not for publication

code

____ museum

__ religious

_ scientific

private residence

_ transportation

53716

53709

ves

county <u>X</u> local

53706

<u>X</u> no

X other: Vacant

_ park

Wisconsin

Wisconsin

Wisconsin

state

state

state

state

has this property been determined eligible?

federal

Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

025

6 1986

For NPS use only

received MAR

date entered

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

and or common

Location

historic Aslak Lie Cabin

street & number 3022 County Trunk P

city, town Mount Horeb

state

3.

Category

__ site

____ object

4,

name

_ district

 \underline{X} building(s)

___ structure

street & number

street & number

1981

depository for survey records

city, town

6.

title

date

city, town

city, town

5.

Wisconsin

N.A.

Classification

Ownership

public

private

Public Acquisition

being considered

208 Thompkins Drive

Location of Legal Description

Madison

Madison

Representation in Existing Surveys

_ in process

Owner of Property

Donald L. Heiliger

Madison

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

Wisconsin Survey of Historic Places

both

Dane

Present Use

_ agriculture

commercial

_ educational

_ government

industrial

military

entertainment

code

_ work in progress

Status

vicinity of

county

55

_ occupied

 \underline{X} unoccupied

 \underline{X} yes: restricted

____ yes: unrestricted

vicinity of

Dane County Register of Deeds

City-County Building, 210 Monona Avenue

Accessible

no

7. Description

Condition)
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X_ fair

_ good

excellent

	Check one
deteriorated	unaltered
ruins	\underline{X} altered
unexposed	

Check one _X_ original site ____ moved date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Aslak Olsen Lie house is a substantial two-story log and timber frame structure built on a rubblestone and naturally hollowed, stone foundation (perhaps an original depression in the rock-core hill). With a first story of log and a second story that is timberframed with vertical boarding, the 40' 8" (12.4 meters) by 16' 6" (5 meters) house stands on a south-facing slope overlooking the marshy headwater of the Sugar River. Access to a nearby spring is made easier by the construction of stone steps in the hillside.

Originally the house sported a <u>sval</u> or <u>svalgang</u> (exterior gallery common to Norwegian dwellings) across the entire facade with the exception of the eastern-most windows. On the west the <u>sval</u> extended a few feet beyond the west wall of the house. Fenestration featured two types of windows: on the ground floor, traditional Norwegian double casement windows were used in the log portion, whereas in the more American style timber framed second story, double-hung American style windows were installed.

The <u>sval</u> was removed prior to the First World War. All of the windows now are doublehung, and the two doorways from the <u>sval</u> on the second floor have in some cases been converted into windows. In the present configuration, the left side door is now a window, the central window is newly cut, the third opening remains a door and the right side window is original.

Entrance to the house was originally gained through the <u>svalgang</u>. The house is divided in two by a north/south central supporting log wall. The first floor west room, approximately 14.5' by 15.5' has always been used as a kitchen. There is no evidence of a fireplace; rather, stowe opening suggest that wood-burning stoves were always used. The living room, to the east, measures 14.5' by 17', and contains an enclosed stairwell against the central wall leading to the second floor. This stairwell may have been added in the 1880's. It has been subject to many alterations, often in a common "county craftsman-like" style, making it virtually impossible to distinguish later work from newer. A trapdoor in the floor near the foot of the stairs leads to the basement.

The second floor originally consisted of two rooms. However, the east room, over the living room, has been divided into a substantial hallway and two small bedrooms. The original room was completely wainscotted. This was the "warm" room. A door, probably not original since entrace would have been gained through the <u>sval</u>, has been installed in the hall leading to the west room. Although this room now contains remnants of modern wallboarding, enough has been removed to disclose the original ridgepoles, roofing remnants, and timber construction. This was **the**"cold storage room," where food, seasonal garments, and furniture were stored. In the summer it very likely was used as sleeping quarters.

