits over the front entrance.

John Dalton was born in England and came to New York state in 1849 where he stayed briefly before moving on to Milwaukee. He learned the brick masons trade in Milwaukee where he remained until 1854. In that year he came to Portage and eventually lived in this house, which he probably built for himself in 1877. William Russell then owned the property until 1909. In 1910, William Scholes purchased the house and he and his wife, Marion, lived there until around 1930. Since that time numerous residents have occupied the house. In the mid-1970s owners Dennis and Karen Carthew carefully restored this house. (10)

78 319 W. Franklin St. Turner House 1881, c.1925

Although tax rolls show that this house was built in 1881, and owned by Johanna McSorley between 1881 and 1903; city directories and a recently published work about Frederick Jackson Turner indicate that this was the home of Andrew Jackson Turner, a noted Wisconsin newspaperman, politician, and businessman during this time. It is more commonly known as one of the boyhood homes of noted historian Frederick Jackson Turner.

The house has a low-pitched hipped roof and segmentally arched windows of the Italianate style. But, this painted brick house was remodeled, probably during the 1920s, in the popular Colonial Revival style. A large, two-story portico with

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Doric columns shelters the south-facing main wall. The original main entrance of the house was also remodeled at this time and was enframed using a classically-appointed architrave that features a pediment with modillions over a plain frieze above the door. Pilasters flank the door.

This house is locally important because it was the home of Andrew Jackson Turner. A. J. Turner was born in New York state in 1832. He came to Portage in 1855 and embarked on a career as a newspaperman and politician. He was editor of two local newspapers between 1857 and 1878. He was a prominent local politician who was mayor and state representative. While in the State Assembly, he supervised production of the Wisconsin Legislative Manual (the Wisconsin Blue Book). He was chief clerk of the state senate in the 1870s, state railroad commissioner between 1878 and 1882, and supervised the 1890 and 1900 U. S. censuses in Wisconsin. His interest in local history may have influenced his son, Frederick Jackson Turner, to pursue history as a profession. (11)

Turner's son, Frederick Jackson Turner, was born in 1861 in Portage and attended local schools. His family lived at this house at the time he was attending the University of Wisconsin and Johns Hopkins University. He received his A.B. and A.M. in 1884 and 1888, respectively; and his Ph.D. in 1890. Turner had a distinguished career at the University of Wisconsin, both as a scholar and as a mentor of future distinguished historians. He was also an important political figure at the university and he helped turn Wisconsin's state university into a major academic power. He is best known for his "Turner Thesis;" based on his landmark paper, "Significance of the Frontier in American History," which he authored in 1893 and for which he received a Pulitzer Prize. But beyond this single achievement, Turner had an even greater influence on the study and interpretation of American History that changed historical scholarship for decades to come. (12)

Gothic Revival

66      219 W. Franklin St.      R. O. & Isabell Loomis House      c.1860

This simple two-story, irregular Gothic Revival house is built of painted bricks. It has a steeply-pitched multi-gable roofline with wide eaves and exposed rafters. Most of the window openings are tall narrow paired windows that have multi-paned double hung sashes. A small one-and-one-half story ell projects from the rear of the house. The front entrance has been covered by a more recent enclosed porch that has vinyl siding and groups of single-paned double hung sashes covered with aluminum storm windows.

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This house was built for R. O. and Isabell Loomis. R. O. Loomis was a native New Yorker who came to Columbia County in 1852. He worked for N. H. Wood's store as a clerk until 1857 when he became a partner in the business. It was then known as Wood, Loomis & Osborn. In the late 1860s, Llywelyn Breese joined the firm. Loomis remained with the firm until ill health forced him to retire in 1875. Loomis died in 1883, but his second wife, Isabell, continued to live here until around 1920. Since that time a number of families have occupied this house. (13)

Second Empire

70      228 W. Franklin St.      Robert & Lucy Cochrane House      1877

This fine and unusual example of the Second Empire style is a one-and-one-half story cream brick house with a hip-on-mansard roof. Typical of the style are the gable-roofed dormers projecting from the mansard, which are picturesquely decorated with cut-out bargeboards. The overhanging eaves of the mansard shelter a paneled and bracketed frieze. The dominating feature of the north-facing main wall is a projecting, two-story, gable-roofed entry pavilion that also features cut-out bargeboards at the gable peak. On the second story, a pair of very tall and narrow windows is topped with an elaborate window hood. An oculus window with a wooden surround sits atop these narrow windows. The tall, narrow windows are multi-paned double hung sashes. Similar windows flank the entry pavilion on the first floor and they are decorated identically. The front entrance may be a later addition, and consists of a multi-paned french type door with an arched multi-pane transom and a left side multi-pane sidelight. Covering the entrance is a simple flat-roofed wooden porch with square columns and little decoration.

There are two polygonal first floor bays on the west wall of the house. Both have mansard roofs and brackets. The openings in the bays are simple single-light double hung sashes. The rear wall of the house features two one-story ells. At the southwest corner is a large sun room that features a bracketed frieze and pilasters. The other projection at the southeast corner is a frame screen porch.

The house was built by Ferdinand Schultz and sold to the Cochranes in 1877. Robert Cochrane was born in New York state and came to Illinois in 1842. He and his brothers purchased land near Waupun and Westfield, Wisconsin; and in 1850, he platted the city of Westfield, named for his birthplace of Westfield, New York. He operated a sawmill, grist mill, and a store in the fledgling village and was important in that community's pioneer economic development. He came to Portage in 1877 and stayed here until late in his life when he returned to Westfield where

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he died in 1910. Between 1910 and the 1930s, his son, T. Harry Cochrane lived in this house. T. Harry Cochrane's daughter Helen then lived here until at least the 1950s. Several persons have lived here since that time. (14)

137 504 Prospect Avenue Residence c.1880

This Second Empire home is a one-and-one-half-story cream brick structure with a hip-on-mansard roof. Gable-roofed dormers project from the mansard, as do other, larger projections. Under the wide overhanging eaves of the mansard is a bracketed frieze. The building has a projecting entry pavilion on the north-facing main wall. The main entrance to the building is a single door with a simple wooden surround. The entry pavilion is flanked by two large windows of a type more typically seen on Queen Anne buildings. A large veranda encircles the front and side walls of the building. Possibly built in the early twentieth century, the veranda features very slim Doric columns sitting on massive piers constructed of large blocks of stone.

Tax rolls were inconclusive regarding initial ownership of this property, but city directories for 1886 and 1890 indicate that this was the home of Paul Schuman, a local dry goods merchant. It is possible that Schuman was the original owner. In the early twentieth century the house was occupied by the Sullivan family and in recent years it has been occupied by the Carroll Bremner family. (15)

69 225 W. Franklin St. N.H. & Harriet Wood House 1875

This two-story remodeled L-plan Second Empire house is built of painted bricks. The original mansard roof has been covered over with wood shingles, and there are no typical Second Empire dormers extant in the roof. On the interior, this half-story, or third floor, contained a ballroom reached by an open staircase that runs from the first floor. The windows of the house are generally tall, narrow, single-paned double hung sashes. Most are trimmed with simple stone lintels and footed sills, but several pairs of second-floor windows are decorated with elegant arches topped with pediments. A belt course surrounds the entire building between the first and second floors. The front entrance has a transom and the entry porch has two Corinthian columns supporting a shingled roof.

This house was built for prominent merchant and businessman, N. H. Wood. Wood was originally from Massachusetts but in the 1840s, he came to the Portage area and achieved success as a merchant. He died in the 1880s, but his widow continued to live in this house until around 1892. The home was then owned by L. Starkweather and then went through a series of owners until it was purchased by physician W. E.

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Gochenour around 1910. In the early twentieth century the house was divided into apartments and today it is a retirement home. (16)

Queen Anne

125 514 W. Wisconsin St. Ellen O'Brien House 1885

The O'Brien house is a transitional design between the late Italianate houses seen in this district and described earlier in this section and the Queen Anne style. This two-story cream brick structure features a hipped roof and corner octagonal tower. Under the wide overhanging eaves are brackets and dentils. A two-story bay is placed on the east side elevation of the building. Almost all of the windows are identical single pane double hung sashes decorated with simple segmental arches. The main entrance to the building consists of double wood and glass doors with a transom. Covering the entrance is an original hipped-roof porch with brackets, dentils, and slim, round posts.

Ellen O'Brien owned the house only briefly. In 1888 Wilson Kilmer purchased the property and owned it into the 1900s. Kilmer was listed as retired in the 1906 city directory. Throughout most of the twentieth century, Bernard and Julia Schultz lived in the house. Bernard Schultz was a railroad fireman who died in the 1930s. His wife, Julia, though, lived on in the house until at least the late 1970s. (17)

127 517 W. Wisconsin St. Samuel & Anna Stotzer House 1899

The fine stonework decorating this impressive two and one-half story cream brick Romanesque Revival influenced Queen Anne house well illustrates the craftsmanship of its owner, Samuel Stotzer, a stone mason and operator of a marble works. The steeply pitched hipped roof is punctuated in several places by projecting gables and gable-roofed dormers. The main gable ends are shingled in a fish-scale pattern. There are several heavily corbelled brick chimneys that project up from the roof. Under the eaves is a plain frieze that runs around the entire building.

The southwest-facing front wall is dominated by a two and one-half story octagonal tower. The octagonal roof of the tower has flared eaves and features an elaborately framed front-facing arched-roof dormer that contains an oculus window. Both the first and second floors of the tower are also octagonal in plan, but the first floor is larger in dimension, giving the tower a stepped appearance. The two front-facing angled planes of the first floor are each decorated with large one-story stepped and angled buttresses that are capped with cut stone coping. The front-facing plane is

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pierced by a single large six-light semi-circular arched window whose upper portion is enframed by a cut stone arch.

The paired main entrance doors of the house are set into the main wall surface to the right of the tower. These doors are sheltered by an elaborate flat-roofed cut stone entrance porch that has arched openings similar to the window opening just described. These openings are supported by short, carved square and round stone piers and the spandrels between the arches and the battlemented porch cornice are also elaborately carved as well. The whole porch unit sits on large stone bases. In front of the porch is a low stone balustrade that defines a small terrace. On the east side elevation is a more traditional porch sitting on the same type of balustrade used on the front porch. It features Doric columns supporting an undecorated roof.

Windows are primarily single-pane double hung sashes decorated with stone lintels and sills. The entrances consist of wood and glass doors with transoms. The entire house sits on a fine rock-faced ashlar stone foundation.

This house was built for Samuel and Anna Stotzer. Samuel Stotzer was born in Switzerland in 1851. In 1867 he came to Chicago where he learned stone cutting. He returned to Europe to advance his career as a stone mason; then returned to Chicago. During his early career he was a stone mason for many buildings in Chicago and in Europe. He came to Portage in 1879 and was part of the firm of Groth & Stotzer, which specialized in granite monuments. After 1881 he became the sole owner of the firm and worked throughout the state. Only three years after he built this fine home for himself and his family, he fell into ill health and two years later, in 1904, he died. His widow lived on in the residence until around 1940.

94      912 MacFarlane Rd.      Barker-McQueeney House      1901

This two-and-one-half story, large frame Queen Anne house sits on a stone ashlar stone foundation. The steeply-pitched hipped roof has several gable projections and hipped-roofed dormers. Two large undecorated red brick chimneys rise above the roofline and extend down to the building's foundation. The house is covered with narrow clapboards and wood shingles fill the gable ends. Under the wide overhanging eaves of the house is a plain frieze that is decorated at the rear of the house with exposed rafters. Windows are mostly multi-paned double hung sashes, but some windows are large single panes with transoms of leaded glass. There is also a round arched multi-paned window on the north wall above the side entrance to the house.

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The main entrance consists of a simple wooden door. A one-story porch spans most of the width of the east-facing main wall. It has groups of round columns sitting on massive stone piers. The porch also has a spool and spindle balustrade. A classically appointed carriage house sits at the rear of the property.

