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Rochester Wis. 1837-1976.

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8.77 Racine Co.

ROCHESTER WIS.



== 1837 == 1976 ==

The houses identified in this folder are among the oldest in the village in Rochester, Racine County, Wisconsin.

They have sheltered people of varied ages, interests and origins, as ownership and occupancy have changed through the years.

They have borne witness to birth and death, and all the stages of life of the people who have known them as "home".

Abstracts which identify their locations reveal intricate histories of property interchange, mortgages undertaken and discharged, and ownership shared, without clearly establishing construction dates of many of the buildings involved.

We urge everyone who has further information concerning the houses and other matters of meaning and interest in local history to report it to us (the House-Walk Committee of Rochester's Bicentennial Celebration of July 3 & 4, 1976). We ask you, too, for correction of errors in the recorded information we have gathered from many sources. And we truly thank the people who have participated in the gathering. We will combine your findings with ours, and deposit them safely in archives where they will be available through the years. Perhaps they will invite Rochester's Tricentennial Committee to have another birthday celebration in the year 2076 A.D.

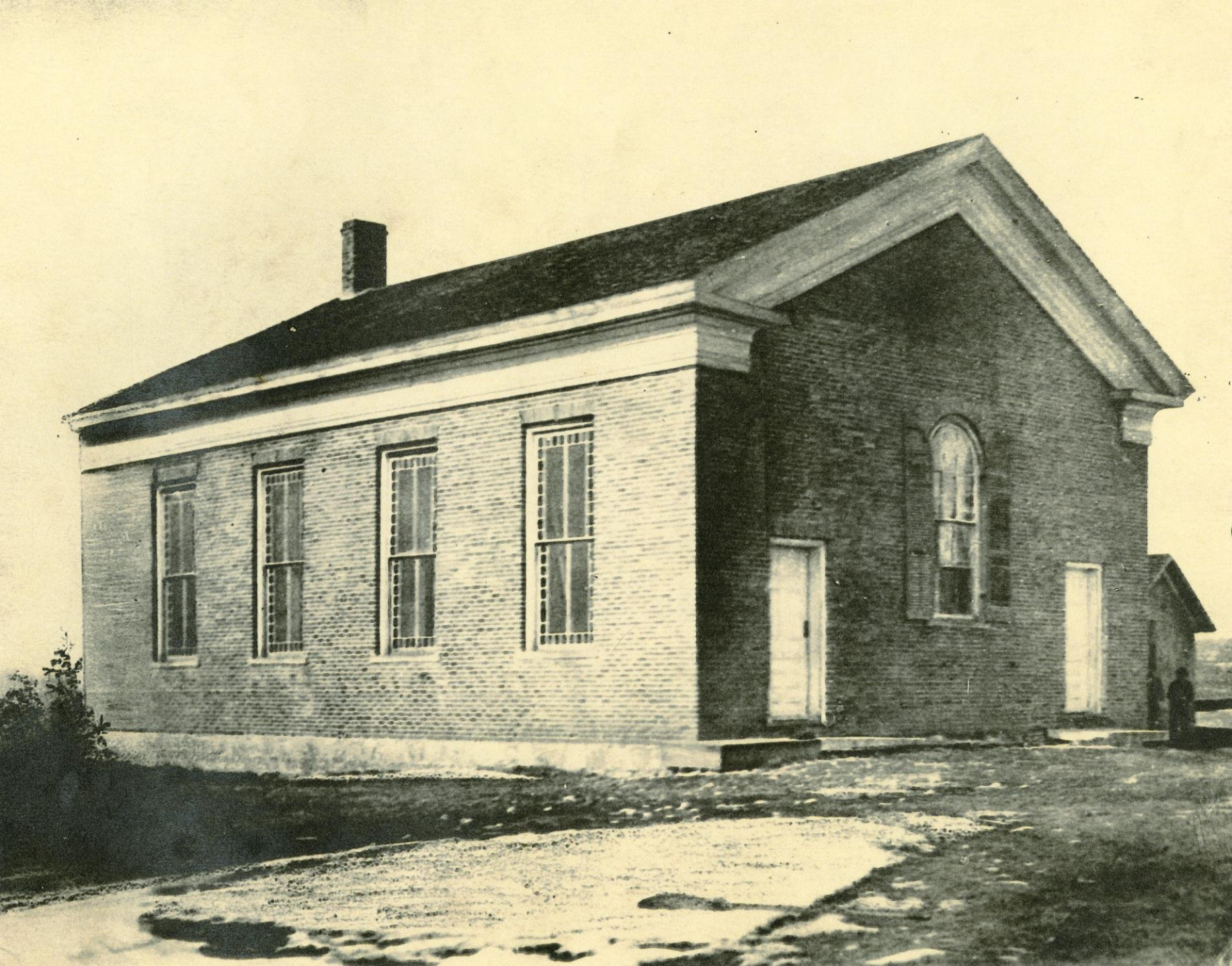
Concerning the pictures: The elms, on the cover, arched across half a mile or so of Old Highway 36 on the west side of Fox River in the Town of Rochester. Like the buildings pictured on other pages, they exist now only in remembrances, and in records such as these. Photographs reproduced here were borrowed from old albums. We longed to include many others.