It is probable that all rooms in the house served as bedrooms, since a deed selling the property to the son of the builder specifies that the parents retain the use of the kitchen as their bedroom.¹

Interior hardware and trim includes two original first floor exterior doors, both deteriorated, with original handwrought iron hardware except for modern knobs and latches. The doors are cabinet made 3 panel doors, with each panel having a field diamond shaped central ornament on the inside while flush on the outside. The central panel is roughly twice the size of the top and bottom panels. The doorway between the kitchen and the living room has a scalloped lintel, tapered from top to bottom. The kitchen ceiling is shiplapped random width wood with some beading, now painted white, but with the original

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Aslak Lie Cabin, Mt. Horeb, Dane County Item number

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2 Page

DESCRIPTION (continued)

dark stain or varnish showing through in many places. In the living room evidence of several layers of wallpaper indicate the original room was painted or papered. The interior logs exposed in both the kitchen and living room contain many examples of laboriously fitted wood chinks to create a smooth wood surface, minimizing the need for plastering or liming. The exterior log walls, however, have been chinked and re-chinked with a variety of materials.

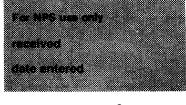
7

The basement merits special attention. Access originally was through a trapdoor in the living room and perhaps through a window on the north side. The basement may have been a natural depression in the rock in part, perhaps partially a cave, but it also was further improved by quarrying shelves, recesses, and platforms in the "care" walls. It is said that the builder and his brother lived in a dugout during the first winter (1848-9).² It appears likely that they built their house over their shelter.

From the basement are visible the rounded undersides of the original hewn or sawn puncheon floors, some with bark still in place. As can be expected, evidence of insect damage appears everywhere in the basement, whose doorway is open to the elements. The basement extends only under the living room. The kitchen is supported by loose stones or other material not immediately visible.

New board and batten, added about 1880, once covered the entire dwelling, but that over the bottom story was removed about 1970 by the previous owners in order to restore the building more closely to its original appearance. Asphalt shingles have replaced the original wood roof shingles. Most of the original windows have been replaced with the exception of one on the second story of the northeast back wall. The original vertical boards in the gable and the ornamental facia have been replaced, and wooden raingutters also have disappeared. The top six layers of chimney brick and the cap are not original.

To the north of the house, a small, less-than-one-story log structure, is original, but in deteriorated condition. No significant pictorial evidence exists to contrast its present gable and roof structure with the original. As with the main building, the base logs of the secondary structure are in deteriorated condition. Another log structure to the east of the main building clearly was assembled in modern times from remnants of one or more log structures on the same property. Neither it nor the modern ranch-style house on the property to the west of the Aslak Lie cabin are included in this nomination.



¹Probate Record, Knut A. Lee, Dane County Probate Court, Old Series 013/10/6, Box 27, Wisconsin State Archives, State Historical Society of Wisconsin (SHSW).

²Amelia Pope, <u>Centennial History</u>, <u>Town of Springdale</u>, <u>Dane County</u>, <u>Wisconsin</u> (Madison, 1948).

8. Significance

1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture architecture art commerce communications	community planning conservation economics education engineering X. exploration/settlement industry	politics/government	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1849 15	Builder/Architect	Aslak Olsen Lie 16	· •

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Period of significance: 1849-1878

The Aslak Olsen Lie house is significant because it is the work of a master craftsman who successfully blended two traditions: old country folk and new country vernacular. The Lie house is one of the earliest extant Norwegian-American structures in Wisconsin, especially in the area generally regarded as the East Blue Mounds Norwegian-American community in Dane County. The house is also significant because it was the home of Aslak Olsen Lie, a master craftsman, carpenter, cabinetmaker, and blacksmith in Norway and the United States. Lie also was a community and church leader in the East Blue Mounds Norwegian-American community who headed the first group of Norwegian immigrants to settle in the East Blue Mounds region.