The house was built for A. R. Barker, a local businessman, probably as a retirement home. Barker owned the house until around 1912 when it was sold to Michael McQueeney, a railroad conductor. Michael McQueeney lived here until around 1940; then Bess McQueeney lived here until the 1960s. (19)

14      321 W. Carroll St.      Johanna Buckley House      1908

The Buckley House is a late Queen Anne design heavily detailed with Shingle style and classical appointments. The large steeply-pitched gable roof features gable ends that are shingled in a sawtooth pattern. Deeply inset paired windows are in the gables behind rounded wall surfaces and are topped with a classically-inspired hoodmoldings. The same treatment exists in the smaller gable end that projects from the roof of the front wall. Exposed rafter ends decorate the main roof's wide eaves.

The walls of this house are sided in narrow clapboards and embellished with a myriad of curved and square bays and projections. There are also numerous types and sizes of windows. Most windows are either single-pane windows or single-pane double hung sashes. Many of the window openings are also decorated with leaded glass. The most elaborate detail of the house is the classically-detailed veranda which spans the entire front wall of the house and curves around the west wall of the building. This veranda features grouped Doric columns, a spool and spindle balustrade, a second floor balustrade with curved posts, and stone piers.

Johanna Buckley lived in this house between 1908 and the 1930s. Joseph Buckley lived here until the 1960s. Since that time Dick Oehlhof, a contractor, has occupied the house. (20)

75      314 W. Franklin St.      McDuffie House      1892-93

The McDuffie House is an elaborately detailed example of an earlier, more picturesque Queen Anne residence. The two-story frame building has a covering of vinyl siding that replicates the old narrow clapboards. It has a steeply-pitched hip roof and both octagonal and square towers. The square tower at the northeast corner of the house rises high above the roofline and is capped by a very steep

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hip roof. Under the tower eaves and the eaves of the main roof are brackets. On the front wall is a two-story gable-roofed ell that features an elaborate gable ornament and plain bargeboard. This gable end is also clad with scalloped pattern shingles. Windows are mostly single-pane double hung sashes. The first floor of the square tower, though, has a large, two-light window topped by a decorative arch. Stick style detail is found on the elaborate front porch. It includes decorated bargeboard, elaborate cross piece in the gable peak, spool and spindle posts connected with additional stickwork, and a delicate stickwork balustrade.

Tax rolls indicate that Mrs. S. S. McDuffie had the house built and owned it until 1896. In that year it was purchased and occupied by Edward and Jean Wright. Edward Wright was a traveling salesman. Presumably their daughters, Nellie and Collette Wright, occupied the house between the 1920s and the 1960s. Since that time it has been occupied by Thomas Ebben, an accountant. (21)

87      616 MacFarlane Rd.      Residence      c.1895

This diminutive one-and-one-half story frame Queen Anne house was constructed from a Gordon Van Tyne kit design. It has clapboard siding and a hipped roof with projecting gables and an octagonal corner tower. The tower has an octagonal roof with flared overhanging eaves. On the main wall is a gable projection that features a tripartite window in the gable end that mimics a palladian style window. In front of the window is a delicate spool and spindle balustrade that rims the flat roof of the front porch. The front porch is decorated with plain round columns and a spool and spindle balustrade. Window openings are mostly single-pane double hung sashes. The simple front door is decorated with a cornice lintel.

Tax rolls were unclear as to the original owner of the property. During much of the twentieth century, it was occupied by Charles and Jeannette Davis. Charles Davis was an electrician at the firm of Badger Electric. It is currently owned by Robert Adams, an insurance businessman. (22)

109      312 W. Marion St.      Herman & Helen Ambrose House      c.1905

The Ambrose house is a sizeable late Queen Anne residence that sits on a narrow lot. Of two-and-one-half stories in height; this frame, clapboard-clad house features a very steeply-pitched gable roof. A second story octagonal turret projects from the west side of the roof. Brackets decorate the eaves of the tower as well as the corbelled upper half of the front wall gable end. This tall front gable is shingled in a sawtooth pattern. Windows are generally single pane double hung sashes.

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The front entrance of the house is covered by a simple flat-roofed porch with round columns and a clapboard-clad solid balustrade.

Herman and Helen Ambrose lived in this house during most of the twentieth century. Herman Ambrose was a railroad engineer. Helen Ambrose was a registered nurse. Herman Ambrose died in the 1930s or early 1940s, but Helen lived on in the house until at least the late 1970s. (23)

129 522 W. Wisconsin St. F.F. & Nora Bentley House 1900

The Bentley house is a Queen Anne residence that has details that suggest the Victorian Gothic style. It has a wide hipped roof with a large gable-roofed dormer on the front north end-facing wall. This slightly corbelled dormer features plain bargeboards and a group of three pointed-arch windows decorated with Gothic style muntins. This window group is enframed in a classically-inspired wood surround. Small brackets support the shallow gable. Windows in the narrow clapboard-clad house are generally single-pane double hung sashes covered with modern aluminum storm window. There are two separate entrances of plain wooden doors on the main wall that are undecorated. The front porch features thin square posts sitting on larger paneled plinths and plain wooden cross pieces connect the posts.

Dr. F. F. Bentley was born in Wisconsin in 1864 and was educated in Wisconsin public schools. He attended Rush Medical College in Chicago and graduated in 1886. He came to Portage to practice in that year and engaged in general medicine with a special emphasis on surgery. He built this house in 1900, and during the early twentieth century, he operated a small hospital out of this home. He died sometime in the 1910s, but his second wife Nora, continued to live in the house until the 1950s. (24)

91 804 MacFarlane Rd. William & Jessie Breese House- 1912  
William Breese & Zona Gale House- 1928  
Portage Free Library and Zona Gale  
Breese Memorial 1949

Architect: Julius E. Heimerl, Milwaukee (25)

What is now the Portage library and memorial to Portage native and Pulitzer prize winning author, Zona Gale, began as a fine Georgian Revival house with details that suggest the Prairie style. Designed by Milwaukee architect Julius E. Heimerl, who worked with some of Milwaukee's most prominent architects, the main block of the

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house was originally built in 1912 for William and Jessie Breese. It is built of red brick and accented with wood and stucco details. The original house has a steeply-pitched hip roof with two gable-roofed dormers that project from the front wall. These dormers have four-light, segmentally arched casement windows. A large gable-roofed brick faux dormer projects from the south facade. The dormer is actually part of the large red brick chimney mass that projects from the roof and is decorated with brick corbelling.

Under the roof eaves is a plain frieze accented with a row of dentils. On the east-facing main wall of the house, the second story is defined by a band of stucco above a wooden belt course. Except for a central balcony, the second floor openings on this wall are paired casement windows, and the stucco and window placement suggests the Prairie style. On the side walls, there are more traditional Georgian Revival windows featuring six-over-six light double hung sashes. The balcony that is centered on the second story front wall sits over a large arched opening that was the original entrance to the house. It features a set of french doors and a wrought iron balustrade that has a wooden floor supported by two large scroll brackets.

The front wall of the first floor features the original main entrance, a round arched wood and glass door that is enframed with multiple lights and a brick arch with keystone. Flanking the entrance are two shallow oriels surmounted by shallow-pitched pedimented window hoods, that feature a tripartite set of multi-paned windows. On the south side of the first floor is a large sun room that features groups of Ionic columns at the corners, multiple paned casement windows, and a full entablature with a denticulated frieze and projecting cornice topped by a balcony with an iron balustrade.

According to the architect's plans for the 1912 house the interior plan included an attic with servant's quarters and storage rooms; a first floor with a central hallway and a living room and sun porch to the south and a kitchen and dining room to the north; and a second floor with two bedrooms that lead to the balcony that is over the porch, a guest bath, a summer sleeping porch with balcony at the rear of the house, and a large bedroom with a dressing room and private bath.

In 1928, after widower William Breese married author Zona Gale, the north addition to the house was added. Julius Heimerl also prepared the plans for this addition which explains why the addition architecturally matches the exterior of the original house. This new wing is separated from the old house by a small ell and created a special, new space for Gale.

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The addition features the steeply-pitched hipped roof, denticulated frieze, stucco cladding on the second floor, casement windows, wooden belt course, first floor round-arched opening and square bays seen on the original house. The interior of the addition included a hall that led to a wood-paneled Tudor Revival style study used by Zona Gale. Baraboo carpenter Otto Kraemer executed the expert woodwork in Gale's study, which was probably designed at the request of the author. Above this study on the second floor was a large bedroom with separate bathrooms and dressing rooms.

In 1938 Zona Gale died and in 1942 William Breese donated this house to the city of Portage for a library and memorial to Gale. Plans to convert the house to a library were delayed during World War II, but in 1949 extensive interior remodeling took place that transformed the house into library space. And, while interior walls were removed for the large rooms needed for library use, exterior wall details were left intact. In particular, the sun room has much of its original detail, and Zona Gale's study was left intact, as per the wishes of William Breese. The upstairs bedrooms were turned into a children's library, a library board meeting room, and a large meeting room for public activities and story hours. An addition at the rear of the building provided more space for library collections. (26)

William L. Breese was the son of Llywelyn Breese, one of the most prominent businessmen in Portage. Llywelyn Breese was President of the City Bank of Portage and the Portage Hosiery Company, an important industry on the Portage Canal now known as the Portage Woolen Mill. William Breese took over his father's positions in both these institutions and was also associated with the Consumers Lumber and Coal Company. Zona Gale was a noted author and progressive-era supporter and while the term "feminist" was not commonly used during her lifetime, she certainly conducted her life and career in a manner more typical of the late twentieth century, rather than the early twentieth century. (27)

Zona Gale was born in Portage in 1874. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin in Madison with a bachelor's degree in 1895 and a master's degree in 1899. She worked for Milwaukee newspapers between 1895 and 1901 and between 1901 and 1904 wrote for the New York Evening World. At the same time, she was a free-lance writer. She came back to Portage in 1905 and worked successfully as a novelist, short story writer, playwright, and political activist. She was a member of the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents and the Wisconsin Free Library Commission. Her most critically acclaimed works included Birth (1918), Miss Lulu Bett (1920), Preface to a Life (1926), Portage, Wisconsin and Other Essays (1928), and Bridal Pond (1930). She received the Pulitzer Prize in 1921 for the play, "Miss Lulu

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Bett." Gale lived in various residences in Portage during her active work life; this house being the last. While this house cannot be claimed as her only significant home, it is clear that she was an active writer and activist during the 10 years she occupied this home with William Breese. (28)

92 816 MacFarlane Rd. Llywelyn and Mary Breese House 1886, c.1915

This large, two-story painted brick house is a remodeled Queen Anne house. The remodeling, done in the early twentieth century eliminated the picturesque details of the Queen Anne style and added details of the classically-influenced Colonial Revival style. The house has a steeply pitched hipped roof which is interrupted by projecting gable-roofed elements. Under the roof is a plain frieze and lunette windows are in the ends of the projecting gables. The front projecting gable end features a full pediment, while the main wall surface below it is decorated with a frieze and corner pilasters. The windows of the house are Colonial Revival influenced multi-pane double hung sashes. Windows on the front wall are 15-over-10 light sashes and there are many tall, narrow nine-over-nine light sashes. The main entrance consists of a plain door decorated with a plain entablature and sidelights. In front of the house is a low brick wall that edges a large terrace.

