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Janesville, Wisconsin: The Commission, 1990

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Old Fourth Ward Historic District



A Guide

The Old Fourth Ward Historic District:

A Guide

Prepared by
Landscape Research
for
The Janesville Historic Commission
Janesville, Wisconsin

1990



THE OLD FOURTH WARD

The central position of Janesville, its fine water power, its commercial advantages, the excellent agricultural country which surrounds it, its healthful situation, excellent schools, churches and society, together with the varied and charming scenery which encompass the town, make it a most desirable place for all those who are seeking a comfortable and satisfactory place of residence.

Woltz and Gould's Janesville Directory, 1866



*Above and right:
John C. Hemming house, 165 S. Cherry Street. Photograph
ca. 1880. Hemming, pictured here with members of his fam-
ily, was employed as a finisher at the Britton and Kimball
Furniture Factory on West Milwaukee Street. His Italianate
house was typical of many in the Old Fourth Ward.*

THE OLD FOURTH WARD



The Old Fourth Ward Historic District, extending from the southwest edge of downtown Janesville to the Rock River, is one of the city's largest and oldest residential areas. It encompasses nearly one-quarter of the area of central Janesville, and contains over nine hundred structures. The Historic District is bounded by the Rock River at its eastern and southern edges and its proximity to the river, the railroad, and to the downtown commercial area has consistently influenced its pattern of growth.

The Old Fourth Ward Historic District provides a cross-section of residential architectural styles and vernacular building types popular in southern Wisconsin during the second half of the nineteenth century. The area housed a diverse population, and examples of diminutive quarry-worker's cottages and three-story industrialist's houses are both found within its boundaries. The District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1990, Janesville's third historic residential area to be so recognized.

Near Downtown, Monterey, and Rockport

The Old Fourth Ward is an amalgam of three historic neighborhood areas, each with rather indistinct boundaries. However, each area has its own visual character based on its past builders and residents. Throughout the Old Fourth Ward, houses were built on standard-sized lots provided in various additions to the original plat of Janesville, and on the original plat of Rockport. In addition to the uniformity lent by standard set-backs and lot lines, the repetition of certain vernacular building types has also contributed to the general character of the area.

Closest to downtown, there is an area which might be called "Near Downtown." Here, at the commercial area's southwestern edge, Janesville builders constructed a variety of high-styled Greek Revival and Italianate residences for the city's business leaders. The earliest dwellings date from the 1850s. The area was also home to many laborers who resided in more modest dwellings. A number of churches, schools, and other institutions were also constructed here.

Beginning in the 1840s and closer to the river to the south, a small enclave known as Monterey began to develop around the ferry and bridge connections spanning the Rock River in the vicinity of Center Avenue and Rockport Road. Adjacent to Monterey to the east was Rockport, a 34-block plat laid out by hopeful investors in

THE OLD FOURTH WARD

1835, during the first period of speculative interest in Rock River town sites. Rockport was incorporated into the City of Janesville in 1853, and there was little building activity here until almost twenty years later.

Architecture and Residential Building Types in the Old Fourth Ward: High Style/Low Style

Over sixty percent of the buildings in the District were constructed before 1900, and there are good examples here of the historic architectural styles seen throughout the city. In general, the Old Fourth Ward is an area of predominately frame buildings, with few masonry examples. Builders, rather than architects, determined the appearance of most of the buildings in this area. The 1990 National Register nomination for the area analyzed the prevalence of various residential building styles and types, and this information provides an interesting companion to the general history of the development of the area.

The *Greek Revival* was the predominant architectural style employed throughout southern Wisconsin in the 1840s and 1850s, and its popularity was due in part to the availability of widely-circulated standard plans. In general, the earliest examples of Greek Revival residences in the Old Fourth Ward are found along Cherry, Holmes and Academy Streets in the Near Downtown area, and in Monterey. A total of thirty-eight examples were identified in the architectural inventory of this area.

Only five examples of residences influenced by the picturesque *Gothic Revival* style are found here. Versions of the Gothic Revival were widely illustrated in builder's books and popular periodicals at mid-century. Steeply-pitched roofs are a common feature of the Gothic Revival houses in the District.

Thirty-nine examples of *Italianate* style residences were identified in the Old Fourth Ward. Although they comprise only 4% of the District's building stock, a good number are high-styled, and they compare favorably to Look West and Courthouse Hill examples from this period. The Italianate was a very popular style in America prior to the Civil War, and was translated into Janesville industrialists' mansions as well as small workers' cottages. Many handsome examples are featured in *Picturesque Janesville Illustrated* (1888) and other promotional guides of the period.

Eighty-six examples of the *Queen Anne* style constructed between about 1880 and 1910 were identified in the District. One popular version is two-and one-half stories, with a rectangular plan and a full front porch.

There are many variations of this complex and picturesque style, with a prominent front gable, and a rich wall surface covered with clapboards and shingles. A variety of turned posts and balustrades can be seen on even simple examples.

Nearly three-quarters of the residences in the District were constructed by 1900. Consequently, there are relatively few examples of the bungalows and other houses inspired by the *American Arts and Crafts* movement or the *Colonial* and other *Period Revival* styles. Examples of these styles are found in parts of Janesville which developed at or after the turn of the century.

THE OLD FOURTH WARD



Rich house, 302 Linn Street. Photograph 1888. This Gothic Revival house was built near the western edge of the Fourth Ward in the late 1850s. Several members of the Rich family have resided here, including Eugene A., a conductor for the Chicago and North Western Railway. (From Picturesque Janesville Illustrated, 1888.)



Rich house, 302 Linn Street. Photograph 1990.