ARCHITECTURE

The Aslak Olsen Lie cabin is architecturally significant as a surviving example, despite numerous changes, of a standard Norwegian house type. It significantly melds two traditions: the old country folk and the new country vernacular. Its old country characteristics include room arrangements, use of logs, <u>sval</u>, casement windows, architectural ornamentation, site orientation, and a craftsman's attention to interior detail. Its new country features include Lie's adaptation of timber framing (virtually unknown in Norway) for the second story, the use of double hung windows and a cellar. He also used American wood shingles rather than the standard slate found everywhere in Valders, Norway, his home region. That he shunned readily available American iron hardware for items of his own making probably had more to do with thrift than expediencey, since he left Norway with \$360 in gold.¹ Lie routinely used American-made locks and hinges on much of his subsequent furniture.

The similarities between Lie's American house and his two previously erected dwellings in Norway merits attention. In 1826, the year of his marriage, Lie erected a small threeroom, one-story log dwelling on a leaseholder's property called Nerli on the north facing slope of South Aurdal, near Reinli, in Valders, Norway. It is similar to many structures at the Valders Folk Museum at Fagernes, containing the usual massive corner fireplace in a large living room-kitchen oriented as much as possible to the south, plus two small bedrooms to the left of the kitchen.²

Lie's second dwelling, erected in 1837 on property he acquired by purchase for \$100 in gold, was much more advantageously situated and less traditional in construction. Called <u>Motet</u>, it was a former leaseholding, or <u>bruk</u>, which he bought outright in 1836 and immediately began to improve. He erected an unusual L-shaped dwelling with <u>sval</u>, but covered the logs with individually beaded vertical boards and installed a "shockingly" progressive diamond-shaped window in the <u>sval</u> gable, echoing its proportions. While the kitchen contains the usual corner fireplace with a slate chimney, the other living quarters display a highly modern arrangement. The dining room is to the right of the kitchen, separated by double doors to a back living room. The living room ceiling is paneled with overlapping boards whose proportions are dictated by a centrally located, carved, diamond-shaped ornament. The ornament sports a hand-wrought iron smoke protector and hook for a rudimentary oil lamp. Central lighting fixtures and the diamond shaped ornaments were otherwise unknown in remote areas of Norway in 1837.³

9. Major Bibliographical References

See footnotes.

10. Geogra	phical Data				
Acreage of nominated pro Quadrangle name <u>Cro</u> UTM References	operty <u>5 acres</u> ss Plains, Wis.	Quadrangle scale <u>1:24000</u>			
A 1 6 28 26 0 Zone Easting	0 4 17 6 6 3 3 10 Northing	B Zone	Easting	Northing	
C		D] F] H]			
Verbal boundary desc See attached.	ription and justification	•			
List all states and cou state	nties for properties ov code	erlapping state or c	ounty boundaries	code	
state	code	county		code	
	repared By				
name/title George (C. Brown				
organization NA		d	ate Septemb	oer 1985	
street & number 453 N	. Baldwin Street	te	elephone (608)	255-2515	
city or town Madis	on	S	tate Wisconsin	53703	(continued
12. State H	listoric Pres	servation	Officer C	ertific	ation
•	e of this property within th	e state is: <u>X</u> local			
665), I hereby nominate th	istoric Preservation Office is property for inclusion in nd procedures set forth by	er for the National Histo n the National Register	and certify that it h	ct of 1966 (Pul as been evalu	blic Law 89– lated
title		Un	date	2/2/8	6
• •	10 mism	Frates		4/3/8	6
Attest:			date		
Chief of Registration			·····		

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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet Aslak Lie Cabin, Mt. Horeb, Wittem number

For NPS use only received date entered Page 2

<u>SIGNIFICANCE</u> (continued)

Another unusual feature is a diamond-shaped house plaque under the diamond-shaped window in the <u>sval</u> with a prayer book blessing, carved in high cursive relief, wishing good health to all who entered. Although not unheard of in Valders, or elsewhere in Norway, such plaques are rare. Lie also incorporated stamped brass escutcheons and door knob rosettes in the French style. He must have acquired these from travellers who passed his house near the junction of two brooks (MOTET means 2 brooks coming together) and adjacent to the major highway between Oslo and Bergen. Lie may have used the water from the brooks to power his lathes and saws, since the brooks tumble to the Begna River southward from his house.⁴

