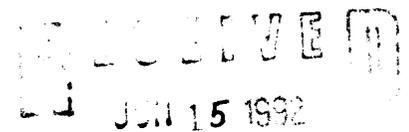


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NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8/86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format (NRF.txt)
(Approved 3/87)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of Interior
National Park Service



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

**NATIONAL
REGISTER**

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 Forms (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

Fricke-Menzner House

N/A

2. Location

street & number 105 Main Street N/A Not for Publication

city, town Marathon City N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Marathon code 073 zip code 54448

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	contributing	noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

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

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

foundation Stone

walls Brick

roof Asphalt

other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The 1875 Fricke-Menzner house is situated on the main street of Marathon. Once an impressive residence, it now serves as the offices for the Menzner Lumber Company. Outwardly, the building has no signage so it would be difficult to tell that it was no longer a residence except for the 70 by 115 foot asphalt parking lot directly in front of the main entrance. There is a small unobtrusive covered sign next to the sidewalk. To the east, across the street are the large metal buildings that comprise the Menzner Lumber Company. South of the house is a story and a half clapboard bungalow that was built in the 1920s by Phillip, Jr., son of Phillip, Sr. An American Foursquare with a shingled second story is next; the Marathon Clinic, a one story red brick and wood building completes this block. Across the street from these houses are two one story circa 1940s houses. South of this block begins the business district of Marathon. To the north is the bridge over the Rib River which you must cross to enter Marathon. There are still some lovely old trees and a grassy area along the bank of the Rib River, to the west of the house. The grist mill and the flour mill were razed many years ago. A white, clapboard two stall garage, with gabled roof, is behind the house on the north side and is noncontributing due to its more recent age. Another asphalt parking lot there measures 52 by 142 feet.

This red brick rectangular, two and one half story Italianate house, which measures overall 41 by 25 feet, features a gabled roof running west to east with locked-tab asphalt shingles. The center of the main facade is accented by a projecting gabled pavilion with a one story gabled entry porch. The house is 5-bays wide and two deep with symmetrical fenestration. A frieze band follows the roof line under the eaves upon which paired scrolled brackets have been placed. The basic construction consists of two-by-six wood framing with brick veneer. A one story rectangular projecting bay to the east measures 4 by 12 feet. There are dentils between the scrolled brackets on the bay. The decorative balustrades on the flat bay roof have been removed. The two interior brick chimneys surmount the roof peak. The chimney to the west has corbelled courses of brick; the chimney to the east has a tiled flue with a metal cover.

The entire foundation is split uncoursed fieldstone which follows the contour of its sloping lot. The height ranges from eight feet, three

X see continuation sheet

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1 Fricke-Menzner House
Marathon City, Marathon Co., WI

inches, at the highest point to three feet, six inches, on the west at the lowest end. The foundation is interrupted by a series of segmented arched windows with 2 light sash.

The windows are typical Italianate, elongated, double-hung sash, with two-over-two lights. Their brick hooded surrounds are broken at the apex by limestone keystones. The sills are also of limestone. There are five windows across the front and back on the second floor and four on the first floor with a door in the center. The rear door led to a small stoop before the addition. The east and west elevations have similar windows, symmetrically placed, with two on each floor. An ocular window in each of the gables on the east and west side of the house are adorned with header brick surround topped by an arched header course mirroring the lintel on the windows below.

The main entrance to the house is through the one story flat roofed, enclosed porch, with brick corner posts. A simple wood storm door is surrounded by four-light sidelights and seven-light transoms. Twelve-light fixed windows flank the doorway. The windows to the east and west have two pairs of eight-light casements which open inwardly. A brick foundation rises to form a solid balustrade reaching up to the windows' concrete sills. The bottom half of the porch is brick which extends down. A small wooden opening on the west side allows entrance under the porch. A graduated low brick balustrade topped with limestone flanks the uncovered stairway. Under the roof there is a simple cornice, frieze and architrave. The 1-light, single-panel double doors, which are the main entrance into the house are recessed within a panelled arch. Above the doors, is a three-light fanlight transom. The doors have frosted glass lights.

The porch was added in the 1920s, at the same time as the north addition. The July 16, 1920 edition of the Marathon Times states that "he (Phillip Menzner) will remodel his residence by adding a large dining room on the north side and another addition to the south side. These various improvements will add materially to the grand appearance and convenience of his place".