Llywelyn Breese was born in Wales and came to Columbia County in 1846. He farmed until he was 25 when ill health forced him into town in 1858. He became the under-sheriff of Columbia County and then in 1860 he was elected county treasurer, an office he held for six years. In 1867 he began his business career, joining the prominent dry goods firm of N. H. Wood & Company. The firm eventually became Loomis, Gallett & Breese. Breese was later appointed Secretary of State, then was elected for a full four year term. After his term as Secretary of State, Breese returned to his dry goods business; helped establish the City Bank of Portage in 1874 and was its first president; was president of the Portage Iron Works; and founded the Portage Hosiery Company in 1903, an important industry on the Portage Canal, now known as the Portage Woolen Mill. He died in 1922. (29)

After his death, Llywelyn Breese's daughters, Mary and Eleanor, lived in this house until the 1960s, and the house remained in the Breese family until the 1970s. Today, this fine home is a residence and the Breeseway Bed and Breakfast Inn, operated by Keith and Gretchen Sprecher. (30)

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Bungalow

23 802 Cass St. Frank Krause House c.1920

Of the many bungalows constructed in this district, this is the best example. It is a one-and-one-half story bungalow with a gable roof. Projecting from the front facade of the roof is a large gable-roofed dormer having three double hung sash windows surmounted by a small single-pane attic window. A solid, shingle-clad balustrade fronts an inset terrace placed in front of the dormer windows. Knee brace brackets support the wide overhanging eaves of the dormer. All gable ends and dormers are clad in wood shingles, and there is a small square oriel projecting from the gable end on the south side of the house. More knee brace brackets support the eaves of the roof and in the front of the house there are exposed rafters. The first floor is constructed of red brick and there is a red brick chimney on the south wall of the house. Windows are varied, but some are small paired casements set into segmental arched openings. A porch spans the entire front facade. It is screened and features massive brick pillars and a brick balustrade.

Frank Krause was a railroad engineer who died in the mid-twentieth century. His widow, Mabel, continued to live in the house until the 1960s. It remained in the Krause family until the late 1970s, at least. (31)

Building Groups

There are two sets of building groups that represent the more interesting vernacular housing in this district.

40	915 Dunn St.	Anna Hall Rental House	1884
57	323 W. Emmett St.	Carl Rumann Rental House	1881
60	328 W. Emmett St.	William Fidlin House	1877

These three houses are Italianate style-influenced side gable residences that are almost identical, suggesting a common builder. They are all built of brick, although 915 Dunn St. and 328 W. Emmett St. have been painted. They are two stories in height and have rectangular plans, and side gabled forms that feature two-story entry pavilions that are centered on the main elevation. On each side of these entry pavilions are two small steeply-pitched gable peaks. The houses also all have lower, rear wings.

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The windows of 915 Dunn St. and 323 W. Emmett St. are tall segmentally arched double hung sashes. On the east side of 915 Dunn St. there is a one-story bay window with identical openings. The house at 328 W. Emmett St. has these types of windows on the side facades, but has round arched windows on the front facade. The arches, though, have been partially enclosed to accommodate modern double-hung sash windows.

The front entrance of 915 Dunn St. consists of a set of double wooden doors topped with an arched transom. The front entrances of 323 and 328 W. Emmett St. are single doors and only 328 has an arched transom. The entrance porches of 915 Dunn St. and 328 W. Emmett St. are identical and consist of low-pitched hipped roof overhangs supported by thin square posts. The modern porch of 323 W. Emmett St. consists of a small curved overhang supported by thin round posts.

Two of the houses, 915 Dunn and 323 W. Emmett St., were constructed as rental properties and remained so until the early twentieth century. Both were purchased by railroad engineers and railroad workers lived in each house until the mid-twentieth century. The house at 328 W. Emmett St. was not a rental, but was built for William Fidlin, a railroad engineer. He owned the property until 1893 when it was purchased by Frank Kaiser, who owned it until 1909. Since that time it has been home to a number of families. (32)

37	903 Dunn St.	W. D. Fox Rental House	1881
38	907 Dunn St.	W. D. Fox Rental House	1881
39	911 Dunn St.	Anna Hall House	1884

These three houses, sitting in a row along Dunn St. include two identical one story cubes and one slightly more elaborate one story cube. Like the group above, they represent an interesting group of vernacular forms. The houses at 903 and 907 Dunn St. are both one-story, hipped roof residences with little embellishment. Built of brick, the house at 907 is painted white. Windows are relatively tall and narrow and consist mostly of two-over-two light double hung sashes. Both houses have projecting gable peaks over their main entrances, but only 907 Dunn Street has an intact historic porch; that of 903 Dunn St. has been totally enclosed and aluminum sided. The porch of 907 Dunn St. has a low-pitched hipped roof supported by spool and spindle posts and small brackets. This house also has its original entrance door.

The house at 911 Dunn St. also has a hipped main roof and gable-roofed projection over the front door. It also has a projecting entry pavilion with a wood and glass door with a round-arched transom. The brick facade is painted white and the windows

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of the front facade are paired, tall, narrow, round-arched single-pane double hung sashes. Other windows on the house are similar but without the arches. A porch covers the entire front facade and features a flat roof supported by round columns sitting on rock-faced concrete block piers and balustrade.

The houses at 903 and 907 Dunn Street were constructed by W. D. Fox as rental properties. They remained rental properties until the early twentieth century. The Anna Hall house remained in her hands until 1901 when it became the home of Lizzie Snow. For most of the twentieth century, the house at 911 Dunn St. was the home of Harry and Ethel Taylor. Harry Taylor was a railroad conductor. (33)

Notes to Section 7; Description

(1) Sources for the dates of construction of buildings described in this section are footnoted in the Building Inventory immediately following these notes.

(2) C. W. Butterfield, The History of Columbia County, Wisconsin, Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1880, p. 892; personal communication from the Portage Landmarks Preservation Society .

(3) Tax Rolls for the City of Portage, 1863-present, on file in the Municipal Building, City Treasurer's Office, Portage, Wisconsin; City Directories for the City of Portage, on file at the Portage Free Library, Portage, Wisconsin and the Library of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin; and information from the Portage Landmarks Preservation Society.

(4) J. E. Jones, A History of Columbia County, Wisconsin, Volume II, Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1914, pp. 575-576.

(5) Tax Rolls; City Directories; Butterfield, p. 923.

(6) Tax Rolls; City Directories.

(7) Jones, pp. 514, 612; Tax Rolls; City Directories.

(8) Tax Rolls; City Directories.

(9) Butterfield, pp. 908-909; Tax Rolls; City Directories.

(10) Butterfield, p. 893; Tax Rolls; City Directories.

(11) Dictionary of Wisconsin Biography, Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1960, p. 353.

(12) Ibid.

(13) Butterfield, p. 911; Jones, pp. 643-645.

(14) Jones, pp. 588-589; City Directories.

(15) City Directories.

(16) Tax Rolls; City Directories; Butterfield, pp. 935-936.

(17) Tax Rolls; City Directories.

(18) Jones, pp. 639-640; City Directories.

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- (19) Tax Rolls; City Directories.
- (20) Ibid.
- (21) Ibid.
- (22) City Directories.
- (23) Tax Rolls; City Directories.
- (24) Tax Rolls; City Directories; Jones, p. 594.
- (25) Architect's plans, on file at the Portage Free Library, Portage,  
 Wisconsin.
- (26) Library subject files, on file at the Portage Free Library, Portage,  
 Wisconsin.
- (27) City Directories.
- (28) Dictionary of Wisconsin Biography, p. 140.
- (29) Jones, pp. 447-448; Dictionary of Wisconsin Biography, p. 48.
- (30) City Directories.
- (31) Ibid.
- (32) Tax Rolls; City Directories.
- (33) Ibid.

BUILDING INVENTORY

Map Number	Address	Name	Style	Date of Construction	Status
1	206 W. Carroll St.	Anton & Mary Jerrison House	Bungalow	c.1920 (1)	C*
1A	206 W. Carroll St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920 (2)	NC*
2	207 W. Carroll St.	Residence	Bungalow	c.1920 (3)	C
2A	207 W. Carroll St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	C
3	210 W. Carroll St.	Residence	Queen Anne	c.1895 (4)	C
4	211 W. Carroll St.	Residence	Gabled Ell	c.1895 (5)	C
4A	211 W. Carroll St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	NC
5	215 W. Carroll St.	Peter & Mary Weber House	Queen Anne	1895 (6)	C
6	218 W. Carroll St.	Residence	Queen Anne	c.1900 (7)	C
6A	218 W. Carroll St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1940	NC
7	219 W. Carroll St.	Henry Wiederkehr House	Queen Anne	1902-03 (8)	C
7A	219 W. Carroll St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1970	NC

\*C = Contributing; NC = Non-contributing

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8	220 W. Carroll St.	Residence	Front Gable	c.1895 (9)	C
8A	220 W. Carroll St.	Carriage House	Astylistic	c.1895	C
9	223 W. Carroll St.	Residence	Cross Gable	c.1895 (10)	C
9A	223 W. Carroll St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1950	NC
10	224 W. Carroll St.	Residence	Cross Gable	c.1895 (11)	C
10A	224 W. Carroll St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	NC
10B	224 W. Carroll St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	C
11	226 W. Carroll St.	Roselle Foogman House	Queen Anne	1898 (12)	C
11A	226 W. Carroll St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	C
12	315 W. Carroll St.	Residence	Dutch Colon.	c.1910 (13)	C
12A	315 W. Carroll St.	Carriage House	Astylistic	c.1910	C
13	317 W. Carroll St.	Residence	Gabled Ell	c.1860 (14)	C
13A	317 W. Carroll St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1960	NC
14	321 W. Carroll St.	Johanna Buckley House	Queen Anne	1908 (15)	C
15	329 W. Carroll St.	George Jorns House	Bungalow	c.1930 (16)	C
15A	329 W. Carroll St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	NC
16	331 W. Carroll St.	Albert Jorns House	Second Empire	1885 (17)	C
16A	331 W. Carroll St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1960	NC
17	613 Cass St.	Residence	Gabled Ell	c.1860 (18)	C
17A	613 Cass St.	Residence	Front Gable	c.1950	NC
18	614 Cass St.	Residence	Gabled Ell	c.1870 (19)	C
18A	614 Cass St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1930	NC
19	704 Cass St.	George Jurgens House	Gothic Rev.- Italianate	c.1855 (20)	C
19A	704 Cass St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1925	C
20	708 Cass St.	Residence	American Foursquare	c.1920 (21)	C
20A	708 Cass St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	C
21	710 Cass St.	August Rusch House	Queen Anne	1887 (22)	C
22	714 Cass St.	Frank Rusch House	Queen Anne	1894 (23)	C
23	802 Cass St.	Frank Krause House	Bungalow	c.1920 (24)	C
24	803 Cass St.	Sidney Bloomfield House	Italianate	1878 (25)	C

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25	806 Cass St.	Catherine Croak House	Italianate	1885 (26)	C
26	807 Cass St.	Residence	American Foursquare	c.1915 (27)	C
27	810 Cass St.	Residence	Two Story Cube	c.1875 (28)	C
27A	810 Cass St.	Outbuilding	Astylistic	c.1900	C
28	811 Cass St.	Residence	Side Gable	1900 (29)	C
29	815 Cass St.	Residence	Side Gable	1900 (30)	C
30	816 Cass St.	Thomas Maloy- Peter McCabe Hse	Two Story Cube	1879 (31)	C
30A	816 Cass St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1925	C
31	607 Dunn St.	Residence	Side Gable	c.1925 (32)	C
31A	607 Dunn St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1970	NC
32	611 Dunn St.	Residence	Queen Anne	c.1900 (33)	C
32A	611 Dunn St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1955	NC
33	703 Dunn St.	C.J. & Martha Goss House	Italianate	1880 (34)	C
34	704 Dunn St.	Robert & Julia Rosenfeld House	Queen Anne	1890 (35)	C
34A	704 Dunn St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	C
35	811 Dunn St.	Residence	Side Gable	c.1940 (36)	NC
35A	811 Dunn St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1940	NC
36	813 Dunn St.	James & Frances Toal House	One Story Cube	1892 (37)	C
37	903 Dunn St.	W. D. Fox Rental House	One Story Cube	1881 (38)	C
37A	903 Dunn St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1930	C
38	907 Dunn St.	W. D. Fox Rental House	One Story Cube	1881 (39)	C
38A	907 Dunn St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1925	C
39	911 Dunn St.	Anna Hall House	One Story Cube	1884 (40)	C
39A	911 Dunn St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	C
40	915 Dunn St.	Anna Hall Rental House	Side Gable	1884 (41)	C
40A	915 Dunn St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	NC
41	1004 Dunn St.	Martha Reed House	Italianate	1881 (42)	C
42	1010 Dunn St.	Residence	Gabled Ell	c.1885 (43)	C
42A	1010 Dunn St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	C

