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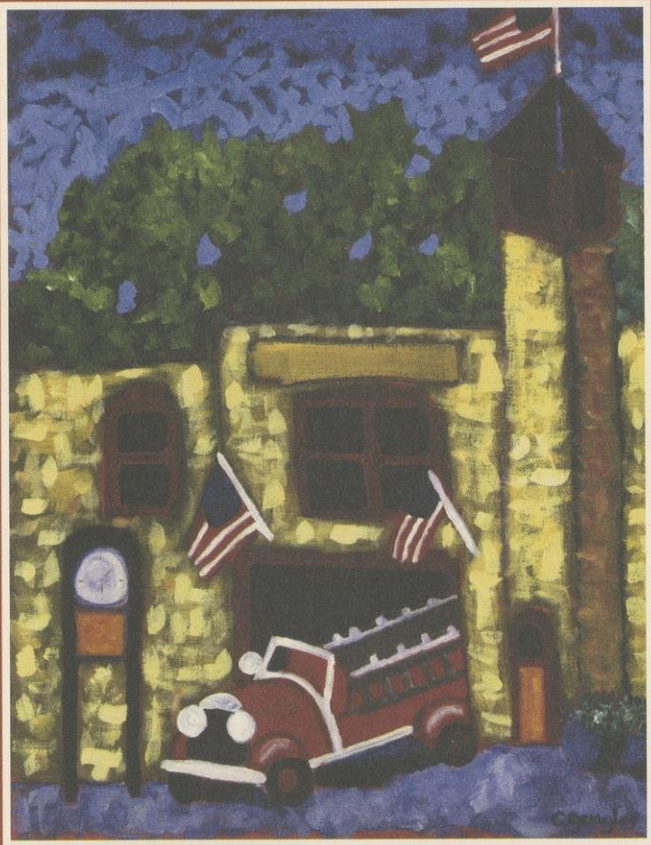
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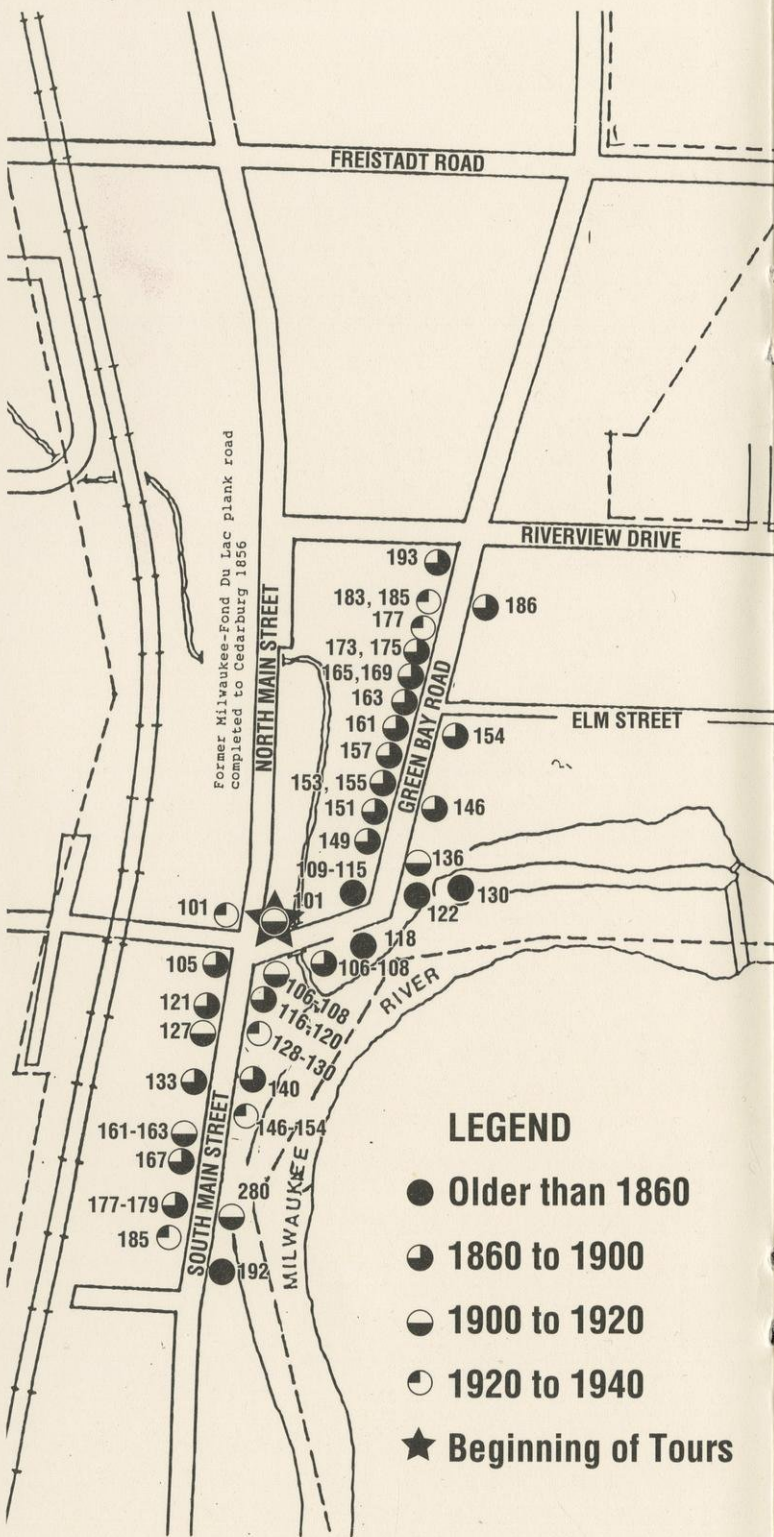


**THIENSVILLE  
HISTORIC DISTRICT  
WALKING TOUR**

**Prepared by the  
Thiensville Historic Preservation  
Commission**

**2010**

# THIENSVILLE, WIS. HISTORIC DISTRICT



Cover artwork by Carol Gengler

Layout and Printing by  
Lustre Color Printing & Graphics

# THIENSVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT WALKING TOUR

Prepared by the  
Thiensville Historic Preservation  
Commission

2010



Written By:  
Bob Blazich  
Mary Giuliani

Photos:  
Mequon Historical Society  
Village of Thiensville  
Bob Blazich  
Weyenberg Library



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## Early Thiensville History

The first inhabitants of what would become the Village of Thiensville were Native Americans who had a small village where the Mequonissippi (Pigeon Creek) and the Milwaukee rivers merged. The area was rich with game, fish, and forest land. A trail which extended from Florida to Hudson Bay in Canada passed through this area and brought the first Europeans to what is now Thiensville.

In the mid 1830's, the area was surveyed by John Weston who later purchased the land that is now Thiensville. By 1840, Weston was the postmaster of the settlement of Mequon River which soon included a sawmill built by Peter Turck. Two years later, John Henry Thien bought Weston's land and hired Native Americans to construct a dam and mill race to provide power for Thien's new saw mill and grist mill.