A one story, flat roofed foundation level, brick addition runs the length of the rear (north) elevation, which is 48 feet, including its projecting bay; it is 13 feet wide. This dining room was added in the 1920s to feed the company help. Today, it is divided into many rooms and used for office space. The entryway to this addition has a door to

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Section number 7 Page 2 Fricke-Menzner House
Marathon City, Marathon Co., WI

the north with triple, one-over-one double hung windows located on the east side of the building. The entry is from ground level and it is the one used most by employees. On the north side of the entry way there are two pairs of one-over-one double hung windows, and a similar single window at the west end. The trim on the entry way is more elaborate than the rest of the addition.

Another small addition to the west is of clapboard and has a shed roof; the roof extends out from just below the bottom of the first floor window sills. This lean-to addition served as coal storage and measures 12 feet by 10 feet. There is one four pane-square window on the south side and a white painted wooden door to the north.

The floor plan has a simple central hall running front to back with two rooms on either side, on both floors. The staircase on the left of the 25 by 10 foot hall is open and runs from the basement to the third floor. The stairway from the first to second and second to third floors are connected by matching handrails and balustrades. The newel posts are solid carved post with panels, in typical Italianate fashion. There is a newel post on each floor. All of the wood in the house has a dark stain with many coats of varnish. The stairway from the first floor to the basement has been changed, but the original wainscoting is still there.

The interior is now used only for office space; it has been offices since the 1960s when Mrs. Phillip Menzner, Jr. died. The main room which is to the right of the entrance was created by joining two rooms and is now one large room serving as the president's office and conference room. The projecting bay is set off from the room by a wide paneled wooden arch with casings on either side. The doors in the house are the original five paneled wooden doors with casings of architrave trim. The wood floors have all been covered with carpeting and the ceilings have had acoustical tile added. New wainscoting has been added to some of the walls. The first floor main entrance retains it's grand appearance because of the original doors, light fixture and staircase. There are offices on the ground level and first floors; the second floor and attic serve as storage.

This property has three lots. The house is situated on a lot that measures 115 feet to the south, 188 feet to the east, 102 feet to the west and 130 feet to the north. Next to this lot is a triangular one that measures 115 feet on the south, 95 feet to the north and 64 feet to the east. The third lot is the asphalt parking lot on the south side.

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 XB XC ___D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G

Areas of Significance
(enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance Significant Dates

Social History
Architecture

1875-1924 1875

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Fricke, Henry
Menzner, Phillip

Unknown

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

The Fricke-Menzner house built in 1875 is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance under criteria B and C. Historically, the building is important for its association with its original owner, Henry Fricke, the first person who was successful in harnessing the Rib River and therefore making it possible for a settlement to begin. Phillip Menzner, the next man to occupy the house, was an important man to Marathon City. Many depended on his lumber business for their livelihood, but also he served Marathon City well. One of Marathon's leading citizens, he worked hard for the advancement of his community. Architecturally, the building is the only surviving Italianate Style house in Marathon City.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Marathon is located southeast of the intersection of the forty-fifth degree north latitude and nineteenth degree west longitude. The village of Marathon City was organized in 1884. The first settlement was by the Pittsburgh Settlers Club, arriving in the summer of 1857. The village was platted and the plat was recorded June 8, 1858. Marathon is a village, but for state and federal purposes it is called Marathon City in order to distinguish from the township of Marathon and the county by the same name.

X See Continuation Sheet

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Marathon City, Marathon Co., WI

There was little chance for growth in this village because of the dense forest that covered the land. Several attempts were made to build a dam in order to drive a grist mill, but the treacherous Rib River always carried it away. "The Rib River is the most violent of any of the tributaries of the Wisconsin, sometimes rising ten feet in the course of ten hours, the swift current sweeping everything before it, except the everlasting rocks"¹.