We hope you will find all this (and so much more) even half as interesting as it has become to us who grew into a group as we searched out and pondered

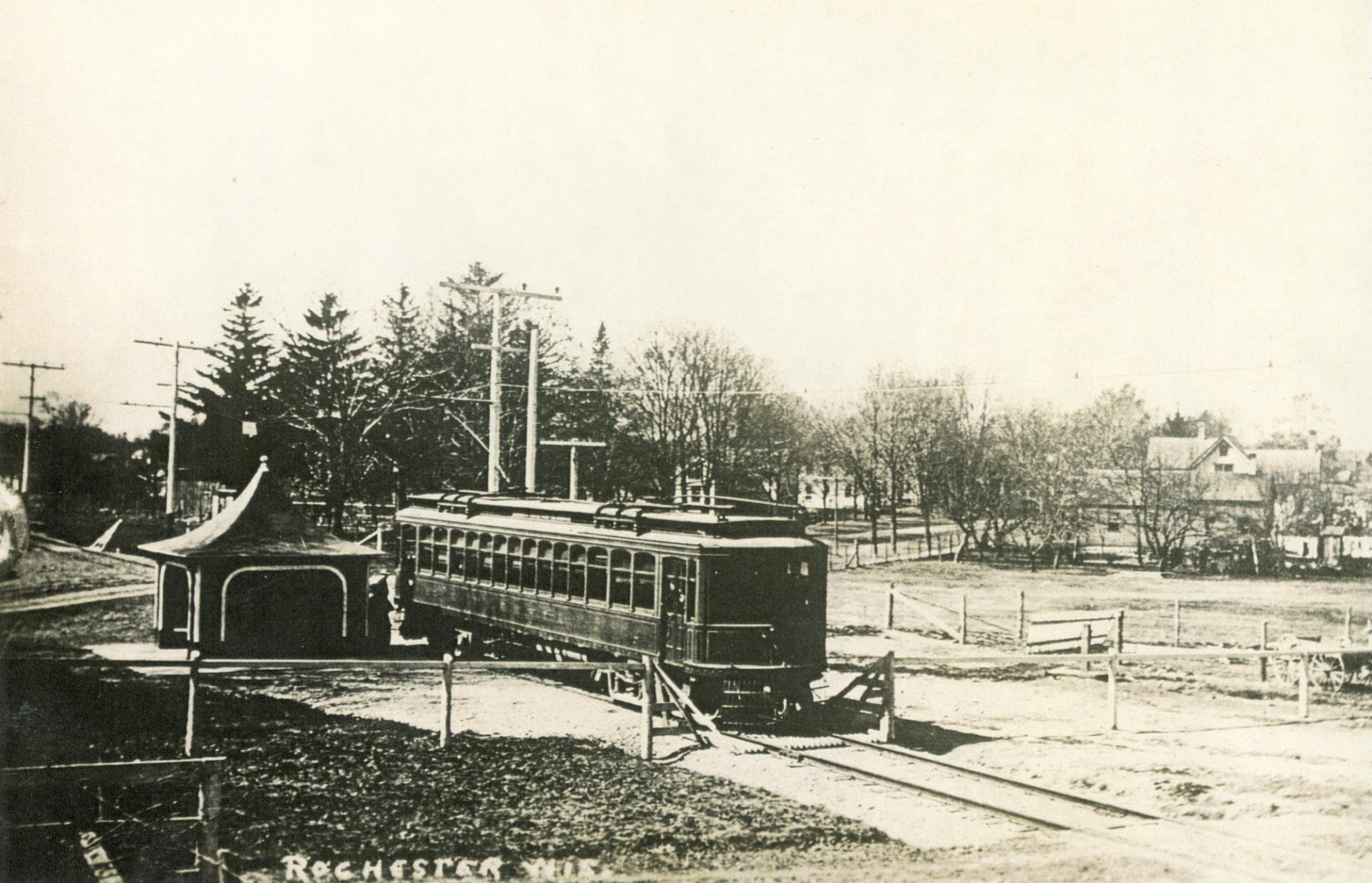
THESE HOUSES WHERE PEOPLE LIVED

IN THIS COMMUNITY WHERE PEOPLE LIVE.









ROCHESTER WIS.