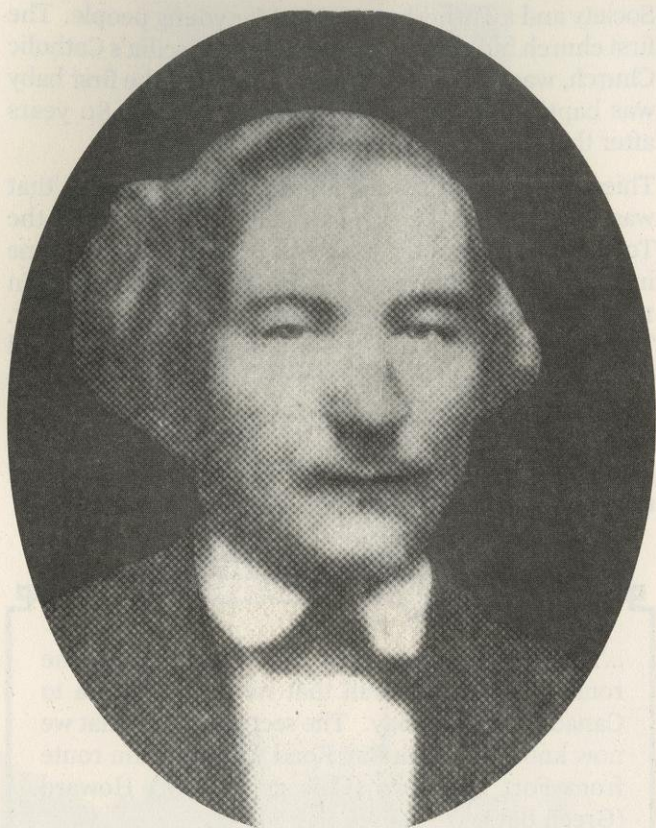
By the turn of the century, about 250 to 300 people lived in this growing community. The railroad had arrived in 1871, and Thien's son built a five-story mill in 1876 to replace the original mill which burned in 1874. The Village of Thiensville was incorporated in 1910, and the surrounding Town of Mequon became The City of Mequon in 1957.



John Weston's Home on Mequon River, ca. 1840's

### John Weston

Following an 1831 treaty with the Menominee Indians, the United States established The Wisconsin Territory in 1833. Among the early "Yankee" settlers in present day Thiensville, John Weston was one of the most prominent. The task of surveying the area was awarded to Weston, along with other surveyors. Weston later purchased 148 acres that became the heart of Thiensville. Weston and others were also contracted by the federal government to cut a road through the thick forest along the Native American trail which became Green Bay Road. In the early 1840's while serving as the first postmaster of Mequon River, Weston received territorial approval for the construction of a dam and mill facilities on the Milwaukee River. Weston sold his Town of Mequon holdings to John Henry Thien in 1842. Thien built the dam and grist mill and proceeded to develop Weston's land into what was to become the Village of Thiensville.



**John Henry Thien**  
(1815-1863)

John Henry Thien and his noble-born wife fled the Saxony region of Germany in 1842. They were part of a group of revolutionary European intellectuals who fought for democracy and the end of the authoritarian feudal system. The Thiens were wealthy millers in Saxony before arriving in Milwaukee where they hoped to start a new life of freedom. Had they remained in Europe, they probably would have been martyrs in a failed 1848 democratic revolution.

The Thiens spent very little time in Milwaukee before purchasing their 148 acres from John Weston. They hired local Sauk Indians to build the dam and millrace needed to power their grist mill. In line with their strong belief in fairness and equality, the Thiens paid the Native Americans and other workers equally.

The Thiens were Freethinkers who believed that opinions needed to be based on science, logic, and reason and should not be influenced by authority, tradition, or dogma. They alleged that organized religion was responsible for the corrupt power structure in Europe and the hardships that resulted. With this as his belief, John Thien was against all organized churches and refused to sell property to anyone wishing to establish a church in his growing community. As an alternative to organized religion, Thien established a Free Thinkers

Society and a Turnerbund school for young people. The first church building in Thiensville, St. Cecilia's Catholic Church, was constructed in late 1919, and the first baby was baptized in Thiensville in 1921 – nearly 80 years after the Thiens' arrival.

Thien took broad leadership in the community that was later to bear his name. The first meeting of the Township of Mequon took place in the Thien home in 1846. Thien started a volunteer fire department in 1857 and served as the first captain of the department. To allow better access to his mill, Thien constructed a dependable bridge over Pigeon Creek in 1851. The Thiens organized a Singing Society and Dramatic Club, opened a tavern in 1844, and John Thien established a Farmers' Club that later became part of the National Grange advocating for the betterment of farm families.

### Did you know .....

...The present day Green Bay Road follows the route of an Indian trail that ran from Florida to Canada's Hudson Bay. The section of trail that we now know as Green Bay Road was the main route from Fort Dearborn (Chicago) to Fort Howard (Green Bay).

...Thiensville was originally known as Thienville and pronounced TEEN-ville. The five-story tall stone mill built in 1876 by Henry Thien, the son of the village's founder, displayed THIENVILLE MILLS in large stone letters on its face. The present THIENSVILLE sign located at the curve on Green Bay Road is made with the actual letters from the face of the former mill. But the "S" from the word MILLS has been moved to the middle of the old THIENVILLE letters to form the present day "THIENSVILLE".

...The records of the Thiensville Fire Department were kept in German until 1910 when the village was officially incorporated.

...When the new Village Hall-Firehouse was opened in January of 1915, the custodian was paid \$12 per year plus \$.50 for each meeting.

...John Henry Thien and his wife were supporters of education but did not support organized religion. While they refused to sell land for the construction of any churches, in 1858, they sold the land for Thiensville's first school for the sum of five cents.



Plaque denotes building of historic significance.



**101 Green Bay Rd.  
Thiensville Fire Station  
and Village Hall (1914)**



This building was constructed by John Vollmar of Cedarburg at a cost of \$4,380. All of the fire equipment in use at the time was taken to the fire scene by horse or by hand. The 60 foot tall bell tower is open from floor to ceiling and was used to dry the very expensive cotton fire hoses. The fire department remained in this building until 1961, and the Thiensville Village Hall and offices remained on the second floor until 1974. After being used for business storage by its longtime owner, Betty Johnson, the building was donated to the village. The interior and exterior of the building were refurbished in 2007 for the 150th anniversary celebration of the Thiensville Fire Department. As part of the anniversary event, the Thiensville Fire Department Corporation also restored the department's 1935 Seagrave 500gpm pumper fire engine that can be seen in the old firehouse.