159 and 165 South Jackson. Photograph 1888. The two houses shown here are representative of the stylish Queen Anne houses built in the Old Fourth Ward in the 1880s. Asymmetrical plans, the combined use of clapboards and shingles, and ornate porches are typical features of the style. (From Picturesque Janesville Illustrated, 1888.)

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Vernacular Houses in the Old Fourth Ward: An Overview of Types

The National Register of Historic Places study found that the majority of houses in the area (73%) were simple frame structures with very little exterior ornamentation. These dwellings are commonly described by the term vernacular. Although there is great variety in the appearance of the houses, they share a common simplicity of form and decoration. Most of Janesville's vernacular examples were created by builders who used standardized plans and building components. Often, a row of nearly identical houses stand on a single block, differentiated only slightly in the treatment of porches and other exterior features.

In Janesville, these houses are a symbol of the middle and working classes, and of a pattern of homeownership which allowed most workers and their families to reside in single-family dwellings. The "Janesville vernacular" evident in the Old Fourth Ward can be seen elsewhere in the city, and in the surrounding rural areas of Rock County. Just as historic architectural styles are identified by their massing, decoration, and materials, these dwellings can be identified by the prevalence of certain types. In the Old Fourth Ward, five types were identified: the "Gabled Ell," "Front Gable," "Side Gable," "American Foursquare," and the "One- and Two-story Cube." Such terms for simple dwellings often vary from region to region, but these are in common use in Wisconsin. Nearly all of these buildings are of frame construction, with a few examples of limestone, brick, and concrete block dwellings.

Originally, before significant alterations were made, the vernacular houses that make up much of the District possessed integrity of materials and form. Unfortunately, the simplicity of the vernacular house has not always been appreciated, and the application of a variety of artificial siding products and remodeling at porches and windows has often greatly changed their appearance.

The *Gabled Ell* was the most common vernacular type constructed in the Old Fourth Ward between ca. 1855 and 1900. The one- or two-story ell intersects the main block of the house in an L- or T-plan. Builders sometimes added a variety of Greek Revival, Italianate, or Queen Anne style decorative features to the exterior, particularly at the porch, entry, or windows.

The *Front Gable* vernacular type is a rectangular building, one or one-and one-half stories in height with a prominent gable end. Many have full front porches. The *Side Gable* variant presents its long wall to the street facade, and sometimes reflects Greek Revival or the later Colonial Revival and Craftsman motifs. Both of these house types were popular from about 1870 to about 1900.

A hipped roof, wide eaves, central dormers, and front porches extending across the front facade are common characteristics of this popular house type. A number of treatments were applied to the *American Foursquare* with Colonial Revival and even Prairie School motifs. Many examples in the District date from about 1912 to 1920.

The *Cube* of one or two stories was popular with builders at the turn of the century. This boxy house commonly had a low or steeply-pitched hipped roof, and very little ornamental detail.

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Albert P. Bennett, Andrew G. Anderson, and Oliver P. Robinson houses, 162, 156, and 152 Cherry Street. Photograph 1888. Bennett was an agricultural implement dealer; Anderson was employed as foreman at the Janesville Machine Company, and Robinson was a physician. Their occupations and simple dwellings were typical of those found in the Old Fourth Ward. (From Picturesque Janesville Illustrated, 1888.)

The Gabled Ell:

Patrick Casey house, 502 S. Locust, 1869. Casey was listed in the 1874 Janesville Directory as a laborer. Other Caseys at this residence in 1885 were Bridget, Patrick's widow; John, a molder at the Janesville Machine Company; and Miss Lizzie A., a dressmaker.



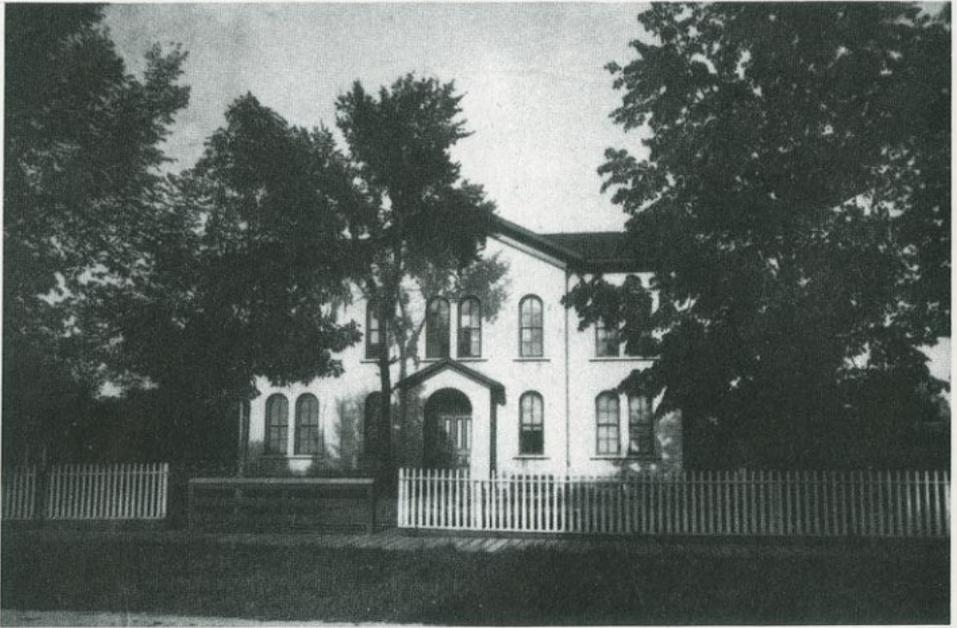
Workers' Cottages, 210 and 214 Riverside Street, ca. 1905-1910. Constructed of rusticated concrete blocks, a row of four of these small houses have similar exterior details.