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43	1016 Dunn St.	J. M. Russell Rental House	Italianate	1880 (44)	C
44	212 W. Emmett St.	Residence	Queen Anne	1891 (45)	C
44A	212 W. Emmett St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	C
45	216 W. Emmett St.	Residence	Queen Anne	1891 (46)	C
45A	216 W. Emmett St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1925	C
46	218 W. Emmett St.	Residence	Gabled Ell	c.1870 (47)	C
46A	218 W. Emmett St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	NC
47	220 W. Emmett St.	Residence	Gabled Ell	c.1870 (48)	C
47A	220 W. Emmett St.	Outbuilding	Astylistic	c.1920	C
48	223 W. Emmett St.	Woodman House	Italianate	1882 (49)	C
48A	223 W. Emmett St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	C
49	304 W. Emmett St.	Residence	Front Gable	c.1860 (50)	C
49A	304 W. Emmett St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1930	C
50	306-08 W. Emmett St.	Residence	American Foursquare	c.1925 (51)	C
50A	306-08 W. Emmett St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1930	C
51	311 W. Emmett St.	Henry & Emma Gebhardt House	Queen Anne	1893 (52)	C
51A	311 W. Emmett St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	C
52	312 W. Emmett St.	Residence	Side Gable	c.1900 (53)	C
53	314 W. Emmett St.	Residence	Bungalow	c.1925 (54)	C
53A	314 W. Emmett St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1925	C
54	315 W. Emmett St.	Residence	Queen Anne	c.1905 (55)	C
54A	315 W. Emmett St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1970	NC
55	319 W. Emmett St.	Residence	Bungalow	c.1925 (56)	C
56	320 W. Emmett St.	John & Emma Little House	One Story Cube	c.1920 (57)	C
56A	320 W. Emmett St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	C
57	323 W. Emmett St.	Carl Rumann Rental House	Side Gable	1881 (58)	C
57A	323 W. Emmett St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	C
58	324 W. Emmett St.	Residence	Bungalow	c.1925 (59)	C
58A	324 W. Emmett St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1925	C
59	328 W. Emmett St.	William Fidlin House	Side Gable	1877 (60)	C
59A	328 W. Emmett St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	C
60	329 W. Emmett St.	John Harrington House	Gabled Ell	c.1885 (61)	C
60A	329 W. Emmett St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	C

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61	207 W. Franklin St.	James Prentice House	Italianate	c.1875 (62)	C
61A	207 W. Franklin St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1925	NC
62	214 W. Franklin St.	Residence	Queen Anne	c.1895 (63)	C
62A	214 W. Franklin St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	NC
63	215 W. Franklin St.	Isabell Loomis House	Colonial Revival	c.1925 (64)	C
64	216 W. Franklin St.	Residence	Side Gable	c.1870 (65)	C
64A	216 W. Franklin St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	C
65	218 W. Franklin St.	Residence	Queen Anne	c.1895 (66)	C
65A	218 W. Franklin St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	C
66	219 W. Franklin St.	R.O. & Isabell Loomis House	Gothic Rev.	c.1860 (67)	C
66A	219 W. Franklin St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	C
67	223 W. Franklin St.	Residence	Side Gable	c.1925 (68)	C
67A	223 W. Franklin St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1965	NC
68	224 W. Franklin St.	Residence	Queen Anne	c.1900 (69)	C
68A	224 W. Franklin St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1925	NC
69	225 W. Franklin St.	N. H. & Harriet Wood House	2nd Empire	1875 (70)	C
69A	225 W. Franklin St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1970	NC
70	228 W. Franklin St.	Robert & Lucy Cochrane House	2nd Empire	1877 (71)	C
70A	228 W. Franklin St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1950	NC
71	303 W. Franklin St.	G. J. Owen House	Italianate	1880 (72)	C
72	305 W. Franklin St.	Residence	Queen Anne	c.1900 (73)	C
72A	305 W. Franklin St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	C
73	306 W. Franklin St.	Arthur Flanders House	Gothic Rev.- Italianate	c.1855,1872(74)	C
74	309 W. Franklin St.	Arthur Levens House	One Story Cube	c.1915 (75)	C
74A	309 W. Franklin St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	C
75	314 W. Franklin St.	McDuffie House	Queen Anne	1892-93 (76)	C
75A	314 W. Franklin St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	C
76	315 W. Franklin St.	Residence	Gabled Ell	c.1860 (77)	C
76A	315 W. Franklin St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1960	NC
77	318 W. Franklin St.	Residence	Gabled Ell	c.1870 (78)	C

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78	319 W. Franklin St.	Turner House	Italianate- Colonial Rev.	1881, c.1925(79)	C
79	323 W. Franklin St.	Residence	Gabled Ell	c.1870 (80)	C
79A	323 W. Franklin St.	Carriage House	Astylistic	c.1870	C
80	324 W. Franklin St.	Residence	Queen Anne	c.1900 (81)	C
80A	324 W. Franklin St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1930	NC
81	325 W. Franklin St.	Residence	Two Story Cube	c.1860 (82)	C
82	326 W. Franklin St.	Residence	Side Gable	c.1935 (83)	C
82A	326 W. Franklin St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1930	NC
83	331 W. Franklin St.	T.L. & Loa Kennan House	Italianate	1881 (84)	C
84	604 MacFarlane Rd.	Residence	Side Gable	c.1950 (85)	NC
85	606 MacFarlane Rd.	Residence	Gabled Ell	c.1860 (86)	C
85A	606 MacFarlane Rd.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	C
86	614 MacFarlane Rd.	Residence	Two Story Cube	c.1875 (87)	C
86A	614 MacFarlane Rd.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1970	NC
87	616 MacFarlane Rd.	Residence	Queen Anne	c.1895 (88)	C
87A	616 MacFarlane Rd.	Carriage House	Astylistic	c.1895	C
88	704 MacFarlane Rd.	Residence	Two Story Cube	c.1875 (89)	C
89	706 MacFarlane Rd.	Fred Heller House	Bungalow	c.1915 (90)	C
89A	706 MacFarlane Rd.	Garage	Bungalow	c.1915	C
90	714 MacFarlane Rd.	Miles & Melissa Alverson House	Italianate	1867 (91)	C
90A	714 MacFarlane Rd.	Carriage House	Italianate	c.1867	C
91	804 MacFarlane Rd.	William & Jessie Breese House- William Breese & Zona Gale House-Portage Free Library and Zona Gale Breese Memorial	Georgian Revival	1912, 1928, 1949 (92)	C
92	816 MacFarlane Rd.	Llywelyn & Mary Breese House	Colonial Revival	1886, c.1915(93)	C
92A	816 MacFarlane Rd.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1925	C
93	908 MacFarlane Rd.	Residence	Astylistic	c.1920 (94)	C
94	912 MacFarlane Rd.	A.R. Barker House	Queen Anne	1901 (95)	C
94A	912 MacFarlane Rd.	Carriage House	Queen Anne	c.1901	C
95	209 W. Marion St.	Mary McSorley House	Bungalow	c.1925 (96)	C

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96	211 W. Marion St.	Residence	Bungalow	c.1925 (97)	C	
96A	211 W. Marion St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1925	C	
97	213 W. Marion St.	Residence	Side Gable	c.1890 (98)	C	
97A	213 W. Marion St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	C	
98	214 W. Marion St.	Residence	Queen Anne	c.1910 (99)	C	
98A	214 W. Marion St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1980	NC	
99	216 W. Marion St.	Residence	Cross Gable	c.1900 (100)	C	
99A	216 W. Marion St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1925	C	
100	219 W. Marion St.	Residence	Side Gable	c.1900 (101)	C	
100A	219 W. Marion St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1925	C	
101	220 W. Marion St.	Residence	Colonial Rev.	c.1925 (102)	C	
101A	220 W. Marion St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1915	C	
102	223 W. Marion St.	Residence	Cross Gable	c.1900 (103)	C	
102A	223 W. Marion St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	C	
103	224 W. Marion St.	Residence	Greek Rev.	c.1860 (104)	C	
103A	224 W. Marion St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	C	
104	301 W. Marion St.	Residence	Ranch	c.1965 (105)	NC	
105	304 W. Marion St.	Charles & Lucy Devlin House	Italianate	1879 (106)	C	
105A	304 W. Marion St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	C	
105B	304 W. Marion St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1925	C	
106	307 W. Marion St.	Residence	Bungalow	c.1935 (107)	C	
107	309 W. Marion St.	John & Emily Dalton House	Italianate	1877 (108)	C	
107A	309 W. Marion St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	C	
108	310 W. Marion St.	Residence	Gabled Ell	c.1860 (109)	C	
108A	310 W. Marion St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1925	C	
109	312 W. Marion St.	Herman & Helen Ambrose House	Queen Anne	c.1905 (110)	C	
109A	312 W. Marion St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	C	
110	313 W. Marion St.	Residence	Gabled Ell	c.1870 (111)	C	
110A	313 W. Marion St.	Carriage House	Astylistic	c.1870	C	
111	315 W. Marion St.	Residence	Cross Gable	c.1900 (112)	C	
112	316 W. Marion St.	Residence	Side Gable	c.1900 (113)	C	
112A	316 W. Marion St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	C	
113	320 W. Marion St.	Residence	Side Gable	c.1950 (114)	NC	
114	321 W. Marion St.	Residence	Cross Gable	c.1895 (115)	NC	
114A	321 W. Marion St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1975	NC	
115	324 W. Marion St.	Residence	Two Story Cube	c.1860, c.1955 (116)	NC	

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115A	324 W. Marion St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	C	
116	328 W. Marion St.	Residence	Side Gable	c.1880 (117)	C	
117	332 W. Marion St.	Residence	Gabled Ell	c.1870 (118)	C	
117A	332 W. Marion St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	C	
118	504 W. Wisconsin St.	Residence	Front Gable	c.1855 (119)	C	
119	505 W. Wisconsin St.	Residence	Italianate	c.1875 (120)	C	
120	506 W. Wisconsin St.	E.M.Farrington	Side Gable	1883 (121)	C	
121	508 W. Wisconsin St.	Residence	Gabled Ell	c.1860 (122)	C	
122	509 W. Wisconsin St.	Residence	Two Story Cube	c.1865 (123)	C	
123	511 W. Wisconsin St.	J.E. McDonald House	Queen Anne	1899 (124)	C	
123A	511 W. Wisconsin St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1920	C	
124	512 W. Wisconsin St.	Residence	Two Story Cube	c.1895 (125)	C	
125	514 W. Wisconsin St.	Ellen O'Brien House	Queen Anne	1885 (126)	C	
125A	514 W. Wisconsin St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1925	C	
126	515 W. Wisconsin St.	Residence	Gabled Ell	c.1895 (127)	C	
126A	515 W. Wisconsin St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1960	NC	
127	517 W. Wisconsin St.	Samuel & Anna Stotzer House	Queen Anne	1899 (128)	C	
127A	517 W. Wisconsin St.	Carriage House	Astylistic	c.1899	C	
128	518 W. Wisconsin St.	Residence	Front Gable	c.1860 (129)	C	
129	522 W. Wisconsin St.	F.F. & Nora Bentley House	Queen Anne	1900 (130)	C	
129A	522 W. Wisconsin St.	Carriage House	Queen Anne	c.1900	C	
130	523 W. Wisconsin St.	Wilhelmina Het- tinger House	Queen Anne	1905-06 (131)	C	
131	527 W. Wisconsin St.	Residence	Side Gable	c.1920 (132)	C	
131A	527 W. Wisconsin St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1960	NC	
132	531 W. Wisconsin St.	Residence	Side Gable	c.1900 (133)	C	
132A	531 W. Wisconsin St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1925	C	
133	532 W. Wisconsin St.	Residence	Greek Revival	c.1855 (134)	C	
133A	532 W. Wisconsin St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1925	C	
134	535 W. Wisconsin St.	Residence	Queen Anne	c.1885 (135)	C	
134A	535 W. Wisconsin St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1925	C	