## Green Bay Road

As you walk along Green Bay Road, you will be touring the commercial heart of early Thiensville. Most of the buildings in this four-block area were built between 1850 and 1900. This was the Horse & Buggy era in this growing community and many of the businesses along Green Bay Road served the needs of area farmers. Blacksmiths, harness makers, a hardware store, and a wagon maker along with general stores, hotels, saloons, the village park, firemen's hall, and of course a mill, were all part of the hamlet which grew to become Thiensville. The arrival of the railroad in 1871, the interurban commuter line in 1907, and the automobile created a transportation corridor along the new Highway 57 (Main Street), and the commercial hub of Thiensville began to shift one block to the west.



### Queen Anne or Victorian??

It turns out that they're both right when one is describing many of the homes in Thiensville. During the reign of Queen Victoria which ran from 1837 to 1901, there were several styles of architecture that came to be known as Victorian. Queen Anne style buildings, like many of the homes built in Thiensville around 1900, have a dominant front-facing gable with a porch covering the front entrance, differing wall textures including fish scale shingles, bay windows, and a second-story porch. Queen Anne buildings also include fancy pediments at their many peaks and intricate dentils (rows of "teeth") under eaves. So you are correct in calling many of Thiensville's homes "Victorian" since they were built during the Victorian era, but they are actually Queen Anne style architecture.

# Green Bay Road



## 109-115 Green Bay Road, Thiensville Hotel (1855)



In the early 1900's, Thiensville was a very well known tourist destination for Milwaukee and Chicago vacationers with weekend trains from Milwaukee running every half hour. Known for years as The Thiensville Hotel, this was a very popular tavern due to its proximity to the mill. Constructed as a hotel, tavern, and restaurant, this is one of the first and last of the hotels which made Thiensville a popular tourist destination into the 1930's. The Thiensville Hotel was run by the Keiker family from 1897 until 1941, and it later became a privately owned bar and apartment complex known recently as the Curve Inn and Skipper's.



# Green Bay Road



**Memmler Hotel, Aussem Hotel  
(1886 – 1963)**

Memmler Hotel, Aussem Hotel (1886 – 1963) The Memmler Hotel prided itself as being, "The most popular summer resort in the state." Run by the innkeeper Fred Memmler, the hotel boasted 30 rooms and charged \$3/week for an adult's room and board. Children were half price. The Memmler hotel was famous for its meals, entertainment, and access to swimming and boating on the Milwaukee River. Fred and Maria Memmler sold their hotel to Gerhard Aussem in 1911, and his family operated it as The Aussem Hotel until 1947. The building was used for various commercial purposes during the next 15 years until it was ultimately condemned and razed in 1963.

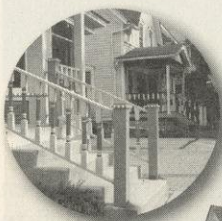


## Green Bay Road



**149 Green Bay Rd.  
Louis Staudy Home (1907)**

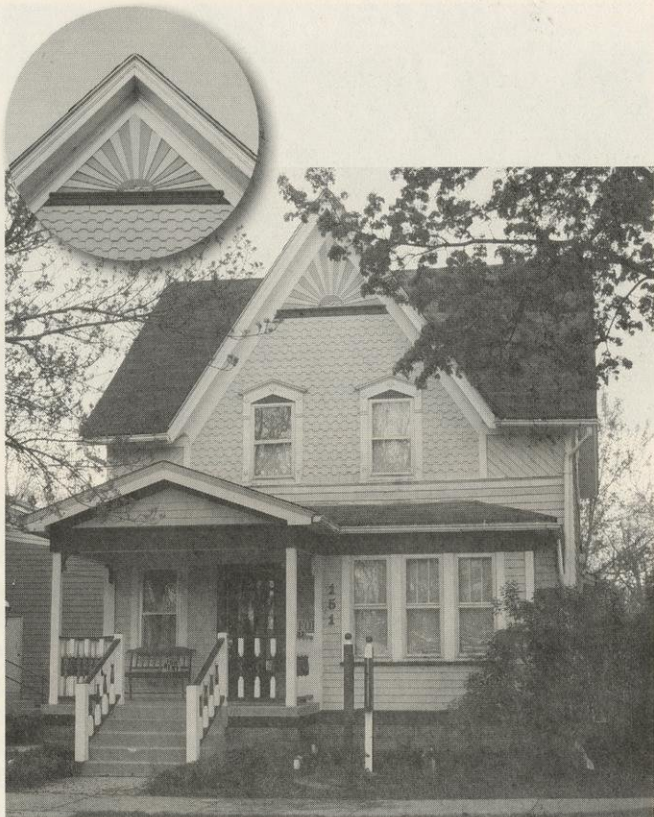
Queen Anne style. The parking lot to the south was the location of Mr. Staudy's meat market, ice house, and smoke house. The Staudy home became a dry cleaning outlet and a series of restaurants in later years including the Colonial Inn and Pastimes. Most recently, the building housed the Studio Café.



### Did you know .....

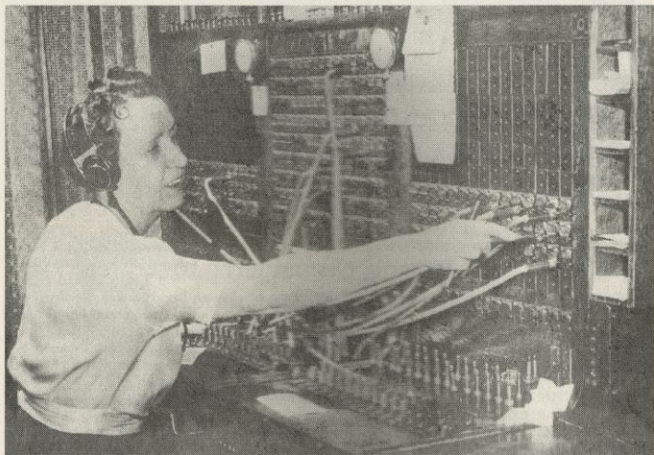
...Thiensville was once considered to be a resort town famous for its fishing, swimming, boating, and hospitality. Thiensville had several well known hotels filled with guests who'd come to Thiensville by rail or plank road to enjoy a day on the river or spend a weekend at a fine hotel. The best known hotel, The Memmler Hotel (1886-1911), claimed to be, "The most popular summer resort in the state."

## Green Bay Road



**151 Green Bay Rd.  
William Hoeft Home (1884)**

The sunburst in gable peak is a typical feature of Queen Anne style architecture. The home was converted to business use in the early 1970's.



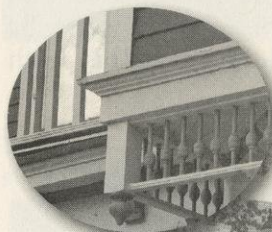
Eleanor Whittmann at her Green Bay Road switchboard.

## Green Bay Road



**153-155 Green Bay Rd.  
John F. Gierach Home (1895)**

Mr. Gierach (1864-1942), who lived in this home with his wife and five children, ran a blacksmith shop and later a grocery store in the building just to the north of his home. John Gierach was Thiensville's first village president in 1910. The Thiensville Phone Co. operated from his kitchen from 1908 until his death in 1942.