NEAR DOWNTOWN

On the west side of the Rock River, additions with names such as Smith, Bailey and Stone's; Doe's; Palmer and Sutherland's, and Railroad were made to the original plat of Janesville between 1840 and 1870. The additions created a patchwork pattern of grid-plan streets which intersected along High Street. While lots near the river's edge to the east were developed with several industrial complexes (including the Harris Manufacturing Company and the J.B. Humes Planing Mill and Sash Factory), residences, churches and schools filled in all of the remaining lots.

Near Downtown is an approximately 15-block area just south of Janesville's west side commercial area. Here, a number of the city's businessmen and professionals created an enclave of handsome houses. The area is bounded very roughly by South Jackson and South Academy Streets at the east and west, and by McKinley and West Holmes Streets at the north and south. Although some of the city's most prominent families lived here, with a few exceptions the architecture of the Near Downtown section of the Old Fourth Ward did not rival that of Courthouse Hill or even the northwest corner of Look West. Names such as Jeffris, Harris, and Tallman are associated with fine houses in this section. However, they are interspersed with the modest cottages of laborers; here, employer and employee lived in close proximity.

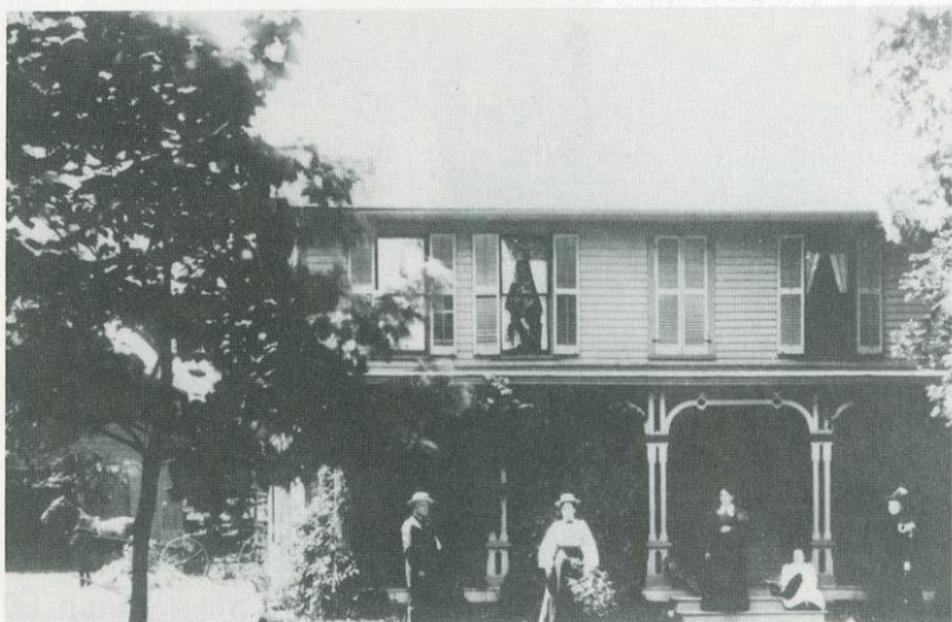


Old Fourth Ward School, High and Van Buren Streets, 1873. Date of photograph unknown. In 1856, the public schools of Janesville were consolidated and a Board of Education was created. Over the next decades, each ward was provided with primary and intermediate schools. A district school at the northwest corner of Linn and West Racine Streets (razed) and this Italianate style school dating from ca. 1875 served the Old Fourth Ward. More recently, this building was used as a Knights of Columbus Hall and was then razed.

NEAR DOWNTOWN



James Harris house, 170 S. Jackson, 1870. Photograph 1888. The high-styled residence of this Janesville industrialist was crowned by an ornate mansard roof.



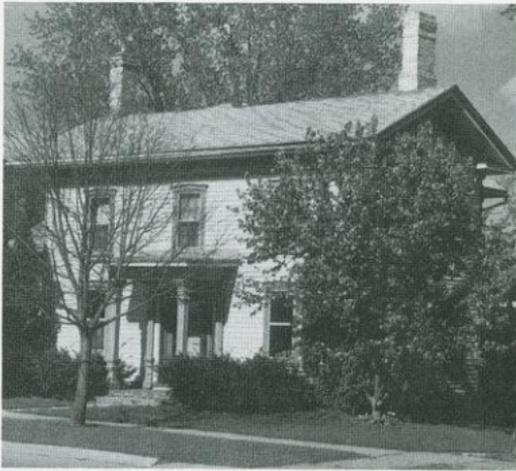
C.E. Sherwood house, 324 S. Academy, ca. 1870. Photograph 1895. Sherwood is pictured with his family in front of their simple clapboard residence; from left to right: C.E. Sherwood, Jessie Sherwood Spring, Emily Tyler Watson, Clara Sherwood, and Mary Watson Sherwood. Sherwood's occupation is unknown.

SOUTH ACADEMY STREET



120
ca. 1876

One of few brick houses in the District, 120 retains most of its original details including bracketed eaves, prominent hoods at the windows and entry, and an elliptical window in the gable end. Charles B. Withington, who resided here between about 1876 and 1905, was an inventor.

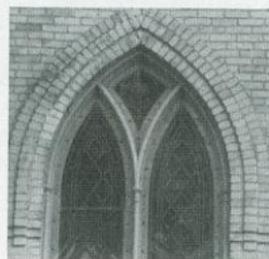


121
Chase
ca. 1858

This Italianate house has a prominent central entry framed with sidelights and pilasters, and a porch carried by decorative posts. The windows have pedimented lintels with footed sills. William Chase was employed as a cooper.



169
St. Paul's German
Lutheran Church
1883, steeple 1893
Photograph 1888.



The German Evangelical congregation, the earliest group of Lutherans to organize in Janesville, were housed in this cream brick Gothic Revival building for many years. They organized in 1865 and met in the old Baptist Church until the construction of this building in 1883. The steeple was completed ten years later. It has since housed the Seventh Day Adventist and, since 1987, the All Saints Anglican congregations.