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135	602 W. Wisconsin St.	German Evangelical Trinity Ch.	Romanesque Revival	1871	(136)	C
136	701 W. Wisconsin St.	William & Anna Netzo House	Queen Anne	1909	(137)	C
136A	701 W. Wisconsin St.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1930		C
137	504 Prospect Ave.	Residence	2nd Empire	c.1880	(138)	C
137A	504 Prospect Ave.	Garage	Astylistic	c.1930		NC

Notes to Building Inventory

(1) Sanborn-Perris Maps for the City of Portage, 1885-1929, on file in the Archives of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin; City Directories for the City of Portage, on file at the Portage Free Library, Portage, Wisconsin and the Library of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

(2) The following methodology was used to date garages, carriage houses, and other outbuildings in this district. Subsequent outbuildings will not be individually footnoted. Carriage houses were given the same date of construction as the houses they are adjacent to. Garages that stylistically match their adjacent houses were also given the same date of construction as the houses. Most garages, though, were dated by field observation of their size, method of construction, construction materials, and any stylistic details they exhibited. Some garages that were obviously constructed during the period of significance for the district were determined to be non-contributing if they had been altered so significantly (artificial siding, new door openings) so as not to resemble a historic garage. Garages constructed after the period of significance were also determined non-contributing.

(3) Sanborn-Perris Maps; City Directories.

(4) Field observation.

(5) C. M. Foote and J. W. Henion, Plat Book of Columbia County, Wisconsin, Minneapolis: C. M. Foote & Co., 1890, pp. 26-27; Sanborn-Perris Maps; field observation.

(6) Tax Rolls for the City of Portage, 1863-present, on file in the Municipal Building, City Treasurer's Office, Portage, Wisconsin.

(7) 1890 Map; Sanborn-Perris Maps; field observation.

(8) Tax Rolls.

(9) 1890 Map; Sanborn-Perris Maps; field observation.

(10) Ibid.

(11) Ibid.

(12) Tax Rolls.

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- (13) Field observation.
- (14) Atlas of Columbia County Wisconsin, Madison: Harrison & Warner, 1873, pp. 43-43; field observation.
- (15) Tax Rolls.
- (16) Sanborn-Perris Maps.
- (17) Tax Rolls.
- (18) 1873 Atlas; field observation.
- (19) 1873 Atlas; field observation.
- (20) Tax Rolls; field observation.
- (21) Sanborn-Perris Maps; City Directories.
- (22) Tax Rolls.
- (23) Ibid.
- (24) Tax Rolls; field observation.
- (25) Tax Rolls.
- (26) Ibid.
- (27) Sanborn-Perris Maps; City Directories.
- (28) Field observation.
- (29) Tax Rolls.
- (30) Ibid.
- (31) Ibid.
- (32) Field observation.
- (33) 1890 Map; Sanborn-Perris Maps; City Directories.
- (34) Tax Rolls.
- (35) Ibid.
- (36) Sanborn-Perris Maps; City Directories.
- (37) Tax Rolls.
- (38) Ibid.
- (39) Ibid.
- (40) Ibid.
- (41) Ibid.
- (42) Tax Rolls; field observation.
- (43) 1873 Atlas; 1890 Map; field observation.
- (44) Tax Rolls.
- (45) Ibid.
- (46) Ibid.
- (47) Field observation.
- (48) 1873 Atlas; field observation.
- (49) Tax Rolls.
- (50) Field observation.
- (51) Sanborn-Perris Maps; City Directories.

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- (52) Tax Rolls.
- (53) 1890 Map; Sanborn-Perris Maps; field observation.
- (54) Sanborn-Perris Maps; City Directories.
- (55) Ibid.
- (56) Ibid.
- (57) Ibid.
- (58) Field observation.
- (59) Sanborn-Perris Maps; City Directories.
- (60) Tax Rolls.
- (61) 1873 Atlas; 1890 Map; field observation.
- (62) Ibid.
- (63) 1890 Map; field observation.
- (64) Sanborn-Perris Maps; City Directories.
- (65) 1873 Atlas; field observation.
- (66) 1890 Map; Sanborn-Perris Maps; City Directories.
- (67) Tax Rolls.
- (68) Sanborn-Perris Maps; City Directories.
- (69) Field observation.
- (70) Tax Rolls.
- (71) Ibid.
- (72) Ibid.
- (73) 1890 Map; Sanborn-Perris Maps; City Directories.
- (74) Tax Rolls.
- (75) Sanborn-Perris Maps; City Directories.
- (76) Tax Rolls.
- (77) 1873 Atlas; field observation.
- (78) Ibid.
- (79) Tax Rolls.
- (80) 1873 Atlas; field observation.
- (81) 1890 Map; Sanborn-Perris Maps; City Directories.
- (82) 1873 Atlas; field observation.
- (83) Sanborn-Perris Maps; City Directories.
- (84) Tax Rolls.
- (85) Sanborn-Perris Map for 1929 updated to 1941 and 1957 plat map, both on file at the Portage Municipal Building, Portage, Wisconsin.
- (86) Field observation.
- (87) 1873 Atlas; 1890 Map; field observation.
- (88) Field observation.
- (89) 1873 Atlas; 1890 Map.
- (90) Sanborn-Perris Maps; City Directories.

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- (91) Tax Rolls.
- (92) Architect's plans and information from Portage Free Library subject file, both located at the Portage Free Library, Portage, Wisconsin.
- (93) Tax Rolls.
- (94) Sanborn-Perris Maps; City Directories.
- (95) Tax Rolls.
- (96) Sanborn-Perris Maps; City Directories.
- (97) Ibid.
- (98) Field observation.
- (99) 1890 Map; Sanborn-Perris Maps; City Directories.
- (100) Ibid.
- (101) Field observation.
- (102) Sanborn-Perris Maps; City Directories.
- (103) 1890 Map; Sanborn-Perris Maps; City Directories.
- (104) Field observation.
- (105) Sanborn-Perris Map updated to 1941; 1957 plat map; City Directories.
- (106) Tax Rolls.
- (107) Sanborn-Perris Maps; City Directories.
- (108) Tax Rolls.
- (109) Field observation.
- (110) Tax Rolls; field observation.
- (111) 1873 Atlas; field observation.
- (112) 1890 Map; Sanborn-Perris Maps; City Directories.
- (113) 1873 Atlas; 1890 Map; field observation.
- (114) Sanborn-Perris Map updated to 1941; 1957 plat map; City Directories.
- (115) Field observation.
- (116) Ibid.
- (117) 1873 Atlas; 1890 Map; field observation.
- (118) 1873 Atlas; field observation.
- (119) Ibid.
- (120) Ibid.
- (121) Tax Rolls.
- (122) 1873 Atlas; field observation.
- (123) Ibid.
- (124) Tax Rolls.
- (125) 1890 Map; Sanborn-Perris Maps; field observation.
- (126) Tax Rolls.
- (127) Field observation.
- (128) Tax Rolls.
- (129) 1873 Atlas; field observation.

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- (130) Tax Rolls.
- (131) Tax Rolls.
- (132) 1873 Atlas; field observation.
- (133) Field observation.
- (134) Tax Rolls.
- (135) 1873 Atlas; 1890 Map; field observation.
- (136) Columbia County Historical Society, Columbia County History Book, Dallas:  
Taylor Publishing Company, 1982, p. 17. The original church was of frame  
construction and was later given a brick veneer.
- (137) Tax Rolls.
- (138) 1873 Atlas; 1890 Map; City Directories.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:        nationally        statewide   x   locally

Applicable National Register Criteria    A    B   x   C    D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)   x   A    B    C    D    E    F    G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Architecture	1855-1930 (1)	N/A
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	Cultural Affiliation	_____
_____	N/A	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Heimerl, Julius

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Society Hill Historic District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance under Criterion C, architecture, for two reasons. First, and most notably, it contains within its boundaries a fine collection of buildings. In particular, there are many fine Italianate and Queen Anne residences in this district. The district, as a whole, is also significant for architecture because it is an intact late nineteenth and early twentieth century neighborhood that combines both the high style residences of the middle and upper classes, and more vernacular infill housing. Not only does this concentration of individual residences represent fine architecture, but it also represents the homes of some of Portage's most prominent business figures.

Historical Background

Long before Wisconsin achieved statehood and long before the city of Portage developed into a thriving community there was a three-quarter-mile long section of swamp land between the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers that was a vital link in the continuous water transportation route between the eastern United States and the Mississippi River valley. By "portaging" this swamp, explorers and fur traders of the seventeenth and eighteenth century could travel from the east coast to the Mississippi River via the Great Lakes, down the Fox River, making the brief portage between the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers, then down the Wisconsin River to the Mississippi. Because the Northwest Territory at the time was a wilderness area,

  x   See continuation sheet

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water transportation was the most feasible method in transporting the people and goods that exploited the natural resources of the area. (2)

Between 1600 and 1760 the French travelled this route, mapping the lakes, rivers and streams of the Northwest Territory. They made alliances with Native Americans that helped them to profit from fur trapping and trading. In 1673, two French explorers, Marquette and Jolliet, "discovered" the swamp that became the portage point between the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers. This portage point became an important link in the transportation of furs to the east, and while a small trading center developed there, no permanent settlement occurred during this time. (3)

Between 1760 and 1815 the Northwest Territory was still controlled by the British. This era was peak of the fur trade in Wisconsin and in 1812, Joseph Rolette erected the first permanent trading post at the portage. After the War of 1812, the Americans took control of the Northwest Territory. Due to its strategic location, the new American government built Fort Winnebago at the portage. After eastern Americans made permanent settlements in southern Wisconsin, the fort was closed in 1846, and in 1853, the fort was sold. (4)

In the 1830s, the first permanent Yankee settlers came to Portage to take advantage of its location between two major water routes. These Yankee settlers competed to build a town at three locations. One was near old Fort Winnebago, another was along the Wisconsin River at the west end of the portage where they expected a canal would be constructed, and the third was on the high ground north of today's downtown. The latter became the nucleus for modern-day Portage, and eventually the other settlements became part of the city. (5)

Between the 1830s and the 1850s, Portage boomed as a trading center and its population grew from 325 in 1837 to over 4,000 in 1856. The new settlers established stores, hotels, saloons, sawmills, flour mills, breweries, and grain elevators. Portage grew politically during this period as well. In 1847, the city was named the county seat, and it was incorporated in 1854. (6)

The Portage Canal project began in the 1830s. Canal boosters felt that the canal would make Portage a vital transportation link to the west. The Portage Canal Company began digging the canal in 1838. The company spent \$10,000 before abandoning the project. In 1839, the Federal Government proposed several waterway improvements in Wisconsin, including completion of the Portage canal and improving the Fox River. But, not until 1846 was the state allowed to acquire land and to raise money for the project. The government also stipulated that only \$20,000 could

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be spent at any one time on a project estimated to cost over \$64,000, and, the state could only use land sale receipts to fund the project. Despite these problems the project was begun and in 1851 a steamboat attempted to use the canal. (7)