1110

T. M. E. R. & L. CO.

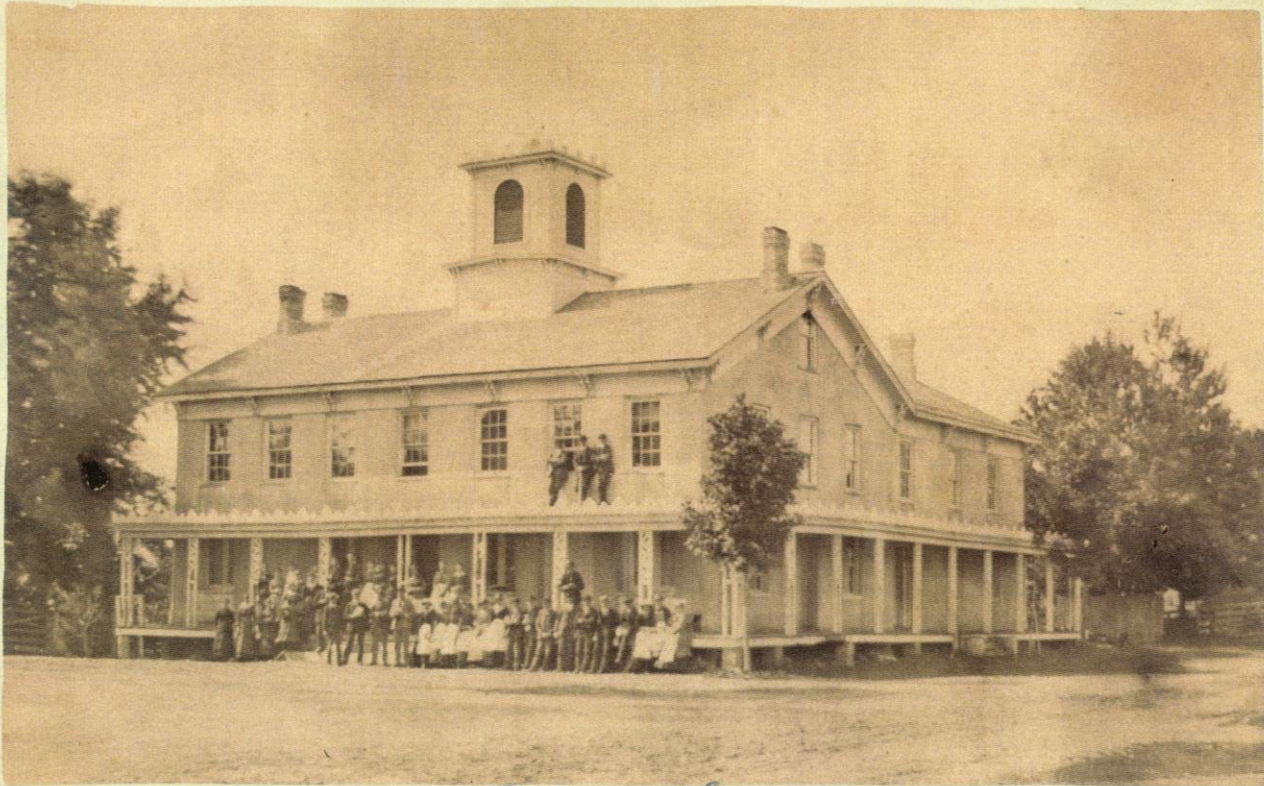
1110

ROCHESTER WIS.



EDWARDS BROS.
LUMBER & BLDG. MATERIALS





Rochester Seminary. Sept 25, 1883.

• 404 N. Front Street Parcel 274

Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Jordan (Lucille Perry) bought from Edna Hills the old Hinchliffe barn and adjoining land. They remodeled the building to create the home they have lived in for 20 years. Like many other Rochester homes, the combination of old and new is part of the interest for the people who live in them, and for House Walkers concerned not only with architecture and history and Bicentennial Parties, but with houses as places for people to live.

• 104 S. Front Street Lot 7 Block 23

This home is 135 years old and lived in by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Steffens. Mr. Steffens was born and always has resided in the village; is its oldest known living resident. He remembers, at about age 6, of the school house being brought down the school hill by horse and kapsan to the building's present location on N. Front Street.

• 200 S. Front Street Lots 1-4-5 Block 25

1839 Martin Whitman sold to John Meyers who erected a building. Many owners, then 1891 to Newell Alexander whose daughter was married here and visited her old home in 1950's. 1896 Obediah Merrill then to daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Patton 1930, Fred Vaughn 1940-45 and Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Wiemer since 1945.