SOUTH ACADEMY STREET



220
Durkee-Tallman
1869
G.F. Schulze, architect

Photograph 1888.



Limestone-trimmed cream brick was employed in this handsome example of the Italianate style. Of particular note are the elaborate carved stone lintels with shield keystones, and the broad wooden frieze under the eaves decorated with modillions and brackets.

The house was built for Mrs. S.G. Durkee, the widow of a downtown merchant. In 1874, the house was sold for back taxes to chemist William H. Tallman (1832-1902), the son of William M. Tallman and the operator of the Tallman Perfume Factory. The property remained in the Tallman family until the late 1950s, and today it is used as a funeral home.

Established in 1857, the Tallman Perfume Factory was housed in the former Baptist Church at 102 South Cherry, and was in operation until about 1900. The firm employed about fifty persons, primarily young women, and manufactured a variety of perfumes, plasters, and toilet waters. One account noted that the atmosphere around the factory was "redolent with intoxicating scents and essences of the Far East."

168

HOLLAND'S JANESVILLE DIRECTORY.

ESTABLISHED 1857,

WM. H. TALLMAN,

Successor to TALLMAN & COLLINS,

Manufacturing Perfumer,

AND DISTILLER OF ODORS.

Received the only Prize given to the United States for Perfumes
at the Paris Exposition in 1867.

LABORATORY,

JANESVILLE, WIS.

SEND FOR PRICE LIST.

SOUTH CHERRY STREET



152

Dr. Oliver P. Robinson
ca. 1850

Returns at the eaves and a classical frieze are among Greek Revival details of this small brick house. According to the National Register nomination for the area, this is one of the oldest residences remaining in the District. Robinson, a native of New Jersey, arrived in Janesville in 1846.



212-214

David Jeffris
1862



David Jeffris, a Kentucky native who settled in Janesville in 1846, built this hipped-roof Italianate style house and resided here until about 1890. He was associated with many early local enterprises, including a lumber yard, a contracting business, the Janesville Machine Company, and the Merchants and Mechanics Savings Bank (now Valley Bank-Janesville). As a builder, he is credited with the construction of at least 400 residences, the First Congregational and other churches, the Grand Hotel and numerous stores in Janesville and the surrounding area.

The Jeffris house has many distinctive architectural features, including scroll brackets, and a bead and reel molding at the eaves and frieze. The classical porch was probably added at the turn of the century.

Above:

Grace Mouat Jeffris standing on the front porch of the David Jeffris house, 212-214 S. Cherry Street. Photograph 1870. Courtesy of Alan Dunwidie. At some point after this photograph was taken, the north wing of the house was enlarged by raising the roof approximately four feet.

SOUTH CHERRY STREET



315

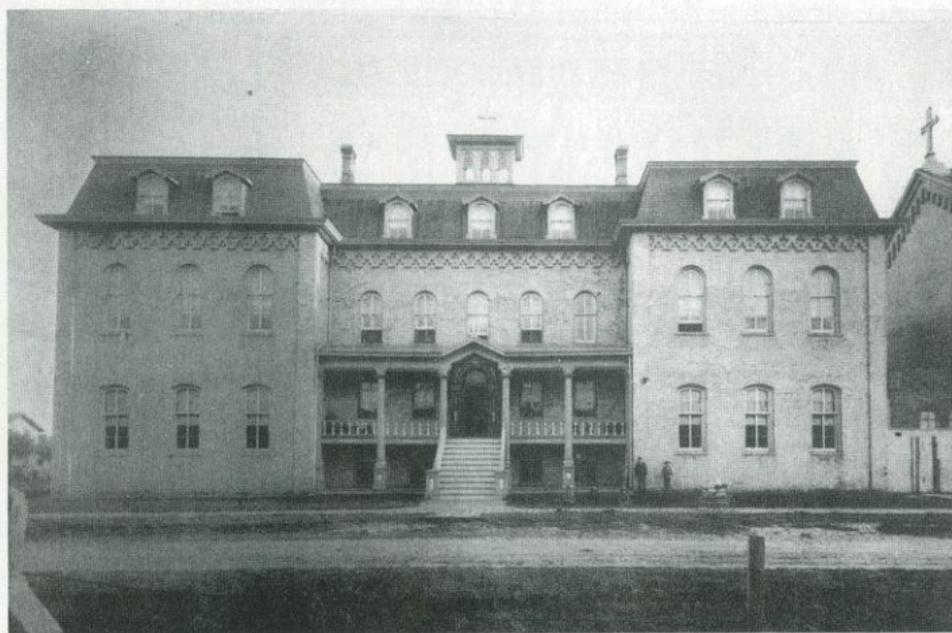
St. Patrick's Catholic
Church

1864

Photograph 1888.

St. Patrick's Catholic congregation—the first Catholic congregation in Janesville—was organized in 1847 and the first masses were held in a nearby schoolhouse. This cream brick Romanesque Revival edifice replaced an earlier building constructed in 1848. The base of the steeple contains a rose window, and the steeple has a louvered belfry with round-arched openings topped by eight gable peaks surmounted by a steep spire. This is the oldest church building in Janesville still in use as a church.

The large Irish Catholic population of the Old Fourth Ward made up most of the early congregation at St. Patrick's. A school and convent were also part of the complex.



St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy, West Holmes Street (behind St. Patrick's Church). Photograph 1888. Razed.

SOUTH FRANKLIN STREET



252
Ellis Shopbell
1873

The exterior of the Shopbell house is one of the most elaborate in the District. The entry and window openings are treated with a variety of round- and segmental-arch frames. The porches are carried by carved posts, and spool and spindle balustrades. The double doors at the entry contain teardrop-shaped lights, and oval and round panels.