Henry Fricke moved to Marathon City in 1870 from Manitowoc, Wisconsin. He was the first one successful in harnessing the Rib River. He built a grist mill and then a sawmill. In 1875, he built a two and one half story brick house on the south side of the river near his mills on Main Street. Fricke's mill made Marathon City quite an important village and trading point.² The population increased to 467 in 1876 with 232 males and 235 females.³

Phillip Menzner, born in Rhinepfalz, Germany, May 20, 1866 came to America in 1882. He arrived in Marathon City in 1887 after spending four or five years working around Marathon City in various lumber camps. He took a job as lumber scaler and grader for Henry Fricke. In 1893, he married Helen Lavine Fricke, daughter of Henry and Veronica Fricke. The next year Menzner became a partner of Ed Herman, Fricke's brother in law who had bought into the business in 1879. Several years after the partnership began, Mr. Herman withdrew from the business and Menzner became the sole owner of the business. It became the Menzner Sawmill and Lumberyard - Flour and Grist Mill.

Mr. Menzner was also engaged in the mercantile business for many years. The store that he built he later sold to Stroota Hardware. The greatest volume of mercantile business ever conducted by an individual firm in Marathon was their claim to fame.⁴

Appointed as the postmaster of Marathon City in 1897, Menzner served in that office for sixteen years and established three rural routes during his tenure. A member of the school board for thirty years, he was also the district treasurer.

"Our village is located in one of the most beautiful spots in Marathon County. We have natural advantages such as water, but we are handicapped in one respect in our educational institutions." Phillip wrote this letter to the Chamber of Commerce, on May 18, 1922, to try to improve the educational institutions in Marathon City. Elected to the

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position of village president twenty five times, he was clearly a leader, "the people of Marathon are behind Mr. Menzner in his actions in village affairs and look upon him as the mainstay of the village board."⁵ Besides all of the local duties, he also served on the Marathon County Board for twenty five years.

Mr. Menzner faced much adversity in his business because of fires. There was one in 1905 and another in 1915, when the mill was burned to the ground in two hours with a lost of \$7,000.⁶ Another mill fire in 1919 left a loss of \$6,000. The December 12, 1919 issue of the Marathon Times states: " Mr. Menzner picks up new courage and starts up again with renewed energies, determined to win out in the end in spite of all his misfortunes by fire losses." In 1921, Menzner purchased a hand-drawn chemical engine for the village for fire protection. The people of Marathon City had a deep respect for his perseverance and hard work.

The biographical information given in the book Wisconsin: Its History and Its People, portrays a very civic-minded man, "His work as a public official has met with widespread approval, being directed by a loyal and sincere devotion to the people's interests, and he has secured for the village many important public improvements. He is also a valued member of the Chamber of Commerce. He is a self-made man who has been a constant and untiring laborer in all that makes for progress in the world's work, and his record is an open book that all may read. He stands high in his community and no resident of Marathon City has shown a more vital interest in municipal welfare and advancement."⁷

This same sentiment was echoed by one of his former employees. Art Ravonet worked for Phillip Menzner as a lumber planer. Art said, "Phillip was a good, honest man to work for - he was from the old school a he started as a lumberjack and he knew the business form the ground up."⁸

Menzner conducted the sawmill for thirty one years. On April 11th, 1924 he changed the name from the Phillip Menzner Lumber Log and Sawmill and incorporated the business under the name of Menzner Lumber and Supply Company. The reason for this name change and reorganization was to enable them to sell lumber directly to the consumer and at this time they also added a complete line of building supplies, barn equipment and other retail commodities. He turned the leadership of the company over to his eldest son, Fred, who became president. Elmer, another son

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Section number 8 Page 3 Fricke-Menzner House
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became secretary and Phillip, Jr., was appointed treasurer with Helen Fricke Menzner as the assistant treasurer.

Phillip Menzner died in Battle Creek, Michigan July 15, 1924 of cancer. The Menzner brothers and their mother carried on the work at Menzner Lumber Company. Fred, the president, followed in his father's footsteps by becoming village president in 1926. Today, the business is still being run by the Menzner family. Phillip Jr.'s son Robert is the president. It has been in the Menzner family for almost 100 years. The third generation of the family is expanding the business and working hard to keep up the Menzner reputation. In 1974/75, new metal buildings across the street from the house were erected.⁹