• 208 S. Front Street Lots 8 & 9 E. 16.5 Ft Lots 7 & 10 Block 25

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Ouwens own this old home which they make new with their plantings and flowers. For a time the Ray Hendersons lived here, and for many, many years before 1930 it was the home of Adelaide Burgess Weed and her son Harry. Mrs. Weed was an ardent grower of flowers and a skillful photographer. In the 19th century, the house belonged to the Whites, and it was here that Florence White became the bride of Emerson Ela, a boy from "way over the other side of the river", an area then referred to as "Canada".

• 302 S. Front Street Lot 4 & N. 1/2 Lot 5 Block 2

It is not known how old this home is. In 1846 Levi Godfrey sold the property and after many owners, it was sold to Wm. D. White Jr., passing the property on to his daughter Florence White Ela, wife of Attorney Emerson Ela, Madison. Present owners are Mr. and Mrs. Gerhard W. Brook, since 1946, purchasing it from the James Edwards estate.

• 602 S. Front Street Parcel 310

Many interesting and contradictory facts have been recorded concerning Rochester's mill and the Russell house which face each other across the highway at the south end of the village, and share the history of Andrew J. and Henry Russell who came to Rochester from Vermont. It is said that today's mill was built in 1884 by Andrew to replace one that burned in 1858; that the first grist mill was built on the same site in 1842; that Andrew bought the mill in 1865. He built the house in 1867, taking four years to complete it. He carved his own woodwork. The stone was hauled by ox cart from Lannon, Wis. It is said that the mortar was mixed with egg white; that the basement windows were barred to protect stored food from Indian theft. On a clear day one can see five counties from the cupola. Miss Emma Russell lived on in the home for a time after her father and uncle, the miller, died. Villagers took their pails "up to the Russells" daily for supplies of fresh milk. Owner: Mrs. Ben Bakke.

• I02 N. Front Street Lot II Block I4

This house was believed to be the home of Geo. F. Newell, Sr., a doctor in this area at the time of the epidemic in 1862 which claimed many lives. Our records do not show how long he had a practice here, but he is listed in the 1876 directory of businesses located in Rochester. Legend has this home as being about 123 years old. The present owners are Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Wienke.

• I03 N. Front Street

I03A N. Front Street Lot 9 Block I5

This house was the first school for the village of Rochester. It was erected in 1842 on the site of the present Waterford kindergarten. In 1906 this building (school) was sold to Jim Best and moved down the hill to its present site. Mr. Best had several sons and a daughter and operated a store in this building and in later years a barber shop. It is interesting to note that the original structure has been left basically the same except the belfrey has been removed and an addition has been added on the south side of the home. This is where Mr. Best housed his barber shop. Present owners, are Mr. and Mrs. Volnie Bair. Since purchasing the home in 1944 the Bairs have remodeled the interior and made an apartment downstairs in which they now reside. The apartment upstairs is occupied by Ken and Beth Phetteplace.

• 306 N. Front Street Parcel 276A

This home was built about 100 years ago by unmarried sisters, Lill and Dee Stetson. The home was used as a boarding house by teachers of the old academy. The home is presently owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Binning.

• 400 N. Front Street Parcel 274

Our earliest information concerning this building site is a Land Patent dated Dec. 10, 1840, indicating that Martin Cole Whitman purchased 66 acres from the U.S. Government. The house, with its original brick exterior and old wood pillars is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Flancher who moved here 15 years ago. They purchased it from Dempster Passmore whose father and sister, Marie Wood and her daughters, made it their home. For a time Flanchers used the barn as an antique shop...the same barn which, 50 or more years ago, housed the spirited horse Mrs. Eliza Davis drove in active competition with the new-comer automobiles which she disdained.

• 402 N. Front Street Parcel 275A

Is this home old or new? All that is left of the original farm house in which the Hinchliffes lived in the 1910's is half of the basement. It has heavy 6X6 oak joists and is narrower at the top than at the bottom. In the 1930's Walter and Edne Hills purchased the house, the barn, and 13 acres. They moved into it in 1942 after having rented it to several others, including the Volnie Bairs. In 1952, the Hills completely remodeled the house, removing the second story, adding two rooms and changing partitions and ways of entry and exit. Mr. and Mrs. Warren Christenson have lived here since 1954.

• 200 W. Main Street Lot II Block I4

This building owned presently by Paul Phetteplace and wife Mary was believed built in the 1840's. It now has living quarters upstairs and to the back downstairs, with an antique shop in the front. In 1876 it was listed in the business directory as a boot and saddle shop. After this, it did not seem to be used for several years except for a meeting place for playing cards. It also had a pool table and the two rooms at the back were used for living quarters. In 1929 Frank and Mabel Edwards moved their ice cream parlor business from the building now known as the Library and Village Hall to this building and added the grocery line, and a gas station which is now run by Leo Moss, husband of one of their granddaughters Barbara. The Library building was donated by Frank Edwards to the village and moved from its location on the corner where the gas station now stands to its present site at 204 W. Main. For a little over a year in either 1933-34 it housed the Rochester post office in the west front part of the store. It also was the bus depot for many years when Greyhound line had a stop here. It is remembered most recently as the local grocery store operated by Paul and Mary Phetteplace. Mary is also a granddaughter of Frank and Mabel Edwards.