A native of Pennsylvania, Shopbell arrived in Janesville in 1856. His residence was a good advertisement for his business as a contractor and builder. Additionally, the Phoenix Planing Mill, Shopbell's firm on Milwaukee Street, manufactured stairs, sash, doors, and blinds, and had a trade which extended to Illinois and Indiana.

ELLIS SHOPBELL, CARPENTER,

Builder and Contractor.

ALL KINDS OF REPAIRING DONE. CONTRACTS
TAKEN AND SATISFACTION GUARANTEED.

— o —
Shop Cor. Centre & S. River Sts.,

JANESVILLE, WIS.



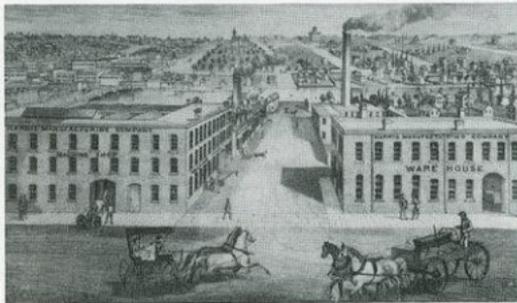
SOUTH JACKSON STREET



170
James Harris
ca. 1870

A prominent mansard roof is a distinctive feature of this elegant house. The roof rests on a paneled frieze enriched with rope moldings and modillions. The vertical emphasis of the building is accentuated by two indented panels in the brick facade, which extend to the roofline.

From his shop begun in 1859 for the manufacture of farm equipment and machinery, James Harris developed a large business which employed about 125 workers by 1869. In 1881, the firm was incorporated as the Janesville Machine Company with Harris and A.P. Lovejoy as owners. A leading manufacturer of agricultural implements, this undertaking eventually developed into an automobile assembly plant for General Motors. In 1882, Harris left Janesville Machine and established a barbed wire manufacturing company at the northeastern edge of the Old Fourth Ward. This firm, known later as the Janesville Fence and Post Company and eventually as Harris Ace Hardware, still exists today.



Harris Manufacturing Company. This engraved view, of 1873, advertised the firm as the manufacturer of the Little Champion Reaper and Mower and the Prairie City Seeder.



255
ca. 1855

255 is one of the earliest Italianate style houses in the Old Fourth Ward. Although the original wooden clapboards have been covered with asbestos siding and the entry has been altered, the house retains important details. The central cupola, lit by nine round-arched windows, is a prominent feature, and the paired brackets at the eaves are also intact.

SOUTH LOCUST STREET



302
Luther Clark
ca. 1870

Exhibiting the same elaboration of entry and windows as the Shopbell house at 252 S. Franklin, the Clark house has an ogee-arch at the front gable, and a barrel-vaulted front porch supported by paired Italianate posts. Luther Clark, who arrived in Janesville in 1849 from Oswego County, New York, was a builder and contractor. Among his still-standing commissions are the Court Street Methodist Church (38 S. Main Street, 1868) and the Courthouse Hill residence of A.P. Lovejoy (220 St. Lawrence Avenue, 1881).



303
ca. 1925

In the Old Fourth Ward there are 33 examples of the Arts and Crafts or Craftsman-inspired bungalow designs which were quite popular in other areas of the city. Despite their modest size, many bungalows were attractively detailed on the exterior, with narrow clapboard siding or shingles, exposed rafters, paneled posts supporting a full porch, and leaded or multi-paned windows.



339
August H. Buggs
ca. 1890

Because of the builder's exuberant use of narrow clapboards and patterned shingles, the Buggs house is among the best examples of the Queen Anne Style house in the District. Of particular note is the veranda, with its spool and spindle balustrade, turned posts, and octagonal corner. Buggs' listings in city directories suggest that he rose from a teamster for the Hogboom and Phelps coal company in the 1870s to the owner of his own coal firm.

MCKINLEY STREET



315
First Methodist Church
1847-48

This small Greek Revival building, now a dwelling, served as the first church for the early Methodist congregation in Janesville. The congregation was organized in 1843. This building was in use between 1848 and 1855, until a new church was completed at S. Jackson and McKinley Streets.



903
Yates
ca. 1855

One of the early owners of this painted brick house was James Yates, a carpenter, who lived here between ca. 1857 and 1862. A tiered stone frieze and returned eaves are the prominent decorative details of the Greek Revival facade. Another early house of similar appearance is located at 203 Linn Street.

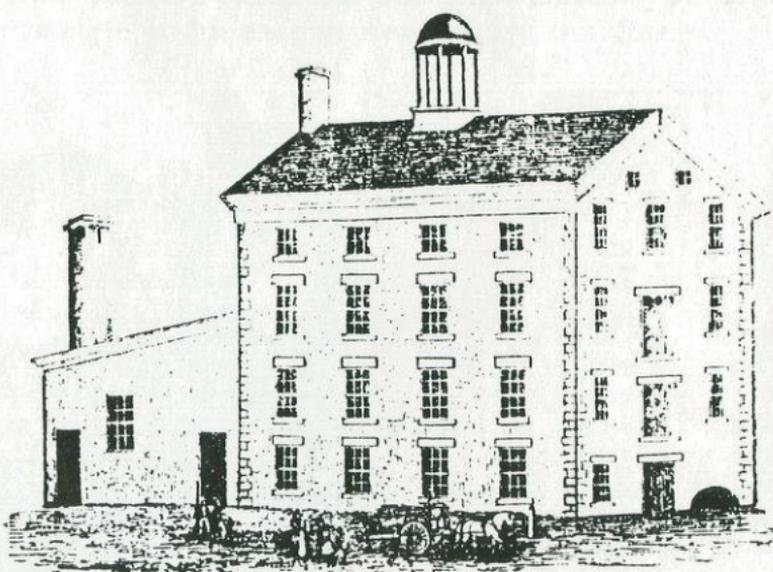
MONTEREY

Entering the water from the west side of the river, at the "Big Bend," the adventurous emigrant found a good footing on a narrow bar, running along the middle of the stream for a distance of about four hundred yards, and joining with the eastern shore a few rods below the mouth of the Lower Branch of Spring Brook, and directly opposite the Big Rock. During periods of high water, wagons were taken over by canoe, and the teams were made to swim across.