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Lie carried this diamond-shaped motif with him to America where it is found in the door panels of the house in this nomination. Other similarities are found in the proportions of the facades of the two houses. The facade of the 1837 Motet house measures 11.8 meters by 7.25 meters while the 1848 American house measures 12.4 meters by 5.0 meters.⁵

Thus, the 1848 American house in this nomination can be seen as a continuation, of Lie's adaption to modernity with the use of a stove for heat and cooking instead of the massive fireplace found in the Norway houses, as well as the adaption of timber framing on the second floor and other structural changes mentioned earlier. In addition, the interior wood chinking of the house exemplifies the frustration of a master craftsman as he adapted to new materials (oak instead of pine) that did not have the same malleable characteristics to which he was accustomed.

EXPLORATION AND SETTLEMENT

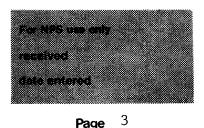
The Aslak Olsen Lie house is historically significant because of the leadership role that Lie played in the immigration and settlement of the East Blue Mounds Norwegian community. Although born into a poor family, Lie learned to read and write, married above his station, and, as a master craftsman and respected community leader, led a party of Norwegian immigrantsfrom Valders, Norway to America in 1848, establishing the first settlement in what is now the Mt. Horeb area of western Dane County.

Aslak Oleson Lie was born June 9, 1798 at Hofseie, South Aurdahl, the youngest of five children born to Ole Oleson Kolsgaat and Ingrid Olesdatter Benseie, an impoverished family of cotters. They owned no property and lived on the north-facing slope of the valley, where snow stayed a month longer than on the south-facing side. The family was forced to make almost annual arrangements for their survival by striking new contracts with whatever farm owners would have them.

Somehow Lie learned to read and write, and was confirmed in the Lutheran state faith on August 2, 1812, at the Bagn church.⁶ It is likely he had come under the wing of Hans Jakob Stabel, the provominister for South Aurdahl and a leading aristocrat whose democratic tendencies prompted him to attend the 1814 Eidsvoll constitutional convention. Stabel was interested in educating youth and improving the parish. Further proof of his education is that Lie became corporal in the Walderske Musketry Corps on November 1, 1819. The corporal kept the corps records and was required to be literate. Lie continued in the service until December 31, 1847, only months before he sailed to America.⁷

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Aslak Lie Cabin, Mt. Horeb, Dane County, WI Continuation sheet



<u>SIGNIFICANCE</u> (continued)

Lie's reputation as a craftsman was firmly established by 1820, and is mentioned in the standard histories of the area (Valdrescrafts histories).⁸ He was active in his church, carving the organ case for the Bagn church in 1828, professionally creating exquisite locks and keys, and furniture of all descriptions (especially desks and secretaries). He also experimented with veneer and with patterning case pieces with contrasting woods, probably being the first person in Valdres to attempt such work which was usually associated with urban areas.⁹

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On June 16, 1826, Lie married Marit Knudsdatter Dølven, who was 8 years younger than he. She was the tenth and last child of one of the richest landowners in the district. Such a marriage indicates that Lie had proved his worthiness and promise satisfactorily to the "right" people, but that he still was not qualified to marry someone with better prospects for inheriting land.

Lie had made unusual use of the slight opportunities afforded craftsmen and the literate members of the local national guard unit to make a quantum leap in social status. The leading folkart historian in Norway, Marta Hoffman, refers to his marriage bluntly as a "misalliance" socially and an obvious testimony to his reputation and skill.¹⁰

By 1848, family considerations and developments in Norwegian emigration prompted Lie and his family of six children, plus his childless brother and wife, to leave for Begen where they headed a ship load of Valders, Sogn, and Voss, residents on the bark <u>Augusta</u>, leaving in May 1848. They arrived in New York on June 28, 1848, with Lie celebrating his fiftieth birthday mid-ocean.¹¹ They had been enticed to immigrate by reports of prospects in western Dane County, Wisconsin, sent by two young Valdresmen who had spent a year or two there. This area was nearly the width of a county from the noted "Queen" of Norwegian-American settlements, "Koshkonong," which had been started nearly ten years earlier. Since almost no Norwegian had penetrated western Dane County, the immigrants set about the task of establishing the first Norwegian farms, businesses, and institutions in what is now one of the most prominent Norwegian-American centers in the United States--Mt. Horeb.¹²