• 205 W. Main Street Lot 3 Block 23

Levi Godfrey and John Wade came here in 1835. They built a crude log cabin within a few feet of the present Big John's Village Inn. Their families joined them in the spring of 1836 and laid out the village, naming streets also. Godfrey expanded the original cabin and set himself up as an innkeeper. A traveler stopping at Godfrey's could expect to share the family's meal and would be shown a spot on the dirt floor to spread his blanket. Godfrey's Hotel prospered as Rochester became an important stop on the "Government Road", in the early 1840's. Godfrey sold his hotel to Peter Campbell in 1843. It was Campbell who built the present stone structure. The walls were built 18" thick, the better to repel the still bothersome Indians, and was named Union House. Later he added the ballroom upstairs, with the dance floor mounted on springs, the last of its kind in the state. In the years just before the Civil War the Union House became an important link for runaway slaves from the South, through a tunnel from the Fox River to the hotel. Parts of the tunnel still remain in the basement of the Village Inn. Present owners are Cathy and sons Dick and Bill Fischbach.

• 206 W. Main Street Lot 8 Block I4

This is one of the oldest homes in Rochester, being built in November 1838. The Grant Church family are the present owners.

207-207A and 209-209A W. Main Street Lot 4 Block 23

East half of this building was built by Mr. Codman and later owned by Miss Medora Codman. The west half of the building was owned and built by Joseph Jackson. The east building housed a harness shop. Jackson and Codman were brothers-in-law and Jackson used his building for a shoe shop (Rochester's first) and later it was a pool hall-barber shop operated by Elmer Lois. The present owner, Ray Moyer Sr., removed the old shelves when he bought the two buildings. He made them into four rental apartments.

- 208 W. Main Street S. I/2 Lot 7 Block I4

In 1839 Abial Whitman built the first dry goods store on this corner lot. He bought his goods in Boston. In 1963 this property was sold to James Plucker, local postmaster since 1958. This post office was built and dedicated in 1965.

- I02 N. State Street Lot 8 Block I3

Henry Cady home built in either 1839-40. Lizzie Cady Titus, a descendant, was noted for her beautiful voice. Much loved by all the congregation. A stained glass window in the local Congregational church was given in her memory. Presently the Harold Lancaster home.

- I04 N. State Street Lot 5 Block I3

Original portion built sometime in mid-19th century. Earlier citizens most connected with property were Sophia and Peter Fredrickson, and later Clarence Bird and his heirs. Presently the Bruce Church home.

- I05 N. State Street Lot 6 Block I4

This house was believed built in the 1850's and has the original partitions built of field stone. Rochester made the "news" when Clarence "Ginger" Beaumont, who lived in this house for many years, made the Wisconsin Hall of Fame as a baseball player. He was the first batter in the first World Series. The present owners are the James Radawan family.

- I08 N. State Street Lot I Block I3

Built in 1847 by Abial Whitman who died at sea returning from the California Gold Rush. His widow, Aurilla Farr Whitman Brown, left the home to her step-grandson, Judge Ellsworth Burnett Belden when he was a lad of ten years in 1876. Six generations of the Belden family, beginning with Ezra Brown (Aurella Whitman Brown's second husband) have lived in or have visited the old family home. Presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Belden.

- 200 W. Spring Street Lot 9 Block II

This property was the site of one of several blacksmith shops in Rochester. One being Wm. Halenbake; another early settler was the Daniel Buttles family. They ran the blacksmith shop for several years. Other names connected to this property were the Larsons and Ducketts. Myron and Olive Duckett retired to this home from a farm S. E. of Burlington. The present owners are Earl and Ethel Hoffmann.

- 204 W. Spring Street Lot IO Block II

The present Vernon Doxtater home is believed built in the 1850's by Richard Jackson who owned this property at that time. Christian and Sophia Graf Schumacher lived there from 1863 until their deaths. Christian Schumacher operated a saloon and inn on the N. E. corner of Front and Main. This house was in the Schumacher family for a little over 100 years.

104
• 106 S. State Street Lot 5 Block 3

Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Fraser purchased the home in 1952, from Mrs. Kathryn Comstock who had extensively remodeled the home since she bought it from Charles Hute in 1945. Judge Hute bought it from Mrs. Clara L. Rowntree in 1939. When Mrs. Rowntree purchased it in 1916 it was known as "The Old Meade Place". Her daughter Jennie Rowntree sometimes shared the summer residence. The Meads owned it from 1889-1916 and the abstract names many others for whom it was home beyond Levi Godfrey's 1840 claim.