By 1853 the canal project was an uncompleted and financial mess. The state chartered the Fox and Wisconsin River Improvement Company to finish the project. But, it was soon discovered that the Wisconsin River was unnavigable to fast steamboats and work began on improving that river. The Canal was sold to the Green Bay and Mississippi Canal Company, and they turned it over to the federal government in 1872. Despite all of the time and energy spent on the canal project, it was a failure, not because the idea was flawed, but because the railroad came to Wisconsin and by the 1850s it almost eliminated waterway transportation. Even though the canal was a financial failure, it is an historical artifact of the period when Portage and Wisconsin hoped to be the great link to opening the west. (8)

Portage's importance as a trading center began to wane around 1860, but was replaced by the lumbering boom. Portage's location between two rivers that were major used to transport lumber from northern Wisconsin helped fuel a business boom serving the lumber industry and its workers. After the lumber boom was over, in the late nineteenth century, Portage again became an important trade center as the dairying industry took hold in Columbia County and farmers became important consumers. After 1900, a number of industries grew and developed in Portage including the Portage Hosiery Company, formed in 1880; the United Cigar Company and the General Cigar Company warehouses; the Heinz pickle factory, established in 1904; and the Weyenberg Shoe Factory, established in 1920. The population of the city also increased from 4,500 in 1880 to 5,500 in 1920, and 6,300 in 1930. (9)

The most important industry in Portage during the nineteenth and early twentieth century, though, was the railroad. In the 1850s, the LaCrosse and Milwaukee Railroad came to Portage. It eventually became part of the large Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad, now part of the Soo Line. The railroad made Portage a terminal point between Minneapolis and Chicago where crews were changed and cars and engines were repaired. The railroad built passenger and freight depots, repair shops, and a large roundhouse just north of the district. During the early twentieth century, 14 passenger trains between Chicago and Minneapolis stopped at Portage every day. Even though Portage ceased being a terminal point in 1929, the railroad played a major economic role in the city, providing at least one-third of the working population with jobs during its heyday. (10)

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The Society Hill Historic District was first platted as part of the Dunn, McFarlane, and Armstrong and the Dunn, Haskell and Tenny's additions to the original city plat in the 1850s, the district did not develop until after the Civil War. In the 1850s, housing in Portage was confined almost entirely to the area just north of the downtown. Except for a few houses, this district was heavily wooded and undeveloped. As stated in Section 7, the district developed primarily between 1870 and 1910, giving it a decidedly Italianate and Queen Anne appearance. (11)

When the district did develop, it evolved as a prestigious neighborhood for some of Portage's most prominent citizens, as well as a neighborhood for skilled railroad workers. The district is within walking distance to both Portage's downtown and to the railroad complex. Yet, the district is also far enough away from both of these workplaces to be desirable as a quiet residential area where houses could be built on large lots. In some ways, the Society Hill neighborhood was an early suburb of Portage; a quiet, spacious neighborhood, yet one that was convenient for its primarily middle and upper class residents.

The district became denser after 1900 as vacant lots were filled in with early twentieth century Bungalows, American Foursquares, and simple period revival residences. A combination of the onslaught of the Depression and the fact that almost all available lots in the district were filled, ended the development of the district around 1930. Since that time some of the vernacular and a few of the more stylistic houses have been remodeled or altered and a few buildings have been demolished. But, overall, the district still exists as a historic neighborhood.

Today, the district is still primarily a residential neighborhood, although some of the larger houses have been put to new uses. The N. H. Wood house (225 W. Franklin St.) is a retirement home. The William Breese-Zona Gale house (804 MacFarlane) was converted into a library in 1949. And, next door, the Llywelyn Breese house (816 MacFarlane St.) is a residence and a bed and breakfast inn. Some of the large houses have been subdivided into duplexes or apartments. But, even with these twentieth century changes, the district today retains the appearance and ambience of a fine historic residential neighborhood.

#### Architecture

The Society Hill Historic District is significant for architecture because it has a concentration of fine individual examples of recognized nineteenth century architectural styles. It is also significant because the district, as a whole, is a fine and intact example of a turn-of-the-century neighborhood that includes the

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stylish houses of the prominent residents that give the neighborhood its "Society Hill" name, and also the more modest houses of middle class families, many of whom were headed by men employed in skilled railroad occupations.

The earliest of the excellent individual examples of the several architectural styles that are found in the district is the fine Greek Revival Corning-Clark house at 532 W. Wisconsin St., (#133). According to Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan, the Greek Revival style was the first national style to have wide ranging impact on buildings in Wisconsin. The style came with the Yankees (eastern Americans) as they moved west during the first half of the nineteenth century. The style emphasizes formal, orderly, and symmetrical massing and details. Porticos, pilasters, heavy moldings, and classical details are often seen on Greek Revival buildings. In Wisconsin, the style is seen not just on frame, clapboard structures, but on brick and stone buildings as well. Large and heavily detailed Greek Revival houses are not often seen in Wisconsin, but rather, vernacular forms that display some Greek Revival details are quite common. (12)

The Corning-Clark house (#133), one of the oldest in the district, is a good example of a vernacular Greek Revival house in Wisconsin. Like many of these houses, it has a gabled ell form and little elaborate detail except for the fine full pediment on the main block that is decorated with a lunette window. The architrave trim and entrance with transom and sidelights are other typical Greek Revival details. The front and ell porches with columns also add to the classicism of the residence. Overall, the house has the symmetry, formality, and orderliness of form and detail that expresses the Greek Revival style. And, the fine brick construction of the house and its overall good integrity also makes it stand out in the district.

The most commonly seen architectural style in this district is the Italianate. But, most significantly, many of these Italianate houses have details that suggest other architectural styles. They are almost all expertly constructed from locally-produced cream brick. Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan indicates that the Italianate style is seen in great numbers throughout Wisconsin. Most examples were built between the 1850s and 1870s and commonly feature wide eaves, brackets, low-pitched hipped or gable roofs, projecting bay windows, and square plans. Details of the style also include label moldings or round arches over openings. Examples are seen with clapboard, brick, or stone exteriors. (13)

The Plan also discusses the significant details of the Gothic Revival style, seen in Wisconsin between 1850 and 1880. They include pointed arched openings, steeply-pitched gable roofs, pinnacles, battlements, and decorative bargeboards. The style

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was particularly popular for churches and is seen less commonly in residential construction. (14)

Several of the most outstanding Italianate houses in this district have typical Italianate features, but also include unusual Gothic details, or at least details that suggest the style. For example, the George Jurgens house (704 Cass St., #19) has many details of the Italianate style including brackets, a central Italian Villa type tower, square bay window, and an Italianate front porch. But its steeply-pitched gables, bargeboard, and the pointed arch window on the front facade all suggest the Gothic Revival style.

The front section of the Arthur C. Flanders house (306 W. Franklin St., #73) is typically Italianate, with its square plan, low-pitched hipped roof, large brackets, tall windows with hoodmolds, and side bays. But the rear section is decidedly gothic. With its steeply pitched intersecting gable roof, it is markedly different from the front section of the house, making this house as unusual as it is attractive.

A vestige of the Gothic Revival style emerges again in the Martha Reed House (1004 Dunn St., #41), built in 1881. From the front or Dunn Street facade, one sees a fine but typical late Italianate house with well-executed Italianate details: the low-pitched hipped roof, a bracketed and classically appointed frieze, and a projecting low-pitched front gable with returned eaves, a detail common to late Italianate houses. But around the corner, tucked away above a fine two-story bay window is a very steeply-pitched projecting gable with a pointed arch inset window. It is a minor detail, but an unusual gothic touch on this otherwise fine Italianate residence.

An unusual Italianate house is the Miles and Melissa Alverson house (714 MacFarlane Rd., #90). Its wide roof eaves, large brackets, bay window and arched openings are all Italianate features. However, its rectangular massing, unusual shaped roof, central square entry pavilion, and small, paired round arched windows are more closely associated with the earlier Italian Villa period of the Italianate style.

More typical late Italianate houses that stand out in the district include the G. J. Owen house (303 W. Franklin St., #71); the C. J. and Martha Goss house (703 Dunn St., #33); the T. L. and Loa Kennan house (331 W. Franklin St., #82); and the John and Emily Dalton House (309 W. Marion St., #107); all built in the late 1870s or early 1880s. Yet, even though they exhibit typical late Italianate details, they have individual characteristics that make them fine examples in the district.

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For example, the Owen house has a steeply-pitched hipped roof with deck and a fine and unusual hipped roof tower topped with metal cresting, an uncommon detail on an Italianate house. The Goss house is probably the most typical late Italianate house of the group in the district. Its roof is the commonly seen hip with deck and there are fine bays attached to the side walls. A low-pitched gable end that surmounts the entry pavilion is also a fine detail and is typical of the late Italianate style. The portico from the early twentieth century does not significantly detract from the building's overall integrity.

The Kennan and Dalton houses were probably both built by brickmason John Dalton because of their similarity of construction technique and details. Both are fine late Italianate houses, but what is unusual about them is the brickwork at the corners which simulates stone quoins. Also, on Dalton's own house are very fine round brick arches with foliated keystones and corbels. Both of these homes illustrate the fine craftsmanship of John Dalton.

The Italianate houses are one of the two most outstanding architectural groups in this district. Their fine, and in some cases, atypical, stylistic details, combined with a very high level of integrity, are key elements in the architectural significance of the district. The houses are also significant because they were built of locally-produced cream brick, a building material that was also used for residences designed in other styles, but not as often. Since these houses have withstood the elements for 100 years or more, it is clear that the brick kilns of Portage produced a superior product.

The first brick kiln was reportedly established in 1847. This kiln made red bricks from local surface clay. These proved to be too brittle, either from the poor quality of the clay or the primitive methods of production. Below the red clay, though, was a fine supply of white clay, and during the formative years of Portage's development, the Armstrong, Pixley and Reeder kilns began to process fine quality cream bricks. They were soon joined by other firms and the pervasive nature of brick construction in Portage attests to the popularity and durability of this local building material. (15)

Besides the Italianate style, there are some outstanding buildings that reflect other mid to late nineteenth century architectural styles. Despite an unsympathetic enclosed porch, the R. O. and Isabell Loomis House (219 w. Franklin St., #66) exhibits the steeply-pitched roofline, bays, and tall windows in the Gothic Revival style. Although not elaborate, it is the best example of a Gothic Revival-influenced building in the district.

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The Second Empire style of architecture is also represented in two fine buildings in the district. The best and most unusual is the Robert and Lucy Cochrane House (228 W. Franklin St., #70). According to Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan, the Second Empire style was popular in Wisconsin between 1870 and 1890. The most identifiable characteristic of the style is the mansard roof, almost always punctuated with dormer windows. Many Second Empire buildings are tall and most are elaborately detailed with appointments that are similar to those of the Italianate style. In fact, some Italianate houses were often remodeled into Second Empire houses by the addition of a mansard roof. Even though the style was popular in the late nineteenth century in Wisconsin, good examples of the style are not common due to demolition and remodeling, or because their numbers were not as great as the Italianate style, for example. (16)

Like the unusual interpretations of the Italianate style in this district, the Cochrane house has a few details that are not commonly seen on Second Empire houses. It has the typical mansard roof of the style with projecting dormers. It also features the Italianate-influenced details often found on Second Empire houses, although they are not overly elaborate. An interesting feature of this building is its two-story projecting gable-roofed entry pavilion. It is decorated in the Italianate manner, yet features a gothic influence in the delicate bargeboards of the gable peak. This bargeboard is repeated on the dormers of the mansard throughout the building. Finely crafted, this house has a high level of integrity with only some minor alterations at the rear.

A more traditional, yet less decorative Second Empire house is the residence at 504 Prospect Avenue (#137). It lacks the more elaborate details of the style, yet includes the major elements (mansard roof, dormers, Italianate type detail) on a well-constructed and well-maintained house. The early twentieth century veranda detracts somewhat from the integrity of the house, but does not significantly cover up its major stylistic details.