### **Did you know .....**

...Thiensville's first telephone switchboard was located in the kitchen of this home on Green Bay Road. It could provide a maximum of six manual connections at a time and served about 90 customers. There was not a direct telephone connection to Milwaukee in the early years. Messages were given to the proprietor of the Granville Tavern on Brown Deer Road who would then make a call on a different line to the recipient in Milwaukee.

## Green Bay Road



**159 Green Bay Rd.  
John F. Gierach (1889)**

John Gierach, who lived in the home just to the south, ran a blacksmith shop in this building from 1889 to 1910. He converted the building into a grocery store by 1913 and ran that business until the time of his death in 1942.



**161 Green Bay Rd.  
Hilger Hardware (1895)**

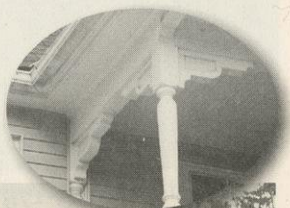
Hardware store and Post Office These buildings, along with several other buildings along the west side of Green Bay Road, were remodeled in the 1970's by Betty Johnson into the "Century Park" retail center.

## Green Bay Road



**163 Green Bay Rd.  
Andrew Hilger Home (1903)**

Features of both Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles were designed into this home.



**165-169 Green Bay Rd.  
Sophia Jaeger Home (1903)**

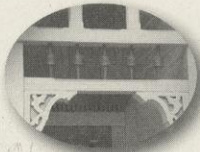
Queen Anne to Colonial Revival style



## Green Bay Road



The Geidel Family



**173-175 Green Bay Rd.  
Geidel-Hadler Home (1884)**

This Queen Anne style home was constructed of fieldstone sheathed with clapboard.



**171 Green Bay Rd.**

This building was built in 1854 as a stable. It was later lifted due to frequent flooding and converted into living space.

## Green Bay Road



**177 Green Bay Rd.**

### **Otto Hadler Harness and Printing Shop (1929)**

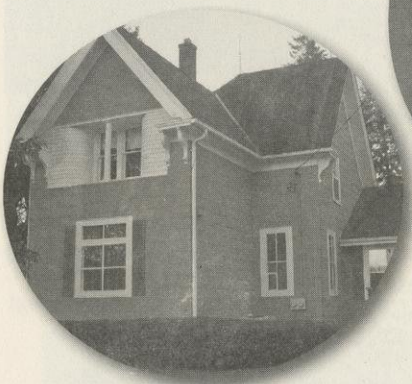
Otto Hadler built his original harness shop at this site in 1891. He also used the building as a print shop. The present building was constructed in 1929, and Hadler continued to do printing and harness work here until 1940.



**183-185 Green Bay Rd.  
Otto Hadler Home (1912)**

A variation of the gabled ell design.

## Green Bay Road



### **193-195 Green Bay Rd. Reimer Gerlach home(1897-98).**

Queen Anne style. Projecting gabled wing with cutaway corners and carved wooden trim. North upper level recessed open porch with arched openings. Notice the carved wooden brackets under gabled roof. Carriage House includes a hay door above sliding doors. The property was a private residence until 1978, and today it's the Abraham Dental offices.

## Green Bay Road

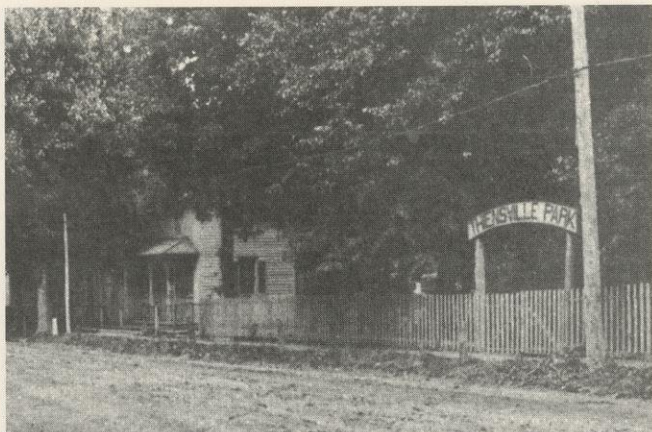


South portion of home in 1896.

### **186 Green Bay Rd. Gottlieb Hass Home (1880)**

In the past, this building housed a candy store, Miller's Market, and dental offices. After numerous renovations, including a complete replacement of the south portion of the building in 1924, it is now a private residence. The home to the south was connected to this building in the 1940's.

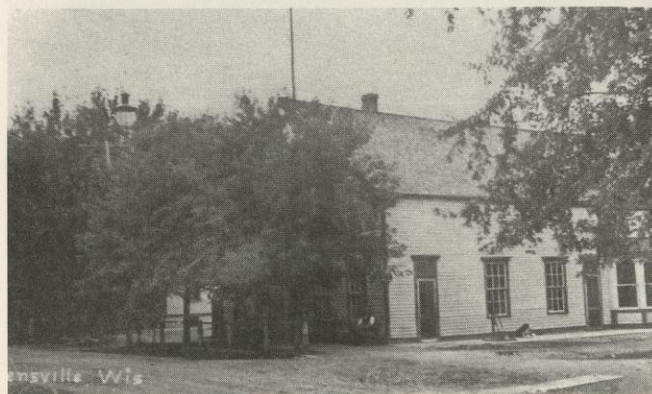
# Green Bay Road



Thiensville Park Entrance



Holnagel Hotel & Thiensville Gardens



Firemen's Hall c1860

## Did you know .....

...Monday was Market Day in Thiensville. That was when the farmers all came to town to barter, sell, and buy everything from pigs to pickles. In the early 1900's, Thiensville had a large grain mill and a creamery, but it also had a number of harness shops, blacksmiths, a lumber mill, hotels, general stores, a wagon maker, and several saloons.

## Green Bay Road



### **Thiensville Park, Thiensville Gardens, and Firemen's Hall**

The park and two original buildings on this site formed the early social hub of old Thiensville. Over the years, this was the location of many picnics, carnivals, dances, a bowling alley, and even a silent movie house. Thiensville Gardens was a privately owned hotel, park and dance hall complex from 1851-1992. The original Firemen's Hall was built on the corner of Green Bay Road and Elm Street in the 1860's. It was converted to business use in 1905 and used as a post office, saloon, bowling alley, and barber shop. The building was razed in 1988.

In 1923, land for the present-day Thiensville Village Park on Elm Street was purchased from Max Poeltzig who ran a boat livery on the Milwaukee River. The Thiensville Athletic Association bought 14 acres of land from Mr. Poeltzig for \$4,800 and the park at this Green Bay Road site was replaced by the new Thiensville Village Park on the Milwaukee River.