• 108 S. State Street Lot 6 Block 3

Several Rochester families have associations with this house where Mrs. C. W. (Sadie) Atherton and her sister Mrs. Lillie Schilling live. In 1920 Clayton Atherton purchased it from the heirs of Aggie and James D. Wright who bought it in 1893. A daughter Clarissa Wright Alaxson was married in the living room of this home, 1897. Clayton and Jessie Ballack Atherton moved into the house in 1920. Mr. Atherton managed the General Store, in association with Bill Edwards, and conducted a spray painting business from his home here. Their daughter Grace now lives down-the-street with husband Glen Lofgren. In the many ownership changes, the longest residency 1858-1893 was that of the Thompson family: Anthony & wife Ann and their daughter Azebuh T. Green and their sons Albert and Arthur.

• 202 S. State Street Lot 8 Block 3

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. W. Massie Jr. describe themselves as "happily transplanted Virginians". They moved to Rochester in May 1976 after the death of his mother Mrs. Emily Massie who purchased this residence from Mrs. Mary Noble in 1973. It had been in the Noble family since 1924: Mr. and Mrs. Delmar Noble, Beulah and Dean, then Mr. and Mrs. Dean Noble and sons. During the Noble and Massie occupancies there has been extensive remodeling. 1904-1924 it was the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Burgess who retired from their Kenosha County farm to be near their daughter Mrs. George Ela and her evolving family. Mr. Burgess was the first president of Rochester village. They took in boarders: academy students, summer guests, and Ag. school teachers, who relished the results of A.A.'s tremendous garden and his wife's pleasure in cooking. In the Burgess era the barn housed carpenter tools, chickens, and a huge black horse. Dean Noble used the barn as a base for his painting and aerial service. Beyond living memory, the property was transferred from Levi Godfrey, who purchased it from U. S. Land Office in 1839 to: John Meyers to Franklin Wright to Maurice Ayer to Timothy Green to Hiland Hulburd to Nathaniel Moulton to Peter Hankinson to Thomas McGuire to James Sutcliff. Robert Adams and his heirs owned it from 1854 to 1890, and James Eaton, principal of Rochester Academy, from 1901 to 1904.

• 206 S. State Street S. I/2 Lot 9 Block 3

1843-44 in a small house that stood on the S. E. corner of Main and State, Stephen Thresher was a boarder. He had partly built a house on this location in Block 3, State street. This was enclosed and was used through the winter by him as a carpenter shop, where the parts of the first thresher and separator combination was made, under the direction of J. I. Case. Records show that this home was completed in the late 1840's. Owners since 1943 are Mr. and Mrs. Perry Dickinson.

• 207 S. State Street Lot 7 Block 25

This house was the original parsonage for the Congregational church, although the actual years it was used is not presently known. It was built in the 1840's and still has the original wide plank boards for the flooring upstairs. Purchased in 1891 by the Congregational church to be the first of the three parsonages the church has owned. The second one is the house to the south of this one, built in 1894-95. The third one is the one beside the church and currently in use. Present owners of this home are the Daniel Kossow's.

• 208 S. State Street Lot II Block 3

This red brick home on South State was built in 1845. It was owned by the same family for 128 years. They were the "Jackson Family". The home is in its original condition and has three interior stone walls in it. It was one of the first homes in Rochester to be wired for electricity. The present owners Mr. and Mrs. William Kwiecien have lived here for five years.

• 106 S. Water Street Lot 5 Block 22

This house began with the small frame structure Richard E. Ela built when he came to Rochester from Lebanon, N. H. in 1839. He used its cellar for his shop and built the first of the fanning mills that were latter produced in quantity in the factory he erected across the river. As his family grew and his business expanded, he added to the house. A spacious back-kitchen and pantry, generous storage areas, meal room, large dining room, upstairs parlor and numerous bedrooms served not only the resident family, but pioneer travelers, and salesmen involved in the marketing of the factory's products. The stone building south of the house was divided into laundry and toilet areas. The factory, whose buildings occupied much of what is now Pioneer Park, employed many Rochester residents. It functioned until 1871, manufacturing fanning mills, plows, wagons, carriages and safes which were delivered to the north and west by wagon trains which assembled on the street in front of the Ela home. Owned now by the John Willard family of Madison, grandchildren and great grandchildren of Richard Emerson and Emily Eastman Ela, its current renters are Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Uebelacher and family.

• 200 E. Ela Street Lot 10 Block 27

1839 Cbed Hulburd bought 160 acres lying along the east bank of the river, known later as the Emerson Ela farm. He built the house at this location. Purchased from the Ela Company in 1967, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Madison are the owners. When they were remodeling the house, they found wooden pegs instead of nails in the wall structure and left them intact in the walls.