One of the most interesting houses in the district features details from both the Italianate and Queen Anne styles. Built in 1885, the Ellen O'Brien house (514 W. Wisconsin St., #125) is a transitional example that combines elements of both of these popular nineteenth century styles. While the Italianate details dominate the house, the irregularity of plan and the fine corner tower strongly suggest the Queen Anne style. The house is elegantly appointed and represents fine nineteenth century craftsmanship.

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There are many fine Queen Anne residences in this district. Like the Italianate houses in the district, most of which were built during the late period of that style, the Queen Anne houses in the district also date primarily from the late period of that style. Consequently, the district's examples are, in general, more classical than picturesque in inspiration, yet they all are fine interpretations of the style.

According to Wisconsin's Cultural Resource Management Plan, the Queen Anne style was an important architectural movement of the period 1880 to 1910 in Wisconsin. Queen Anne houses express complexity and irregularity in their plans and details. Individual Queen Anne details include a variety of surface textures, such as shingles and clapboards above stone or brick first floors; multiple roofs and wall projections; steeply-pitched rooflines; round or polygonal turrets; wrap-around verandas; and classical appointments. (17)

The best Queen Anne houses in the district are the Samuel and Anna Stotzer house (517 W. Wisconsin St., #127), built in 1899; the Johanna Buckley house (321 W. Carroll St., #14), built in 1908; and the A. R. Barker house (912 MacFarlane Rd., #94), built in 1901. They all feature complexity and irregularity in their massing, have a variety of surface textures, multiple rooflines and projections, and other typical Queen Anne details. Yet they are each unique, expressing the Queen Anne style in a slightly different manner.

For example, the Stotzer house, built for prominent stonemason Samuel Stotzer and his family, has typical Queen Anne details expressed in a brick-constructed house. What makes this building stand out, though, is the massive corner turret, and the outstanding quality of stonework on the front wall, especially on the entry porch. The arches, columns, and carved stonework of the entry porch suggest the Romanesque Revival style. The emphasis on mass in this house design and its fine stonework make it a good example of how a popular architectural style was interpreted to reflect the occupant within.

The Johanna Buckley house is a very fine late Queen Anne house that has a more classically inspired design than the Stotzer house, probably because of its 1908 construction date. There is an abundance of classical detail of which the large veranda is the most impressive. Yet, despite this classicism, the design is still irregular and complex with its many projections, its massive Shingle style-influenced shingled gables and its numerous bays. The house is a fine example of the emerging classicism of the style after the turn of the century. Its high level of preservation significantly adds to its fine design.

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The A. R. Barker house is a more restrained and symmetrical version of the Queen Anne style, although it features all the elements of typical Queen Anne houses: irregularity of plan and massing, multiple projections, corner tower, and large veranda. It is very typical of the style in Wisconsin; that is, a house with a rectangular form embellished by a myriad of details to suggest the asymmetry and exuberance of the style.

The above examples of the Queen Anne style illustrate three ways the style was interpreted in the district. And the Queen Anne style, perhaps more so than other styles, because of its complexity, lent itself well to many interpretations. For example, the McDuffie House (314 W. Franklin St., #75) differs from the above examples primarily because it emphasizes the fancy stickwork decoration that was influenced by the Stick Style. Other fine details of this house are the two towers, in particular, the tall, square tower. Maintenance problems of such towers often result in their removal or at least partial removal from Queen Anne houses. The intact towers and stickwork of this residence adds to the Queen Anne diversity found in the district.

Three other interesting interpretations of the Queen Anne also illustrate the variation of the style in this district. They are the diminutive residence at 616 MacFarlane Rd. (#87), the Shingle style-influenced Ambrose house at 312 W. Marion St. (#109), and the Bentley house at 522 W. Wisconsin St. (#129). The residence at 616 MacFarlane Rd. is a small, simple house that lacks elaborate detail. Yet, its fine tower, irregularity of form, and high level of preservation illustrates that even small houses can successfully express a style most often associated with larger residences.

The Ambrose house has a Queen Anne tower, but because of the Shingle Style-influenced steeply-pitched roof with the large shingled gable, the tower projects out of the roof, instead of being attached to it. The house is also more boxy and narrow, probably because it was built on a narrow infill lot. The Bentley house is just the opposite. It features a wide front wall, probably dictated by its lot which rises sharply at the rear, making a deep house impractical. While not richly detailed, the Bentley house does, however, have an interesting projecting front gable and porch detail that suggests the Victorian Gothic style. Both of these homes illustrate how builders often mixed features from other styles on basic Queen Anne house forms in an effort to give exuberance and uniqueness to their efforts.

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The most outstanding building in this district is the Portage Free Library (formerly the William and Jessie Breese House and the William Breese and Zona Gale House, 804 MacFarlane Rd., #91). Originally built for prominent businessman William Breese and his first wife in 1912, it was designed by architect Julius E. Heimerl of Milwaukee. The original portion of the house is a nicely proportioned, primarily Georgian Revival residence. But Heimerl decorated the second story with a narrow stuccoed band of paired casement windows that suggest the then-popular Prairie Style of architecture. The details of the original section of the house are finely crafted; the most outstanding feature of the original house being the large arched entrance, now converted to a window.

In 1928, Breese had Heimerl plan an addition for him and his new wife, writer Zona Gale. Even though it was 16 years after the original house was built, Heimerl designed the addition with the exact details of the original house, including the Prairie Style detail on the second story and the large arched Georgian Revival style windows on the first floor. The interior of most of the house was executed with simple classical motifs, in keeping with the Georgian Revival style. But in the addition, Heimerl designed an impressive Tudor Revival style study for Zona Gale. This dark paneled room, with its fieldstone flooring, is extant in the library as the Zona Gale Memorial Room. Since this room does not reflect the overall architecture of the rest of the building, it was probably a personal design statement that Gale herself requested.

While Julius Heimerl is not considered one of Milwaukee's leading architects, he had impressive architectural associations. Between 1905 and 1913 he worked for and eventually became a partner in the prominent Milwaukee architectural firm of Brust and Philipp. Peter Brust and Richard Philipp formed their partnership in 1906 and worked together for 20 years. They were expert in the design of period revival residences and are most noted for their work on the company town of Kohler, Wisconsin. Along with Julius Heimerl, Philipp and Brust were draftsmen for the prominent Milwaukee architectural firm of Ferry and Clas in the late nineteenth century. Apparently when Brust and Philipp became partners, they took Heimerl with them as a draftsman, and he eventually achieved partner status in the firm in 1911. In 1913 Heimerl established his own firm and after 1926 both Brust and Philipp worked independently. (18)

Not much has been recorded regarding Heimerl's designs, although it is probable that he was involved in many of the fine designs attributed to the firm of Brust and Phillip. One residence in Milwaukee, the F. Linck house at 3036 N. Marietta Avenue, is a Georgian Revival house with Prairie style influences that is similar in size to

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the original Breese house in Portage. The fine design of the Breese-Gale house can probably be added to the list of fine period revival residences executed by Heimerl, both as an independent architect and as part of the Brust and Philipp firm. And, the Breese-Gale home illustrates that Heimerl was also influenced in his work by the modernistic Prairie Style.

The remodeling that has taken place since the building became a library in 1949 has taken away little of the exterior integrity of the property. A small front addition was added as a foyer for the library and the remodeling of the interior spaces for library use has been sensitively handled, keeping as many architectural details intact as much as possible. Especially impressive is the Tudor Revival Zona Gale Memorial Room, a unique space in the library. The larger addition at the back of the library has also been sensitively handled. Like other libraries throughout the state, the Portage Free Library is outgrowing this building and it is possible that further additions or even the vacation of this building is possible in the future. But as it exists today, the Breese-Gale Library is a fine example of the sensitive adaptive reuse of a historic residence for public use.

Most of the vernacular housing that exists in the district today has been altered and is relatively undistinguished. Two building groups, though, add to the architectural significance of the district. The side gable residences at 915 Dunn St. (#40), and 323 and 328 W. Emmett St. (#57, 60) are of interest because of their interesting Gothic and Italianate details and because they are almost identical, suggesting a common builder. It is unusual to find three almost identical structures with somewhat unusual detail in the same district.

The same can be said for the second building group, 903, 907, and 911 Dunn St. (#37, 38, 39). These one story cube residences are each somewhat differently detailed, but their overall plan and building materials are identical. Since they sit in a row along Dunn Street, and were constructed within three years of each other, they might be considered a nineteenth century version of "tract" housing. And, since two were rental houses, they were probably built as an investment.

These building groups add to the district's architectural significance because they are unusual and interesting architectural elements among the vernacular housing of the district. They are also interesting examples of types of housing in the district that railroad workers occupied in the nineteenth and early twentieth century. City Directories and Tax Rolls for the City of Portage indicate that almost all of the vernacular residences housed railroad worker families, the most common middle and working class occupation of persons in the district.

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The stylish residences of this district were originally the homes of some of Portage's prominent business families. Therefore, they are, in part, also architectural artifacts that represent the lifeways of a particular class of persons in a small Wisconsin community. Many of the residents of these houses were business and industry leaders and have been discussed in Section 7. They include Miles Alverson, banker; W. W. Corning, William Parry, Paul Schuman, N. H. Wood, and R. O. Loomis, prominent merchants; Henry Andrews, T. L. Kennan, and Phillip Owens, attorneys; Andrew Jackson Turner, noted newspaperman and politician; Samuel Stotzer, operator of a large stone processing company; F. F. Bentley, physician and founder of an early hospital; Llywelyn Breese, merchant, politician, and banker; William Breese, banker and industrialist; and Zona Gale, nationally known writer.

Of course, a district known as "Society Hill" leaves the impression that all the buildings were occupied by prominent and wealthy families. As discussed earlier, there are many vernacular houses interspersed throughout the district, the vast majority having originally been the homes of skilled or white-collar railroad workers. Just a few blocks south of the large Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad complex in Portage, this district attracted many of the better paid employees of the railroad, such as engineers, conductors, and firemen. One of the most important of these employees was Arthur C. Flanders, the station agent for the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad. Flanders prominent position with the railroad company allowed him to live in one of the finer homes in the district.

This combination of prominent business families and well-paid skilled railroad workers created an interesting and cohesive neighborhood that lasted throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth century. The architecture of the district represents this socio-economic context in that the successful business families and some select highly-paid railroad workers lived in the most stylish houses, while the middle-class railroad engineers, conductors, firemen, and white-collar railroad workers lived in the smaller and less stylish buildings in the district. Together, these two groups created a distinctive historic neighborhood with architecture that reflects both the middle and upper class families that lived there.

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Notes to Section 8:

- (1) This period encompasses the most significant historic development in the district.
- (2) Federal Writers' Project of Wisconsin (Works Progress Administration), American Guide Series Portage, Portage: Portage Chamber of Commerce, 1938, pp. 7-17.
- (3) Ibid., pp. 18-23.
- (4) Ibid., pp. 25-35.
- (5) Ibid., p. 37; C. W. Butterfield, The History of Columbia County, Wisconsin, Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1880, p. 589.
- (6) Federal Writers' Project, p. 36; Butterfield, p. 588; J. E. Jones, A History of Columbia County, Wisconsin, Vols. I and II, Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1914, pp. 185-188.
- (7) Federal Writers' Project, pp. 40-42.
- (8) Ibid., pp. 42-43.
- (9) Ibid., pp. 43-53.
- (10) Ibid., p. 53; Columbia County Historical Society, Columbia County History Book, Dallas: Taylor Publishing Company, 1982, p. 15.
- (11) Butterfield, pp. 593-597.
- (12) Barbara Wyatt, ed., Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin: Vol. II, Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, Architecture, p. 2-3.
- (13) Ibid., p. 2-6.
- (14) Ibid., p. 2-5.
- (15) Butterfield, p. 636.
- (16) Wyatt, p. 2-11.
- (17) Ibid., p. 2-15.
- (18) Information on Julius E. Heimerl and on Brust and Philipp from the National Register of Historic Places nomination form for the South Branch Library, Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, on file at the State Historic Preservation Office, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

ARCHEOLOGICAL STATEMENT

Portage was an area of significant travel and trade by both Native Americans and early white explorers and fur traders. As such this district may contain both known and unknown prehistoric and historic archeological sites. Since this district has had extensive building activity from the mid to late nineteenth century and the twentieth century, it is likely that surface archeological resources may have been disturbed but hidden archeological resources may be intact. Although no

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archeological surveys were undertaken for this nomination, there is considerable potential for the existence of such resources.