History of Rock County, p. 593.



The Big Rock. According to the history of Janesville published in the City Directory and Business Advertiser of 1859, the Big Rock was "an old landmark of the Indians, crowned with a growth of beautiful cedars." At settlement, it rose seventy feet above the water, and a fording point nearby was called the "Big Rock Ford." This vicinity was also known as Holmes' Rapids and St. George's Rapids.



Whittaker's Woolen Factory, at Janesville, Rock Co., Wis.

Whittaker's Woolen Factory, Monterey, 1849. From an engraving published in 1856. Razed.

MONTEREY

The early growth of Monterey at the foot of the Center Avenue bridge is largely associated with the various enterprises of Ira Miltimore of Chicago, who settled in Janesville in 1844. An experienced mason and engineer, he developed the Monterey Quarry near the south bank of the Rock River in 1845. The quarry supplied buff-colored sandstone and limestone, and also a fine grade of blue limestone with many applications in Janesville's new construction. The quarry was in operation until about 1920, and during the peak years of production it employed from 30 to 50 men, primarily Scotch, Irish, and English immigrants. Some quarry workers were reportedly housed in small dwellings—some of two and three rooms—north of the river in the area between Linn and Lincoln Streets. About 1846, Miltimore built his first residence near the intersection of Riverside Street and Center Avenue on the north side of the river, and later constructed a house south of the river near the quarry, at the southeast corner of Center and Eastern Avenues.

In 1848, Miltimore built a wing dam adjacent to his recently-platted Miltimore's Addition, on the north side of the river. This first dam was destroyed by floods and was subsequently replaced by an L-shaped, cut stone structure five feet high and two-hundred feet long. A heavy embankment enclosed races which provided a fall of eight to ten feet. Remnants of the races are still visible.

By 1860, the Monterey industrial district near the dam included three flour mills, a stone cutting mill, and a woolen mill. The flour mills—with the others on the upper race in central Janesville—reflected the domination of wheat growing in the region, and the city's ability to process agricultural products. The four-story woolen mill, representing the first attempt at textile manufacture in Janesville, was constructed in 1849 by Frank Whittaker. Under a series of owners who produced a variety of products, the company continued to operate until 1960. The mill (completely rebuilt after a fire in 1888) now houses the Panoramic Corporation.

Prior to the construction of a bridge in 1849–1850, ferries provided a connection between the Old Fourth Ward and the quarry across the river. When the Chicago, St. Paul and Fond du Lac Railroad was constructed as far as Janesville in 1857, it was routed across the Rock River at Monterey.

The residential area in the vicinity of the bridge and dam is distinguished by its collection of early Greek Revival, Italianate, and vernacular dwellings. Excellent examples of quarry workers' and other laborers' houses built in the 1850s stand on Center, Washington, and Linn Streets and on Wilson Avenue and Rockport Road. Of particular interest is the collection of stone houses constructed here before the Civil War, likely with stone from Miltimore's quarry.

A small commercial district was concentrated near the foot of the Center Avenue bridge. The buildings date from the mid-1850s to the 1920s, and have housed blacksmith shops, a broom factory, a feed store, and meat and grocery stores.

During the 1930s, a project sponsored by the C.W.A. transformed the marshy area on the north riverbank opposite the Big Rock into Monterey Park, a 47-acre tract owned by the City of Janesville.

CENTER AVENUE



720
O'Donnell-Hedgecock
Filling Station
1923

While still in operation in 1977, this building was noted as the "oldest continuously operating station in Rock County." Its English cottage design is typical of filling station architecture of the period.

Previously on this site stood a small schoolhouse owned by Ira Miltimore. It was in use prior to the construction of a public school on Linn Street.



814
ca. 1846

This is one of several buildings reportedly constructed near the river by Ira Miltimore. Directories indicate that Reese Davis, a laborer, resided here between 1857 and 1862. The original architectural treatment of this simple building included regularly-spaced, rectangular windows, and returns at the eaves. Local tradition states that 802, at the end of the block, was the first site of the School for the Blind, of which Miltimore was a founder and promoter.

C. K. MILTIMORE,

Eureka Quarry

CORNER

Center and Eastern Aves.,

Janesville.

The Eureka Quarry was opened by Chauncey Miltimore, Ira's son.

LINN STREET



502
Meyers-Buttrey
ca. 1855, addition of 1890.

This two-story cube is constructed of regularly-coursed stone. Flat stone lintels and stone sills were used at the window openings.



618
Roswell Hill
ca. 1855

The walls of this blacksmith's house were laid in irregularly coursed limestone. As is evident in a 1911 view, the central-entry facade was originally oriented toward the street.



618 Linn Street. Photograph 1911.

ROCKPORT ROAD



819
ca. 1860-70

This tiny dwelling is of the type that sometimes housed laborers or workers from Miltimore's quarry across the river. Directories indicate that between 1878 and 1909 it was the residence of John Abendroth, a shoemaker.



904
Roswell Hill Blacksmith
Shop
ca. 1855

The ground floor of this two-story limestone building housed the blacksmith shop of Roswell Hill. A small broom factory once operated on the second floor.