Both Fricke and Menzner made important contributions to the development of the community of Marathon. Henry Fricke created the industrial nucleus around which the village formed and which was critical to its growth as an agricultural service center. Phillip Menzner, Sr. played an important role in the advancement of the community through his long-standing civic service.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Fricke/Menzner house was constructed in the Italianate Style in 1875. The Italianate Style was popular in the United States between 1840 and 1885. The style began in England as part of the Picturesque movement; the houses in the United States usually followed the informal rural models. It was popular at the same time as Gothic Revival, however, because of the influential pattern book of Andrew Jackson Downing, published in the 1840s and 1850s, the Italianate Style completely overshadowed Gothic Revival by the 1860s. "The Italianate Style dominated American houses constructed between 1850 and 1880. It was particularly common in the expanding towns and cities of the midwest."¹⁰

The Italianate Style was recommended by Downing as being picturesque and practical. "On the one hand the house had the irregularity in the masses of the edifice and the slope of the roof rendered the sky outline of a building in this style extremely picturesque; on the other, the style allowed exceptional freedom in planning."¹¹ The style had great freedom inside and also it had merit because it allowed for additions to be made without injuring the effect of the original structure.

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Section number 8 Page 4 Fricke-Menzner House
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It is not known if there was an architect for the Fricke-Menzner house, but judging by the character of the frontier town, it was probably built from a pattern book by an area builder. The nearest settlement was Wausau. The railroad had arrived in Wausau in 1874 and this opened up many opportunities for ordering books and materials. The home exhibits fine Italianate design detailing in the brackets, window hoods, projecting bays and interior staircase. Although its addition and more recent porch detract from its Italianate design, the alteration has damaged its significant stylistic features. These changes also occurred within the period of significance.

There are no other intact Italianate Style buildings in this town of 1722. Few houses of that vintage are still standing and perhaps at one time they were Italianate, but they have been badly remodeled or neglected. The only comparable building is a red brick house on River Road occupied on the second floor by Art Ravonet and built by the Prehns. It has simple Italianate lines - a hipped roof and wide eaves, but it has no brackets. There are simple surrounds of brick over the doors and windows. The front entry has been removed. There are no other houses in Marathon City that are truly comparable to the Fricke/menzner house. It stands alone as a fine local example of the Italianate and represents an important early chapter in the architectural history of Marathon City.

The period of significance corresponds to the building of the Fricke-Menzner house in 1875 until Phillip Menzner's death in 1924.

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Section number 8 Page 5 Fricke-Menzner House
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FOOTNOTES:

1. Marchetti, Louis. History of Marathon County. Chicago, Richmond-Arnold, 1913. p. 490 and 491.
2. Central Wisconsin (Wausau newspaper) July 23, 1873, p. 8.
3. Conversation with town clerk of Marathon City, Inge Van Kampen, October 25, 1990.
4. Marathon Times, July 8, 1921. p.1.
5. Marathon Times, July 15, 1923. p.1.
6. Quaife, Milo. Wisconsin: Its History and Its People, 1634-1924. Volume IV, Chicago, S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1924. p.662.
7. Oral interview with Art Ravonet, Marathon City, April 26, 1991.
8. Marathon Times, July 20, 1924. p.1.
9. Oral interview with Robert Menzner, president of Menzner Lumber in Marathon City, April 16, 1991.
10. McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses, New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1984. p.212.
11. Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780. Cambridge, Massachusetts, M. I. T. Press, 1969. p.71.

9. Major Bibliographical Reference

Books:

Marchetti, Louis. History of Marathon County, Chicago, Richmond-Armond, 1913.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): X see continuation sheet

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:

X State Historic preservation office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than an acre

UTM References

A 1/6 2/7/4/8/8/0 4/9/7/9/3/3/5 B / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

C / / / / / / / / / / / / D / / / / / / / / / / / /

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 1, EX S 12" Also, all of lots 11 and 12
M303-386 M312-1009

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification.

The boundaries encompass all the land historically associated with this house.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Jane Hettinga/Librarian

organization Marathon Co. Hist. Society date June 20, 1991

street & number 403 McIndoe Street telephone (715) 848-6143

city or town Wausau state WI zip code 54401

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Section number 9 Page 1 Fricke-Menzner House
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Hanousek, Jane, "Symbol of an Era Succumbs" The Daily Herald.
Wausau-Merrill, Friday, June 17, 1980. Focus.