## Green Bay Road



**154 Green Bay Rd.  
Louise Rosenthal Home (c.1900)**

Originally a doctor's office and residence, this home was converted to business use in the early 1980's.



The Thiermann Family

**150 Green Bay Rd.  
The Frederick Thiermann Residence (c.1875)**

When the Thiermann family bought Zimmermann's General Store just to the south, they built this home and converted the residential space next door to commercial use. Note the piece of wrought iron fencing which can be seen in the picture of the original home and can now be found bordering the north side of the present-day home.

# Green Bay Road



**146 Green Bay Rd.  
Zimmermann General Store (1860)**

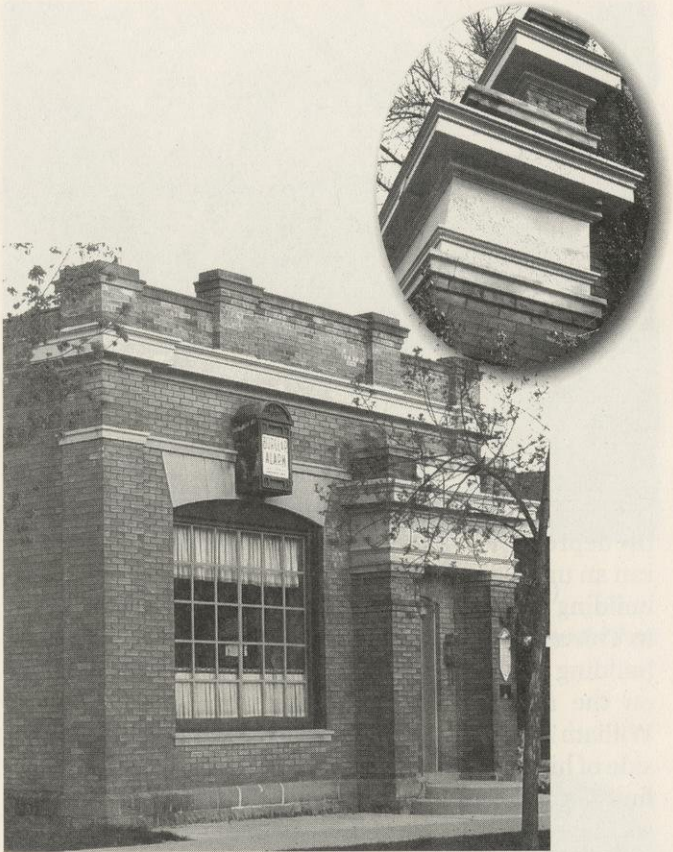


Built by William Zimmermann, one of the first Germans in the area, this store was later operated by Thiermann family from 1878 until the depression of the early 1930's. Frederick Thiermann ran an unofficial Savings and Loan operation out of this building until 1910 when the first bank was established in Thiensville. The general store was the portion of the building on the far left. The two sections of the building on the right were the Zimmermann family's home. William Zimmerman built a large greenhouse on the east side of his home in which he took pride in producing the first vegetables in the village each year. The building was later used by the Gilbert Shoe Company for many years following a long vacancy during the depression. The Zimmerman/Thiermann building later housed Helm's Market and Elroy's Liquor before becoming the present-day home of Shully's Catering.





# Green Bay Road



## 136 Green Bay Rd. Thiensville State Bank (1910)



This is Thiensville's first bank building, and it is an example of the Neoclassical style of architecture. The bank was founded by John Nieman, Otto Bublitz, and D.M. Rosenheimer, and by the end of 1910, the bank held \$12,000 in deposits. Before the bank was moved to its next location around the curve to the south, a small addition was added to the back of the building. After the relocation of the bank in 1929, the building was occupied by Ozaukee Finance Company which evolved into Ozaukee Insurance. In recent years, the old bank building has been preserved as an investment office.

### Did you know .....

...When Thiensville was incorporated as a Village in 1910, the official population of the village was 289. Of the 76 people who voted in the election to incorporate, 48 voted YES and 28 voted NO. Why such a small turnout? Only men were allowed to vote prior to ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920.

## Green Bay Road



130 Green Bay Rd.



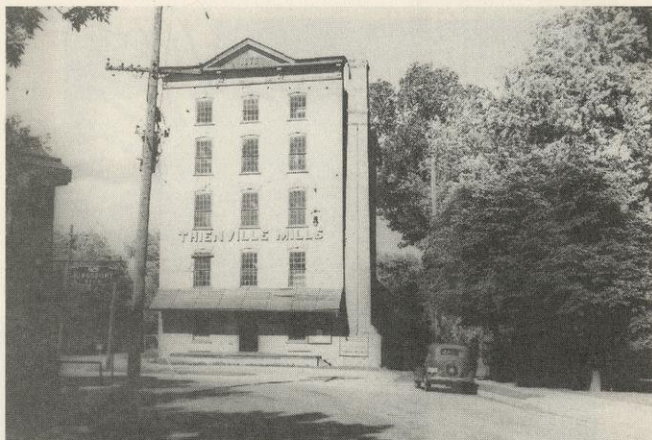
122 Green Bay Rd.  
Thienville Mills (1842)



The original mill, built by John Henry Thien in 1842, burned in a marsh fire in 1874. Henry Thien, who took over the business when his father died in 1863, built a five-story stone mill in 1876 which remained at this site until it was razed in 1956. The present building, built in 1968, was built on the original 1876 foundation. The stable behind the mill was built in 1857 and converted to a residence in the late 1940's.

You will note that the name on the face of the 1876 mill was Thienville Mills. This was the name chosen by J.H. Thien's son, Henry, but locals found it hard to pronounce. The hotel across the street took on the name Thiensville Hotel, and the name, including the "s" caught on. By the time the village was incorporated in 1910, it was known as Thiensville even though the mill still said Thienville. The letters in the brick sign to the right of the current building are the actual letters taken from the façade of the old mill building. The letter "S" was taken from "MILLS" on the 1876 mill and moved into the word THIENVILLE. What's left? THIENSVILLE.

# Green Bay Road



## Thiensville Dam and Mill

By Henry Kohlbeck

The original settlers to the area were drawn, in large part, by the Milwaukee River. The river provided a rich source of fish and game, transportation, and water power. Pigeon Creek, which flows through the village, was a much larger river in the early days of settlement here and provided power for several of the early sawmills in the area.

The House of Representatives for the Territory of Wisconsin passed an act in January, 1840, approving the construction of a dam and mill in their present locations on the Milwaukee River. The actual construction of the dam and mill started after John Weston sold his property to John Henry Thien in the summer of 1842. In all likelihood, the dam and foundation for the mill were built simultaneously during the low water of late summer of 1842. Recognizing the power offered by the five-foot waterhead of the millrace pond, Thien added a sawmill between the dam and his grist mill in 1843.