In the development of this community, Lie not only built the house in this nomination for himself, but he also served as a carpenter and cabinetmaker for many of the immigrants. And by means of conversation andletters, Lie attracted still more immigrants, and solicited visits by clergy and leading Norwegian-American spokesmen. He housed them during their visits, acted as correspondent for Norwegian language newspapers in the Midwest, was one of the founders of the three point parish in his area(including Perry, East Blue Mounds, and Springdale), and aided immigrants with gifts of clothing and food. Like his mentor, Hans Stabel, he encouraged education and acted as a community leader and spokesman. Lie's influence was felt far beyond his immediate area, a colonies of Norwegian settlers left the Blue Mounds region and settled recently opened parts of the United States, elsewhere in Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Washington, and even Canada.¹³

At the age of 80, Lie moved to the home of his only surviving son, Halvor, in Buffalo County, where he had founded a Norwegian-American settlement after the Civil War. Despite his age, Aslak continued to work there, especially participating in church affairs. His

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Aslak Lie Cabin, Mt. Horeb, Dane County, WI Continuation sheet

SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

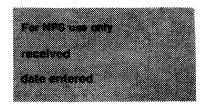
beloved wife, Marit, died there on February 18, 1881, and Aslak died October 30, 1886. They are buried at Lyster Church Cemetery near Urne, in Buffalo County.¹⁴

NOTES

- ¹Contracts for MOTET, purchase and sale, No. 12, Skjøde, No. 2, C. R., 1836; and No. 35, Skjøde, No. 8, 1848. Hamar Statsarkivet, Hamar, Norway.
- ²Kolbjørn Sukke, "Byggjeskikkane i Valdres," in Knut Hermundstad, comp., <u>Valdres Bygdebok</u>, <u>V</u> (vol. 2, Leira, Valdres, 1964), pp. 459-484, gives floor plans for many houses from all parts of Valdres, which remained principally unchanged from the 1600's through the middle 1800's; and Knut Hermundstad, <u>Valdres Folkemuseum Guidebook</u>, Kolbein Dahle, ed., and Johan Antony Meyrick, trans. (Fagernes, n.d.), which provides many exterior and interior photographs, but no floorplans. See especially pp. 38-39. The floor plans dictated furniture placement, which, too, remained unchanged for 200 to 300 years.
- ³Conversation between John O. Holzhueter and Ingrid Semingsen, historian, and Marta Hoffman, retired principal curator, National Folke Museum at Bygdoy, Norway, August 29, 1983. (Notes in the possession of John O. Holzhueter, Roxbury, Wisconsin.) The date 1837 is carved in a log of the <u>svalgang</u> gable.
- ⁴Site visited by John O. Holzhueter, August 14, 1983. The property is now part of the Houda farm, Bagn, Norway. Notes in possession of John O. Holzhueter.
- ⁵<u>Valdres</u> (newspaper), Fagernes, November 3, 1983; Leif Midthaug, comp., <u>Valdres, Soga Gards</u> og Aettesoga (vol. 1, n.p., 1944) pp. 1-3, 228-233, 634-637, 804-805. Contractsfor Motet purchase and sale, No. 12, Skjøde, No. 2, C. R., 1836; and No. 35, Skjøde, No. 8, 1848. Hamat Statsarkivet, Hamat, Norway. Lie sold the Motet house and land in 1848 for \$400 in gold. The house is now moved to Aurdal and has been occupied by the same family, the Torshaugs, for the last sixty years. Motet, therefore, is today called Torshaug.

⁶South Aurdahl, Norway, churchbook, No. 1, p. 219.