Lonsdorf, John. "The Pioneer Days of Marathon are Recalled",
Wausau Daily Record-Herald, Wausau, December 15, 1958.

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Historical Society.

Marathon, a 16 page insert into The Daily Herald, Wausau, Friday,
November 18, 1983.

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Marathon, Wisconsin, Marathon Times, 1957.

Souvenir Edition. Wausau Daily Record, Wausau. 1898.

Oral Interviews:

Menzner, Robert, President of Menzner Lumber Company. October 25,
1990 and April 26, 1991. Marathon City, Wisconsin.

Ravonet, Art, grader and planer for Phillip Menzner. April 26,
1991. Marathon City, Wisconsin.

Van Kampen, Inge, town clerk of Marathon City, Wisconsin, October
25, 1990, Marathon City, Wisconsin.

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Photo #1 of 14
Fricke/Menzner House
Marathon City, Marathon County, Wisconsin
Photos by Mary Jane Hettinga, June 23, 1991
Negative at Wisconsin State Historical Society
Camera facing north

Photo #2 of 14
Fricke/Menzner House
Marathon City, Marathon County, Wisconsin
Photos by Mary Jane Hettinga, June 23, 1991
Negative at Wisconsin State Historical Society
Close up of main entrance - camera facing north

Photo #3 of 14
Fricke/Menzner House
Marathon City, Marathon County, Wisconsin
Photos by Mary Jane Hettinga, June 23, 1991
Negative at Wisconsin State Historical Society
Close up of brackets and roofline - camera facing north

Photo #4 of 14
Fricke/Menzner House
Marathon City, Marathon County, Wisconsin
Photos by Mary Jane Hettinga, June 23, 1991
Negative at Wisconsin State Historical Society
Close up of second story - camera facing north

Photo #5 of 14
Fricke/Menzner House
Marathon City, Marathon County, Wisconsin
Photos by Mary Jane Hettinga, June 23, 1991
Negative at Wisconsin State Historical Society
Back of house - camera facing south

Photo #6 of 14
Fricke/Menzner House
Marathon City, Marathon County, Wisconsin
Photos by Mary Jane Hettinga, June 23, 1991
Negative at Wisconsin State Historical Society
West side of house - camera facing east

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Marathon City, Marathon Co., WI

Photo #7 of 14
Fricke/Menzner House
Marathon City, Marathon County, Wisconsin
Photos by Mary Jane Hettinga, June 23, 1991
Negative at Wisconsin State Historical Society
Bay window on east side - camera facing northwest

Photo #8 of 14
Fricke/Menzner House
Marathon City, Marathon County, Wisconsin
Photos by Mary Jane Hettinga, June 23, 1991
Negative at Wisconsin State Historical Society
Close up of windows - camera facing north

Photo #9 of 14
Fricke/Menzner House
Marathon City, Marathon County, Wisconsin
Photos by Mary Jane Hettinga, June 23, 1991
Negative at Wisconsin State Historical Society
Interior view of main entrance - camera facing south

Photo #10 of 14
Fricke/Menzner House
Marathon City, Marathon County, Wisconsin
Photos by Mary Jane Hettinga, June 23, 1991
Negative at Wisconsin State Historical Society
Interior view of newel post - main floor

Photo #11 of 14
Fricke/Menzner House
Marathon City, Marathon County, Wisconsin
Photos by Mary Jane Hettinga, June 23, 1991
Negative at Wisconsin State Historical Society
Interior view - stairway

Photo #12 of 14
Fricke/Menzner House
Marathon City, Marathon County, Wisconsin
Photos by Mary Jane Hettinga, June 23, 1991
Negative at Wisconsin State Historical Society
Interior view of bay window in living room - east side

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Marathon City, Marathon Co., WI

Photo #13 of 14
Fricke/Menzner House
Marathon City, Marathon County, Wisconsin
Photos by Mary Jane Hettinga, June 23, 1991
Negative at Wisconsin State Historical Society
Prehn House on River Road - camera facing west

Photo #14 of 14
Fricke/Menzner House
Marathon City, Marathon County, Wisconsin
Photos by Mary Jane Hettinga, June 23, 1991
Negative at Wisconsin State Historical Society
Unknown house name at 317 Pine Street - camera facing west