• 201 E. Main Street Lot 5 Block 2I

From land office records this piece of property was once a part of 84.82 A. It first belonged to Levi Godfrey in 1839. In 1877 this property was sold to George Waller and remained with that family and the heirs until becoming the Russell Wuttke property in 1955. The Don Schaefer's reside in the home.

• 202 E. Main Street Lot 10 Block 16

Around the year 1842 English friends of John Wood who had settled in the English Settlement, town of Dover, decided a blacksmith was needed in the area. These friends helped him set up a shop in one day and the following day he was shoeing horses. It is not known, however, if this is the same shop as the present building.

The north annex, with the dormer windows, of the present shop was built after the first make-shift shop. An addition of about fifty feet was built by Henry C. Wood, son of John Wood, after the Civil War. It is believed it was built sometime in the 1870's. In 1842 John Wood sent back to England for an anvil which is still housed in the present shop along with a small, old, handmade desk with secret compartments which was used in the early shop. It is interesting to note that some of the floor boards in the shop are ten to fifteen inches wide and twelve to fifteen feet long.

Prior to 1900 the front of the shop was used by the Rochester Band for band rehearsals and the early Rochester Volunteer Fire Department equipment hung on the outside of the building to the east side.

The middle part of the shop has been left in its original condition as a blacksmith shop and includes the remaining old forge. Also housed in the building is a collection of fourteen pair of horseshoes, made by Henry C. Wood. This collection was given to Mr. Albert Holding in 1919 by Mr. Wood and they hang in the same spot in the shop-since 1893. This building is presently owned by Mrs. Albert Holding.

• 205 E. Main Street Part of Lot 3 Block 2I

This old house was built in three sections and several wings added through the years. The original two-story front section, built of field stone and brick had a small kitchen, pantry and living room on the lower level, and two bedrooms under the rafters. Walter Palmer had bought the land and built this section in 1850. In 1862 the house was purchased by Jerome L. Case and his wife. He developed a threshing machine which could harvest the grain as well as separate it from the chaff and straw. Failure to secure water rights needed to provide power to make the machine prompted Case to leave Rochester and move to Racine. In 1868 George Sheard built the first frame addition that provided a new kitchen and storage area. At a later date, still another addition was built. August Albrecht purchased the property in 1874 and he built and operated a wagon factory a few blocks from the house. Present owners Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Robison purchased the home in 1969.

- 207 E. Main Street Lot 2 E. I/2 Lot 3 Block 2I

The land the Clark residence is located on was purchased from the U. S. Government in 1838 by Martin Whitman. From the abstract we believe that a log cabin was on this site in 1843. From an 1845 mortgage it is surmised that the brick house was built on or before that year. The beams in the basement are hand hewn. A wooden addition was built in 1860. This is of wide verticle construction and the room served as a kitchen. The portion to the rear of the home was built in 1896 and is covered with horizontal siding. After passing through twelve miscellaneous deals, it was deeded to John Wood in 1854. He was a blacksmith from England. The home remained in the Wood family until 1946 when it was bought by the Babcocks. Legend has it that an early school was held in the upstairs bedroom of this home. Philip and Elinor Clark purchased this property and came to live here from Hales Corners in 1974.

- 302 E. Main Street Lot 7 Block I7

Early records indicate this portion of the village was purchased by Philander Bartlett from the government in 1838. In that year he sold to Elias Smith and his wife the land this home is built on. It is believed at that time there was a frame dwelling. This may have been just a shelter as the brick house is assumed to have been built a short time later. On May 28, 1844 in a transfer of ownership it was sold for \$700.00 We assume from this that the brick structure was here at this time.

The historical society classes this house as "Greek Revival". The owners believe the two story porch was added about 1895. The door opening onto the upper deck was originally a window. The doors in the interior of the home have some of the original latches. They are of the 1840 patent by the Blake Lock Works.

Miss Ellen Cooper lived here from 1888 to 1922. During the years of the academy the many bedrooms were rented to the students attending school here. Miss Cooper was a faithful member of the local church and also served as organist. In her later years her sight failed her and her fellow church members were most concerned for her safety. Oil Lamps were dangerous for the sightless and aged. These circumstances were instrumental in the congregation furnishing her with electricity which consisted of a hanging light bulb in the kitchen and dining room. In June, 1922, this home was purchased by the Hardies from the Cooper estate. Frequent transfer of this property shows that this family has possessed it continually for the longest term of any other owner. Mr. and Mrs. John Schneider are the present owners and are descendants of the Hardies.