The mill proved to be the key to the development of the village that was to become Thiensville. Farmers who arrived from Germany flailed their wheat on barn floors before taking it to the mill for grinding. With no



dependable roads available to them, the local farmers needed a local mill, and Thien provided it for them. As his payment for the milling, Thien kept half of each farmer's ground wheat.

The first mill, a three story wooden structure, burned to the ground in 1874 during one of Thiensville's frequent bog fires. Large areas of marshland in the growing hamlet had been drained, but the grasslands that resulted were prone to frequent fires.

A second mill, a five-story stone structure, was built in 1876 and served the farming community until just after World War II. The building fell into disrepair and was eventually razed in 1956. The original letters from the face of the THIENVILLE MILLS structure were saved along with the 48-inch wide foundation of the fieldstone structure. The letters from the original sign are now used in the brick THIENSVILLE sign next to the Old Mill office building which was constructed in 1968 on what remained of the original foundation of the mill.

The dam also fell into disrepair following the failure of the Thiensville Milling Company in 1939. Recognizing the importance of Thiensville Lake to recreation in the area and the value of over 200 properties upstream, ownership of the dam was transferred to the Mequon Township Advancement Association in 1941. In 1962, the group now known as the Mequon-Thiensville Advancement Association transferred ownership of the dam to the City of Mequon (75%) and the Village of Thiensville (25%). That shared ownership of the dam and millrace, which became a fish ladder earlier this year, remains in effect today.



#### **Did you know .....**

...In the late 1800's, Thien's rebuilt Mill added a small generator that produced electricity for evening lighting. When the milling stopped for the day, the water power was diverted to a small generator to serve the lighting needs of the immediate area.

## Green Bay Road



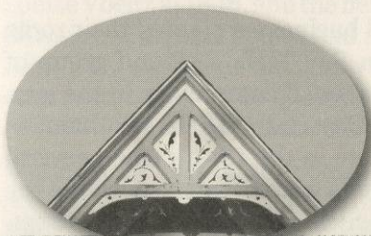
### **118 Green Bay Rd. Thiensville State Bank (1929-30)**

Built in the Art Deco style, Thiensville Bank operated out of this site until 1963 when it relocated to a new building two blocks to the north. In its day, this bank was considered to be one of the safest banks in the entire country. In 1931, however, its built-in teargas system was put to the test by a trio of bank robbers. The system failed, and the bank robbers made off with \$4,800. The front door of the bank was replaced following a car crash in the early 1980's, but the interior of the bank itself was restored by its current owner, Rick Fagan.

#### **Did you know .....**

...In 1892, the town paid William Mohrhusen \$57 for the housing of transient paupers. John Gierach was the "Tramp Commissioner" for the Town of Mequon. Mohrhusen received \$.50 per night to house the transient paupers and Gierach received \$.05 for each "Tramp Order" issued. Money for the Poor Fund came from the licensing fees paid by the 19 saloons in the Town of Mequon.

## Green Bay Road



**106 Green Bay Rd.  
Peter Kroehnke Home (1895)**

Peter Kroehnke, who bought the mill from the Thien family in 1895, originally built this home at 118 Green Bay Road. The home was moved 100 feet west to the present site in 1928 when the new bank building was constructed.



This marks the end of the Green Bay Road loop of the  
Historic Walking Tour of Thiensville.

## Historic Main Street

While many settlers and businesses planted their roots along the original Green Bay Trail, a second group of mid-1800 settlers built a small community in the area of the present Mequon City Hall. These two hamlets were brought together late in the 1800's when several large homes and businesses were constructed along the Cedarburg Plank Road which later became Main Street. Travelers on the plank road paid a toll of one cent per horse per mile. The Plank Road ceased operations in the 1870's with the arrival of the railroad. Main Street was paved in 1915 to accommodate automobile traffic, and several automobile-related businesses were started along Thiensville's newly designated State Highway 57.

Paralleling Main Street to the west, the Wisconsin Central Railroad arrived in 1871 and the Interurban Electric Railway line began passenger service in 1907. With the arrival of the Interurban, residents of Thiensville were able to easily commute to jobs in Milwaukee, and vacationers were able to reach the hotels, restaurants, and riverfront attractions in the village.

The railroad, Highway 57, and the Interurban line joined to form a major transportation route through Thiensville. As that occurred, much of Thiensville's commerce shifted from Green Bay Road to this highly traveled corridor, Main Street.



## The Bublitz Family

The early years of Thiensville's history were dominated by the names of Weston and Thien, but the turn of the century found members of the Bublitz family as the leaders of our growing village. The family, headed by John and Fredericka Bublitz, arrived in our area in 1843 (one year after John Thien) and settled along Pigeon Creek near present day Highland Road. They farmed the land, ran a very successful sawmill, and eventually quarried stone from a pit at their Mineral Hill farm.

Carl Bublitz, the son of John and Fredericka, married Louise Voeltz in 1846, and the next generation of Bublitz's followed. Carl and Louise had seven children including John who worked at the family sawmill and started his own farm on 20 acres of land. In 1876, John married Julia Bruss, and they had seven children as well.

While the Bublitz family continued to build their farms and other businesses in northern Town of Mequon, John Bublitz moved his business interests into the center of the growing village surrounding Thien's mill. He started a grocery store at 121 S. Main Street in 1896 and ran the store, "John Bublitz and Son" with his oldest son, Otto.

Otto Bublitz, who had left the farm in 1893, went to work at Thiermann's General Store just north of the mill in Thiensville. Otto joined his father in their new grocery store in 1896, married Ella Keiker in 1900, and purchased the large Queen Anne home at 116 S. Main street in 1907. In 1910, Otto Bublitz helped found Thiensville Bank where he served as a director for the next 46 years. He also bought much of the property on the hill west of Main Street which he developed as Thiensville Realty. Otto built the commercial building on the southeast corner of Main Street and Green Bay Road in 1913 for a funeral home and furniture store. This business remained in the Bublitz family until 1954.

Oscar Bublitz, Otto's younger brother, eventually bought the grocery business from his father and brother. In 1920, he decided to expand the business as a general store in a new building which he built at 101 N. Main Street. This building cost over \$20,000 to build which was almost five times the cost of the 1914-15 firehouse directly across the street. Oscar ran his general store until 1955 when he retired at the age of 73.

By the late 1950's, the Bublitz family was no longer a visible business force in the community. But they were very important in the history of the village and the commercial shift from Green Bay Road to Main Street that took place at the turn of the century. They had owned five key properties at the village's main intersection, and they'd been key persons in the village's banking, commercial, and real estate development. Present-day Thiensville owes a great deal to the many generations of the Bublitz family whose influence spanned over 100 years of our early history.



**John Bublitz (center) and his son, Otto (right)**



## Main Street



### 106-108 S. Main Walter Bublitz Furniture Store and Undertaking (1913)

This building has gone through many transformations since it was built. It has primarily been used as a funeral parlor and furniture store, but it also housed a bridal shop and a retro record shop. The large garage seen behind this building housed the funeral hearse and horses

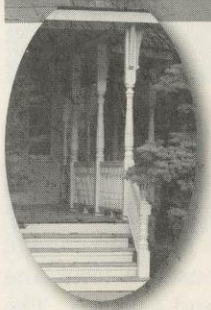
#### Did you know .....