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⁷Johan Hveem, <u>Bagn Kirkes Historie</u> (Oslo, 1967, pp. 82-85); Discharge Certificate for Aslak Lie, owned by Chester H. Lee, Richfield, Minnesota.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Aslak Lie Cabin, Mt. Horeb, Dane County, WI Continuation sheet Îtem number

SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

NOTES (continued)

⁸Valdres Årsskrift, 900-1923 (Gjorvik, Norway, 1923(?)), pp. 85; <u>Valdres Bygdebok V</u>, comp. by Knut Hermundstat (Leira, Valdres, Norway, 1964) pp. 797-799.

⁹Conversation between John O. Holzhueter, Ingrid Semingsen, and Marta Hoffman, op. cit.

10_{Ibid}.

¹¹New York passenger list, June 29, 1848, National Archives, record group 36.

- ¹²Hjalmar Rued Holand, <u>De Norske Settlementers Historie</u>, (Ephraim, Wis., 1908) pp. 186-187; Johanna Barstad, Litterataur On Utvandringen Fra Norge til Nord-Amerika (Oslo, 1975), p. 74.

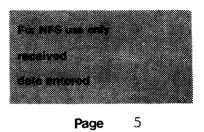
 13 The close relationship that Lie kept with people in Norway continues to today. For example, John O. Holzhueter discovered a copy of Lie's grandson's copy of the holandbook, inscribed "Canton, South Dakota," in the hands of the Klosbøle family at Bagn, Norway, on whose farm Aslak had erected buildings and made furniture. Ibid., also see O. Thorsrud, <u>En bygdekunstner. samband</u> 10:97-100 (Dec. 1934) p. 1798-1886; Mrs. Martin J. Bang, <u>The First Hundred Years: A History of Springdale Lutheran</u> <u>Congregation, 1852-1952</u> (Mt. Horeb(?)) 1952 (?), pp. 1-13, 18-19; and Johanna Barstad, "Aslak O. Lie og Boken Hans: Fra NOrsk-amerikansk samling," in <u>Norvegica: Minne-</u> skrift til Hundreadsagen for Opprettelsen av Universitetsbibliotekets Norske Audeling, 1883-1. Janur. 1983 (Universitetsbiblioteket i Oslo, 1983), pp. 109-128.

¹⁴0. Thorsund, <u>Ibid</u>.

15 Quit Claim Deed, C.C. Washburne to Aslak Lie, June 14, 1869, Dane County Register of Deeds, Madison, Wisconsin, Deed Volume 81, page 513.

16_{Ibid}.

** Note: The substantial background information concerning the Aslak Lie Cabin represents one of the most thoroughly documented architectural/histoircal resources associated with the early development of Dane County, Wisconsin. Although not evaluated in that context, the site would appear to potentially be of NR eligibility at the state-wide level. Due to the lack of comparitive data, however, a local level of significance was chosen at this time. If future research should uncover a general body of information specifically dealing with early Norwegian development in the Central-south region of the state the opinion may be changed.



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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Aslak Lie Cabin, Mt. Horeb, Dane County, WI Continuation sheet Item number 10 & 11 Por NIPS use only recalled dista enternet

Page

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (continued)

Verbal Boundary Description

SEC 4, T6N, R7E, PRT W 1/2 SE 1/4 Beg. on LN. SW 1/4 SE 1/4 173.25 ft. W. of NE. COR. TH, W. 240.75 ft. to CL. HWY. TH. NWLY. ALG. CL HWY 260 ft. to E. LN. of N. and S. HWP P ALG. E. LN. said HWY. 181.5 ft. to N. LN. said SW 1/4 SE 1/4 TH. S. ALG. E. LN. said HWY 462 ft. TH. SELY. ALG. TH. NE. LN. OLD HWY. 132 ft. TH. NELY. on continuation of E. LN. OLD HWY. 115.25 ft. TH. SELY 228.5 ft. TH. NELY. 471.5 ft. to P.O.B. except to DANE COUNTY in 737/80 SUBJ. to HWY.

FORM PREPARED BY (continued)

John O. Holzhueter NA 9099 Katzenbuecher Road Mazomanie,

September 1985 . Wisconsin 53560