922
Roesling Brothers
Grocery and Meat
Market
ca. 1879



Beginning with the business of German-born Paul Rudolf, this brick structure housed a succession of grocery stores until 1945. When the photograph above was taken in 1925, it was owned by Eugene A. Roesling. A flour and feed store was located in the monitor-roofed brick building at the rear.

Above:

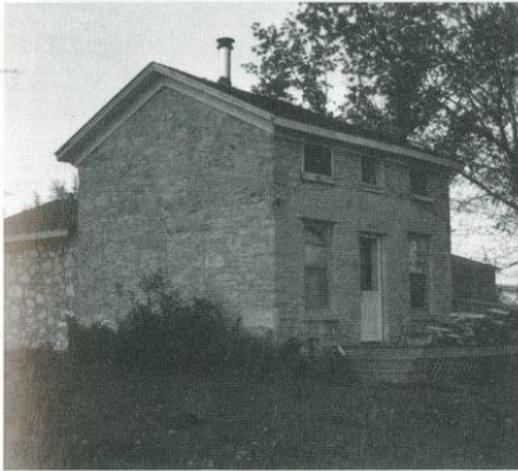
Roesling Brothers Grocery and Meat Market. Photograph 1925.

RIVERSIDE/WILSON/S. WASHINGTON



1020 Riverside St.
ca. 1855

This two-story red brick house is exemplary of early masonry construction in the Monterey area. A notable feature is the sidelight-flanked entry, which is capped with a large, smoothly-finished lintel.



820 Wilson Ave.
Charles Skelly
1855

The Skelly house is constructed of irregularly-coursed sandstone. The front windows of the first floor of the small dwelling have flat stone lintels and sills, and there is a flat stone lintel at the entrance. The attic half-story windows have wooden lintels.



716 Washington St.
Seth Dustin
1853

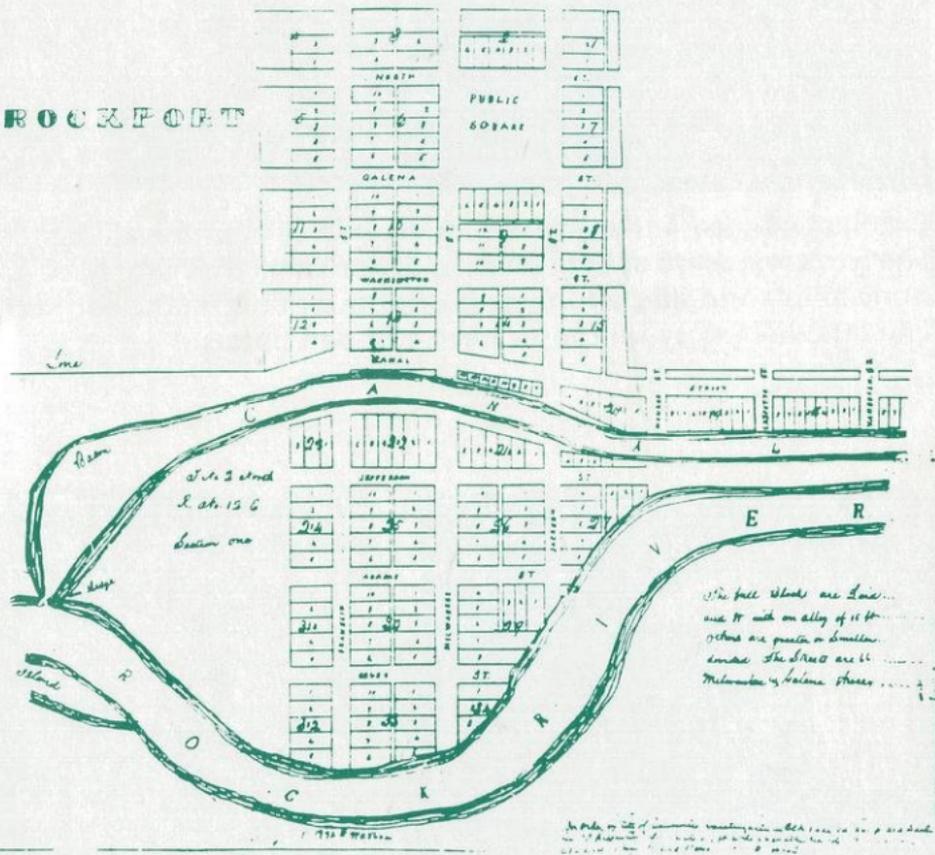
Dustin was the owner of the Monterey Stone Mill where, in addition to sawing stone from Miltimore's quarry, he also produced oil, crushed corn and ground feed. Reportedly, Dustin also operated a boarding house between 1853 and 1860. The boarders were workers at the nearby Whittaker Woolen Mill. The Greek Revival Dustin house was executed in regularly-coursed, buff-colored limestone.

ROCKPORT

The growth of Rockport reflects the post-Civil War expansion of Janesville. Between about 1880 and 1900, the area first intended as a separate village became a fairly densely settled urban neighborhood of modest homes. A bird's eye view of the city, titled "Janesville, Wisconsin, Looking Down the River in 1877" indicates that at that date, Rockport still had only a scattering of residential development.

The earliest settler appears to have been Judge William Holmes, originally from Pennsylvania. In the spring of 1836 he built a frame house near the present Fourth Ward Park. A portion of this early house is believed to survive as a wing of 612 Park Street. His son, Thomas Holmes, had laid out the plat of surrounding Rockport in the fall of the previous year. This area was quite removed from the beginnings of central Janesville on the east side of the river, as platted by Henry Janes in 1837. The plats of Rockport and Janesville, as well as Wisconsin City downriver, were both fueled by a spirit of speculation, and few townsite investors were as successful as Janes.