...In the 1850's, travel from Milwaukee north to the Town of Mequon was by way of a wooden plank road. Travelers paid a toll of one cent per horse per mile between Milwaukee and Cedarburg. With the arrival of the railroad in the 1870's, the plank road was no longer heavily used and was eventually paved. An electric railway, the Interurban Line which extended from Milwaukee to Sheboygan, served Thiensville from 1907 until shortly after World War II.

#### Did you know .....

...Thiensville's railroad depot was destroyed in 1965 when a load of utility poles on two freight cars shifted and gave way. Today, those same poles support the lights at the baseball field in Thiensville Park.

## Main Street



### 116-122 S. Main Maas-Bublitz Home (1898)



Queen Anne style. This house has 17 rooms and was built for a family of 12. It was built for the large Maas family and was sold to the Otto Bublitz family in 1907. The property, which has seen several residential and commercial uses over the years, remained in the Bublitz family until the 1970's. It is now divided into four apartments and is maintained by its owner, Tom Montaine.



## Main Street



**128-130 S. Main  
Thiensville Recreation Parlor (1927)**



Built in the Period Revival style, this building became the social hub of the village when the Thiensville Gardens complex began to change in the late 1920's. This building housed a four-lane bowling alley, a large reception hall, and a tavern. The establishment was run by several families over the years including the Fetzer family who operated it as "Joe and Elaine's" well into the 2000's. In 2005, Bob and Amy Ollman bought the property and created the present Remington's River Inn.



**140 S. Main  
Duwe Wagon Co. (c. 1890)**

This property was originally a wagon maker's shop but was later used as a radiator shop, post office, drug store (1939) and music store. The large addition to the east was put on to create practice rooms for music students of Maus Music. After years as a water ski school and a doll house supply firm, the building was purchased by Dr. Gary Lewis who created the present-day medical office building.

## Main Street



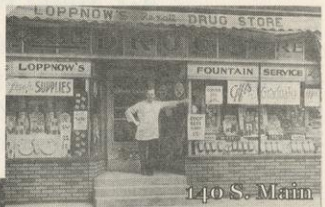
## Molyneux Park



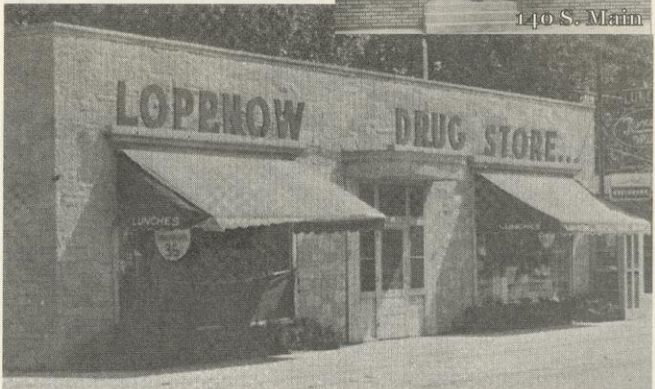
Razed



Buildings



140 S. Main



## 170 S. Main 1945-1947

Loppnow Pharmacy, which was originally located at 140 S. Main, remained at this site until 1959 when the business moved to the new shopping center at Freistadt and Main. After Loppnow's move, the building housed a number of businesses including Worzella Photography and A Floral Affair.

## Main Street



### **180 S. Main A-Z Metal Works (1919)**

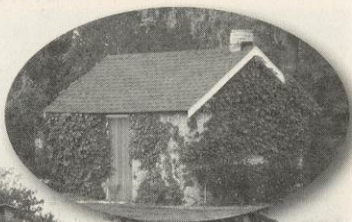
Boomtown style architecture, this building was built as one of Thiensville's early car repair shops which was operated by Arthur Zancig until 1932. Several businesses called this building home since then until it was remodeled by Dr. Gary Lewis in 2009.



### **184-188 S. Main The Mequon-Thiensville Library (1951)**

Colonial Revival style. The MT Library started in this building in 1953 and remained at this site until 1971 when it moved to the present Weyenberg building in Mequon.

## Main Street



**192 S. Main**

**The Henry Kolwey Home (1857)**



This is one of the oldest buildings in Thiensville, but here's the rest of the story. This structure was originally located one block to the north near the intersection of Main Street and Green Bay Road. When the Maas home at 116 N. Main was constructed in 1898, this building was moved south to its present location. It now houses Fiddleheads Coffee Shop.



**213 S. Main**

**Alber's Residence/Stemmler's (1894)**



This was the site of the home of Thiensville's first doctor, Dr. H.A. Albers. The building remained a residence until the early 1920's when it was converted to a saloon with second floor living quarters. In 1960, the Stemmler family opened the White Coach Inn at this location and operated the popular restaurant for three generations before building was razed.

## Main Street



**185 S. Main  
Frank Oil Company (c.1920)**

Tudor Revival style is seen in north portion of building. As you can see from the picture, this gas station and auto repair shop has gone through numerous revisions since it was operated by its original owner and later Richardson's Personal Auto Service. The present owners, the Willms family, has set out to restore the building to a 1920's type establishment.



**177-179 S. Main  
Albert Selle Home (1900)**

## Main Street



**167 S. Main  
Maas Home (1900)**

Previously built in the ornate Queen Anne style, the porches, siding, and other distinctive elements have been removed.

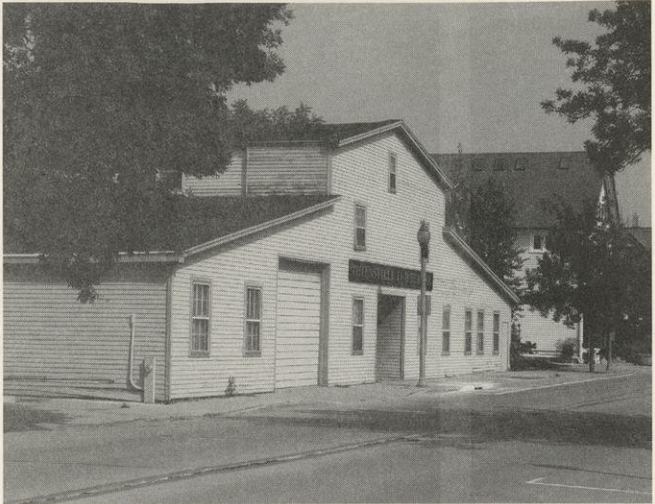


**159-163 S. Main  
Hien's Billiard Hall (1927)**

A pool hall and restaurant were on the original first floor, and the owner of the business lived on the second floor. The pool hall had four tables which reportedly cost \$1,600 each. The building later housed a tavern, the Thiensville Post Office, and various other businesses.