• 305 E. Main Street Lot 3 Block 20

On this site the Oren Wright family built their first home in Rochester, coming here in a covered wagon in January 1840 with their four small children. They lived at this location 1842-1891 and twin sons were born in Rochester. Mr. Wright was a cabinet maker and his trade was much needed in the village and surrounding areas. He had a turning lathe and woodworking shop on Muskego Creek near the first sawmill built here and had walnut and oak trees bought at Tichigan and floated down the river to his shop. He manufactured coffins, beds, chairs, tables, etc. In 1891 the Wright family sold the property, a two story home. It is not known if any parts of the original structure have been preserved over the years. Present owners, since 1973, are Mr. and Mrs. Philip Weber.

• 306 E. Main Street Lot 9 Block 17

308 E. Main Street Lot 7 Block 17

From records at the U. S Land Office it is learned that Martin Whitman was given a land grant on March 8, 1839. The property at 306 E. Main and 308 E. Main was included in this land grant. Over a period of years the property changed owners by parcels to Elias Smith, Philander Bartlett, John Meyers and his wife Wealthy, Franklin A. Wright, Consider Heath and many others.

Mention is made of a dwelling being conveyed to Content Graves on August 26, 1858. This dwelling was on the property which is now 308 E. Main. It is not known, however, if the present home was that dwelling or if the dwelling referred to was a building in back of the present home. This home is now owned by Mrs. Albert Holding and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ahler and family.

The home at 306 E. Main is believed to have been built sometime between 1839 and 1858 as mention is made of dwellings being erected during this period of time on property deeded to Martin Whitman. This home is now owned by Leo and Barbara Moss and occupied by their son David and his wife Deborah.

Fox River

Old stern wheeler steam packet carried passengers between here and Wilmot Dam. It is alleged that the boiler in the boat came from the old Belden saw mill on the creek and after it was no longer needed in the stern wheeler, was used in either the blacksmith shop or another business at the corner of N. Front and W. Spring St.

Animal Pound

The property at the foot of W. Spring street on the river was originally a village pound for stray animals. That is the reason the street was never platted straight through to the river.

• IO5 N. River Road S. 1/2 Lot 5 & Part Lot 6 Block I7

Philander Bartlett purchased I37 A. from the government on November 7, 1838. Ten days later he bought enough more to make it I/4 section or I60 A. He had land on both sides of the river and to the north of Main Street. At the mouth of Musquituac Creek and on the north side he sold land to Martin Whitman. This transaction took place on November 22, 1838. A sawmill was erected on this site. It was only a matter of days and Mr. Bartlett sold parcels of land to folks who desired to settle in Rochester.

On this lot (which was a portion of the I60 A.) a frame house was built in 1838. In a record of transfer in 1845 it was referred to as a brick dwelling. This indicates the brick part was added some time between 1838 and 1845. In that year Trueworthy Durgin lost the property at a sheriff's sale. It was sold for \$174.24 to Matthias Ogden.

Miss Mary Connor purchased the home in 1921. The purchase price was \$750.00. Miss Connor was a dressmaker. Upon her death in 1935, the home was given to her sister Miss Edith Connor, a retired school teacher. She remodeled the back structure and added the part that folks referred to as the sun porch. This addition is on the upper story. Other than this the outside design has not been altered. The red brick has been painted in recent years. Mrs. John Waardenburg is present owner and Mrs. Louis Rehberg resides here.

• IIO S. River Road Lot IO Block 2I

This was originally a blacksmith shop owned by the August and Redina Albrecht family and heirs. It was two stories and later lowered to I-I/2 stories and made into a home be Ernest Albrecht. Owners now are Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bakke.

4II Chicago Street Parcel #30

Built in 1839, when he married Mary F. Belden of La Porte, Indiana, Philo Belden was one of the five men to originally plat the village in 1837. A trumpet was blown from the house when the stagecoach passed to ford the river below the dam. Villagers then met the stage at the Rochester Mill site to get their mail and/or board the stage. Philo Belden was a Judge, a State Senator, President of a railroad that never became a reality, and owned various businesses including a sawmill and the Rochester mill. Personal integrity made him return all the money invested in the railroad by private citizens, using his own personal fortune to do so, even though he was under no legal obligation whatsoever. He died with but a small portion of his original fortune because of his feelings of responsibility toward his fellow Rochesterites. Now owned by Ernst and Cathy Gramatzki. (The Garden Gallery)

THE BICENTENNIAL HOUSEWALK COMMITTEE

Mrs. Ralph (Marion Bair) Oldenberg
Mrs. Leo (Barbara Wienke) Moss
Mrs. Don (Della Hotz) Rowntree
Mrs. Richard (Dorothy Hegeman) Schumacher
Mrs. William (Clarissa Alaxson) Scott
Miss Mary Ela
Mrs. Eugene (Shirley Flancher) Degner
Mrs. Robert (Georgann Spring) Belden