PRESERVATION ACTIVITY

This nomination was initiated by the Portage Landmarks Preservation Society, a private, local group of historic preservation-oriented citizens. The society is not only attempting to preserve historic resources by nominating this district to the National Register of Historic Places, but it also performs other historic preservation public service projects in the community. While this group consists of the leaders of the preservation movement in Portage, individual preservation efforts are also evident in the community and particularly in this district. The high level of integrity of the most stylistic homes in the district can be attributed largely to the individual owners' personal initiatives in both maintenance and renovation of the buildings. The Portage Landmarks Preservation Society hopes to continue to pursue other National Register projects in the future and to promote preservation awareness in the community by the publicity and education efforts conducted by the society as a whole and its individual members.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATION A, EXCEPTION FOR RELIGIOUS PROPERTIES

The German Evangelical Trinity Church (#135) is included in this nomination as an exception to Criteria Consideration A, listing religious properties in the National Register. This church is being listed in the National Register as part of the Society Hill Historic District because of its architectural contribution to the district, not for its religious significance. As such, it is an exception to Criteria Consideration A.

9. Major Bibliographical References

   See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:  
    State Historic preservation office  
   Other State agency  
   Federal agency  
   Local government  
   University  
   Other  
Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property    40 acres

UTM References

A	<u>1/6</u>	<u>3/0/0/4/8/0</u>	<u>4/8/2/4/0/4/0</u>	B	<u>1/6</u>	<u>3/0/0/8/6/0</u>	<u>4/8/2/4/0/4/0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>1/6</u>	<u>3/0/0/8/5/0</u>	<u>4/8/2/3/5/6/0</u>	D	<u>1/6</u>	<u>3/0/0/4/8/0</u>	<u>4/8/2/3/7/7/0</u>

   See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

   See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

   See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Carol Lohry Cartwright, Historian, prepared for :  
organization Portage Landmarks Preser. Society date November 16, 1989  
street & number Rt. 2, 5581A Hackett Rd. telephone (414) 473-6820  
city or town Whitewater state WI zip code 53190

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the intersection of the west curbline of MacFarlane Rd. and the south curbline of W. Emmett St., then west along the south curbline of W. Emmett St. to the east lot line of #48, then north along this line to the north lot line of #48, then west along this line to the west lot line of #48, then south along this line to the north curbline of W. Emmett St., then west along this line to the west curbline of Dunn St., then north along this line to the south curbline of Burns St., then west along this line to the west lot lines of #42 and 43, then south along this line to the north lot lines of #51, 54, 55, 57, and 60, then west along this line to the west lot line of #60, then south along this line to the south curbline of W. Emmett St., then west along this line to the west lot lines of #23, 25, 27, and 30, then south along this line, crossing W. Marion St. to the west lot lines of #19, 20, 21, and 22, then south along this line, crossing W. Franklin St. to the west lot lines of #18 and 136, then generally south along this line to the north curbline of W. Wisconsin St., then southeast along this line to the north curbline of W. Carroll St., then east along this line to the west curbline of Dunn St., then south along this line to the south curbline of W. Wisconsin St., then northwest along this line to the west lot line of #135, then southwest along this line to the north curbline of W. Prospect St., then east along this line to the west lot line of #137, then south along this line to the south lot line of #137, then east along this line to the west curbline of Dunn St., then north along this line to the south lot lines of #133, 129, 128, 125, 124, 121, and 120, then southeast along this line to the north curbline of Conant St., then east along this line to the west curbline of MacFarlane Rd., then north along this line to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This boundary was drawn to include as much of the historic neighborhood known as "Society Hill" as possible while excluding as many non-contributing elements as possible. Specifically, the northern boundary was drawn along W. Emmett St. at the northern edge of this neighborhood. It was extended to gather those houses on the north side of W. Emmett Street and along the west side of Dunn Street that contribute to the architectural significance of the district. Cass Street is the general western boundary with houses on both sides of the street included in the district. Beyond W. Emmett and Cass Streets is a residential area that differs markedly in age, type, and style of construction from that which is included in the district. The houses are generally of more recent construction, they are smaller scale, and are much less stylistic than those contained within the boundaries of the Society Hill Historic District.

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West Carroll Street acts as the boundary in the southwest portion of the district. The southeastern boundary was drawn to include a physical extension of the Society Hill neighborhood toward downtown Portage. Here, houses on both sides of Wisconsin Street, a historically prominent thoroughfare in Portage, were included in the district. Also included in the district because of their relationship with Society Hill were buildings #135 and #137. It was felt these buildings, along with the residences on West Wisconsin St., related more to the Society Hill neighborhood than to the neighborhood directly to the south of the district. The neighborhood to the south is another potential historic district with a greater emphasis on more recent, period revival architecture interspersed with nineteenth century homes.

Finally, the eastern boundary was drawn along MacFarlane Rd., taking in only those houses on the west side of the street. On the east side of the street is a large school complex and the beginning of the old downtown neighborhood that developed earlier and has potential as a separate historic district. Historical sources specifically indicate that this older neighborhood developed separately from the area of Society Hill.

The boundaries enclose a relatively cohesive historic nineteenth and early twentieth century neighborhood of stylish upper class and modest middle class homes. It excludes other neighborhoods that are different from Society Hill, as well as non-contributing and non-residential areas.

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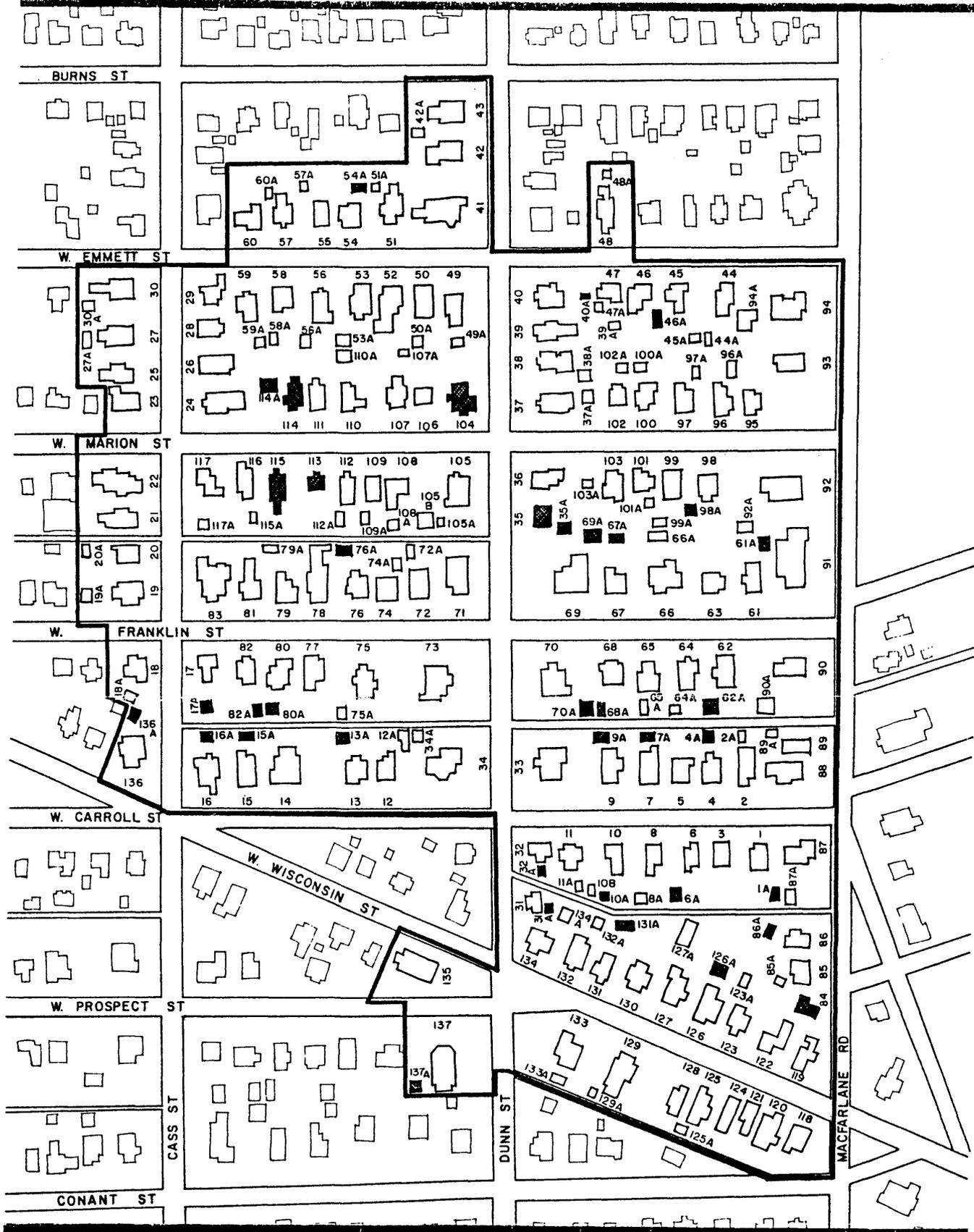
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SOCIETY HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT, Portage, Columbia County, Wisconsin. Photos by C. Cartwright, March, 1990. Negatives on file in the Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin. Views:

- 1 of 23: Map numbers (right to left) 5, 7, 9, view from the southeast.
- 2 of 23: Map numbers (right to left) 12, 13, 14, 15, view from the southwest.
- 3 of 23: Map number 16 and east side of Cass Street, view from the south.
- 4 of 23: Map numbers (left to right) 19, 20, 21, 22, view from the southeast.
- 5 of 23: Map numbers (left to right) 23, 25, 27, 30, view from the southeast.
- 6 of 23: Map number 33, view from the west.
- 7 of 23: Map numbers (right to left) 37, 38, 39, 40, view from the northwest.
- 8 of 23: Map numbers (left to right) 41, 42, 43, view from the southeast.
- 9 of 23: Map numbers (left to right) 44, 45, view from the northeast.
- 10 of 23: Map numbers (left to right) 90, 67, 64, 65, view from the northeast.
- 11 of 23: Map numbers (left to right) 68, 70, view from the northwest.
- 12 of 23: Map numbers (left to right) 73, 75, view from the northeast.
- 13 of 23: Map numbers (right to left) 71, 72, 74, 76, view from the southeast.
- 14 of 23: Map numbers (left to right) 91, 92, view from the southeast.
- 15 of 23: Map number 94, view from the east.
- 16 of 23: East side, MacFarlane Road, out of the district, view from the southwest.
- 17 of 23: Map numbers (right to left) 106, 107, 110, 111, view from the southeast.
- 18 of 23: Map numbers (right to left) 78, 79, 81, 83, view from the southwest.
- 19 of 23: Map numbers (left to right) 125, 128, 129, 133, view from the northwest.
- 20 of 23: Map numbers (left to right) 118, 120, 121, 124, 125, view from the northwest.
- 21 of 23: Map numbers (right to left) 126, 127, 130, 131, 132, 134, view from the southwest.
- 22 of 23: Map number 135, view from the east.
- 23 of 23: Map number 137, and out of the district, view from the northeast.



# SOCIETY HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT PORTAGE, COLUMBIA COUNTY, WISCONSIN

## LEGEND

- DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- 123A MAP NUMBER
- CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES
- NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES
- PHOTO VIEW AND NUMBER

NO SCALE - NORTH

PREPARED FOR THE PORTAGE  
LANDMARKS PRESERVATION SOCIETY