## Main Street



**133 South Main  
Thiensville Lumber**

Thiensville Lumber In 1892, Ferdinand Duwe ran a blacksmith and wagon maker's shop at this location. Duwe sold the land and business in 1897, and it was eventually purchased by Charles Maas in 1906. Maas began a coal and lumber business which became Thiensville Lumber Company and remained in business for nearly 100 years. Most of the remaining buildings date back to the 1930's.



**127 S. Main  
Private Residence (1922)**

This was the Walter Bublitz residence. He ran the funeral home and furniture store across the street at 106 S. Main.

## Main Street



**121-123 S. Main  
John Bublitz Store and Home (1896)**

John Bublitz and his son, Oscar, ran a general store at this location until 1918 when the business was taken over by another son, Otto Bublitz. Otto Bublitz moved the general store to a new building at 101 N. Main in 1920. Since that time, several businesses including Morgan Jewelers and Greg Miller Upholstery have been located here.



**105 S. Main  
Commercial House Hotel (1890)**



This building was originally the home of Ernest Van Alten and his family. Nick Wilson purchased the home and converted it into a saloon and hotel. One of Thiensville's original four prominent hotels, this building has enjoyed a number of commercial and residential uses over the years. The hotel rooms were converted into apartments, and the lower level has housed several restaurants.

# Main Street



**101 N, Main**  
**Oscar Bublitz General Merchandise (1920)**



This store was built in 1920 at a cost of \$22,554.33. For comparison, the Fire House directly east of this store was built six years earlier at a cost of about \$4400 to build. The Bublitz family continued to operate their general store at this location until the 1950's when they sold the building to Stan DeTroye who started a hardware store at this site. The building has been owned by Schmit Ford since about 1990.



This ends the Main Street portion of the  
Historic District tour.

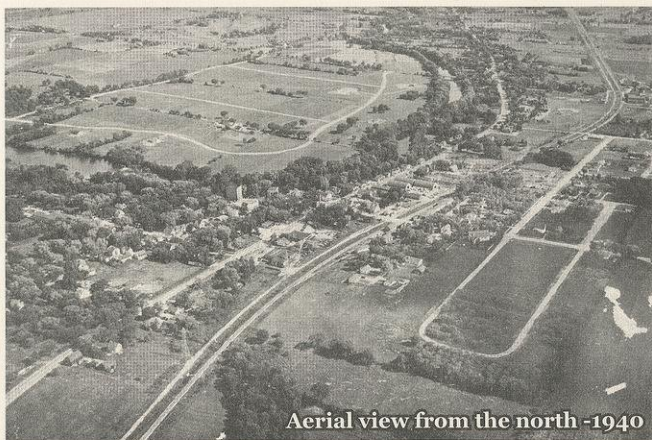


Van Buren School  
built on Elm St.  
in 1866 and  
closed in 1923.

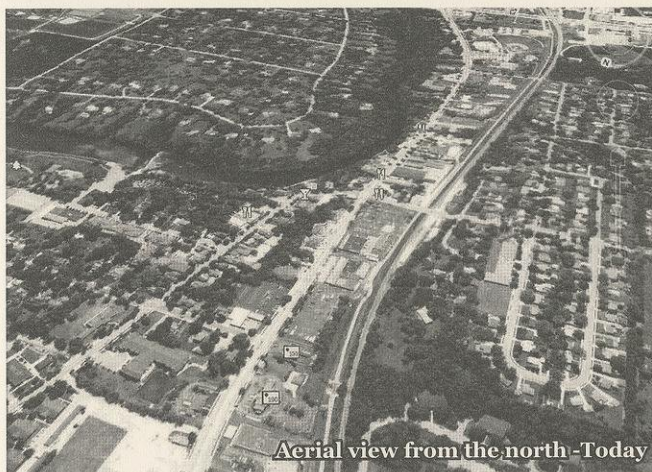
Expanded to form  
Gilbert Shoe Co.  
shown in 1976.



Van Buren  
School site  
today.



Aerial view from the north -1940



Aerial view from the north -Today

## **Village of Thiensville**

### **Village Board of Trustees:**

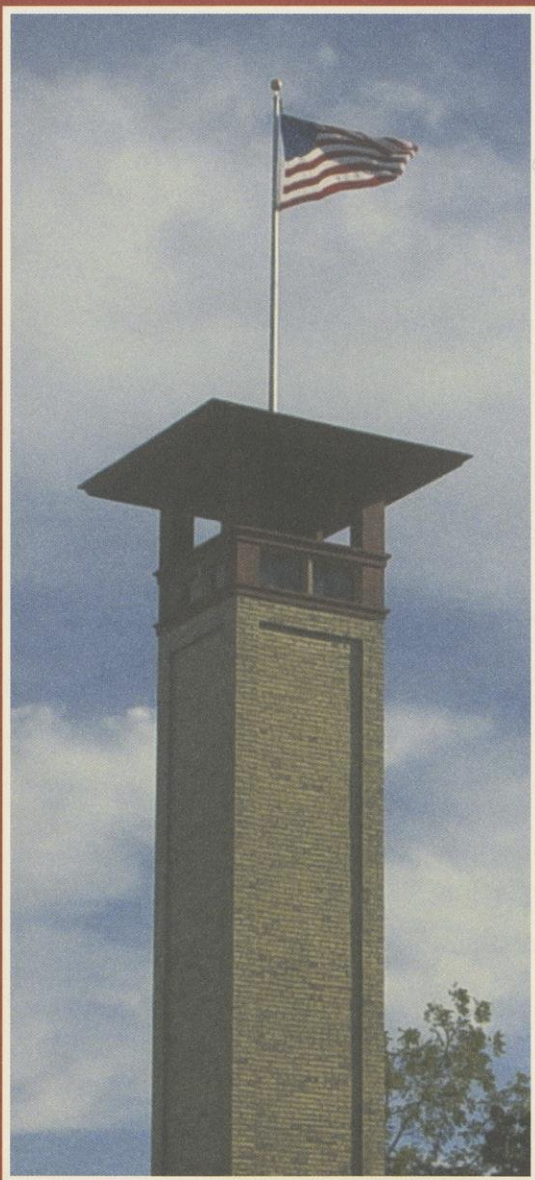
Karl Hertz, President  
Ronald Heinritz, Trustee  
Robert Holyoke, Trustee  
Toni Ihler, Trustee  
Van Mobley, Trustee  
Donald Molyneux, Trustee  
John Treffert, Trustee

### **Village Administrator:**

Dianne Robertson

### **Historic Preservation Commission:**

Ronald Heinritz, Chairman  
Mary Giuliani  
Joseph Miller  
Thomas Mohr  
Gordon Meier  
Henry Kohlbeck  
Robert Blazich



This booklet was produced by the  
Thiensville Historic Preservation Commission  
with help from the  
Mequon-Thiensville Sunrise Rotary Club.