Rockport's grid plan contained a vacant block designated as a public square. Townsite developers and their surveyors often reserved such spaces for the siting of a courthouse, park, or other public facility. When Janesville was incorporated as a city in 1853, this 2-acre square was designated Fourth Ward Park and has since remained in continuous public use. The presence of the park did not spur the construction of any elaborate houses, as appears to have been the case on Courthouse Hill east of the river.



Plan of Rockport, 1835. Thomas Holmes' plan provided for a canal and industrial lots along Canal Street. The southern section of the plan was a marshy area at settlement and is now a part of Monterey Park.

S. ACADEMY ST./ROCKPORT ROAD



Fourth Ward Park
1835
Park Avenue



503 S. Academy St.
Alexander Grogan
ca. 1867

A well-conserved example of a gabled ell, located near the edge of the original Rockport plat. Original features including turned wooden porch posts, scroll brackets, and window details are intact. Alexander Grogan, who resided here between about 1868 and 1888, listed his occupation as a laborer. Charles Buggs, the owner between 1900 and 1931, was a coal dealer.



317 Rockport Road
ca. 1855

The central chimney, low-pitched hipped roof, returns at the eaves, and simple posts at the porch are clues to the early date of this dwelling. It stands on a lot platted along a proposed canal on the original plan of Rockport. On the plan, Rockport Road was shown as "Canal Street."

Glossary

Acanthus

Stylized multi-leaf plant form used to decorate moldings, brackets, and capitals.

Baluster

A small column which supports a staircase, porch, or landing rail.

Balustrade

A series of balusters.

Bay

One unit of a building consisting of a series of similar units, usually window and door openings.

Belt Course

A horizontal band, usually of masonry, extending across the facade and sometimes encircling the building.

Bracket

A projecting member which supports or appears to support a load, usually at eaves or overhangs.

Capital

The top of a column or pilaster, supporting the entablature.

Clapboard

A long narrow board, overlapped to cover outer walls of frame structures.

Classical

Pertaining to the architecture of ancient Greece and Rome.

Colonette

A small column, usually decorative.

Colossal Order

An order of columns or pilasters spanning several stories of a facade.

Corbel

A bracket or block projecting from the face of a wall.

Corinthian Order

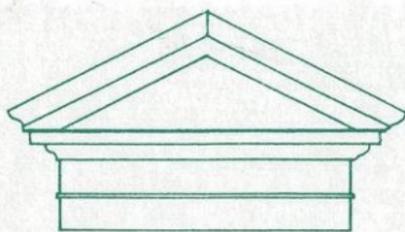
The most ornate of Greek orders: characterized by a slender fluted column and a capital decorated with acanthus leaves.

Cornice

The upper projecting section of the entablature, resting on the frieze.

Cupola

A dome-shaped roof, usually on the ridge of a roof.



Pediment

Doric Order

The simplest Greek order, consisting of heavy fluted columns, plain saucer-like capitals, and a simple cornice.

Dormer

A window projecting from a pitched roof.

Entablature

Part of a structure between the column capital and the roof of a pediment; comprises the architrave, frieze, and cornice.

Finial

An ornament which terminates the point of a spire or tower.

Frieze

The central element of the entablature, above the architrave and below the cornice.

Gable

The triangular wall at the end of a double-pitched or gabled roof.

Hood Molding

The projecting molding over a door or window.

Keystone

The central voussoir of an arch.

Label Molding

A hood molding over a window or door, in which the lower ends are turned away from the opening horizontally.

Mansard roof

A roof that has two slopes on all four sides.

Modillion

An ornamental bracket or console used in a series under a cornice, usually of the Corinthian order.

Molding

A continuous decorative band, carved or applied to a surface.

Monitor roof

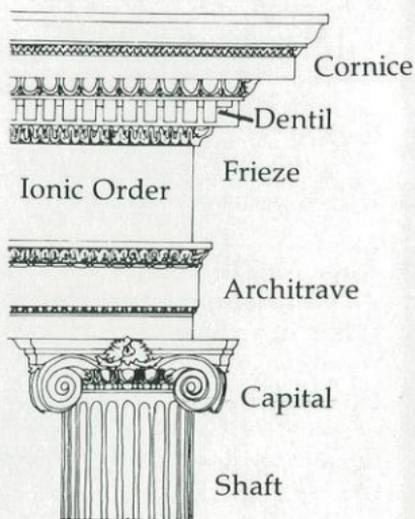
A raised structure that straddles the ridge, providing light to the interior.

Ogee arch

A double curved arch consisting of a convex and concave part; an s or inverted s.

Palladian Window

A triple opening, the arched center usually the widest.



Pediment

A triangular section of wall above the cornice of an order.

Portico

A columned porch, usually with a pedimented roof.

Rope Molding

A bead molding carved in imitation of a rope.

Rose window

A round window with tracery or stained glass radiating from the center.

Sidelight

Fixed glass alongside a door or window opening.

Spindle

A turned wooden element used for decoration.

Transom

A horizontal frame, usually glazed, above a window or a door.

Turret

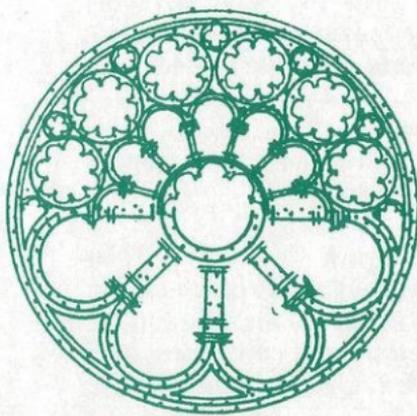
A small, slender tower, usually glazed, usually at the corner of a building.

Volute

The spiral which forms the Ionic capital.

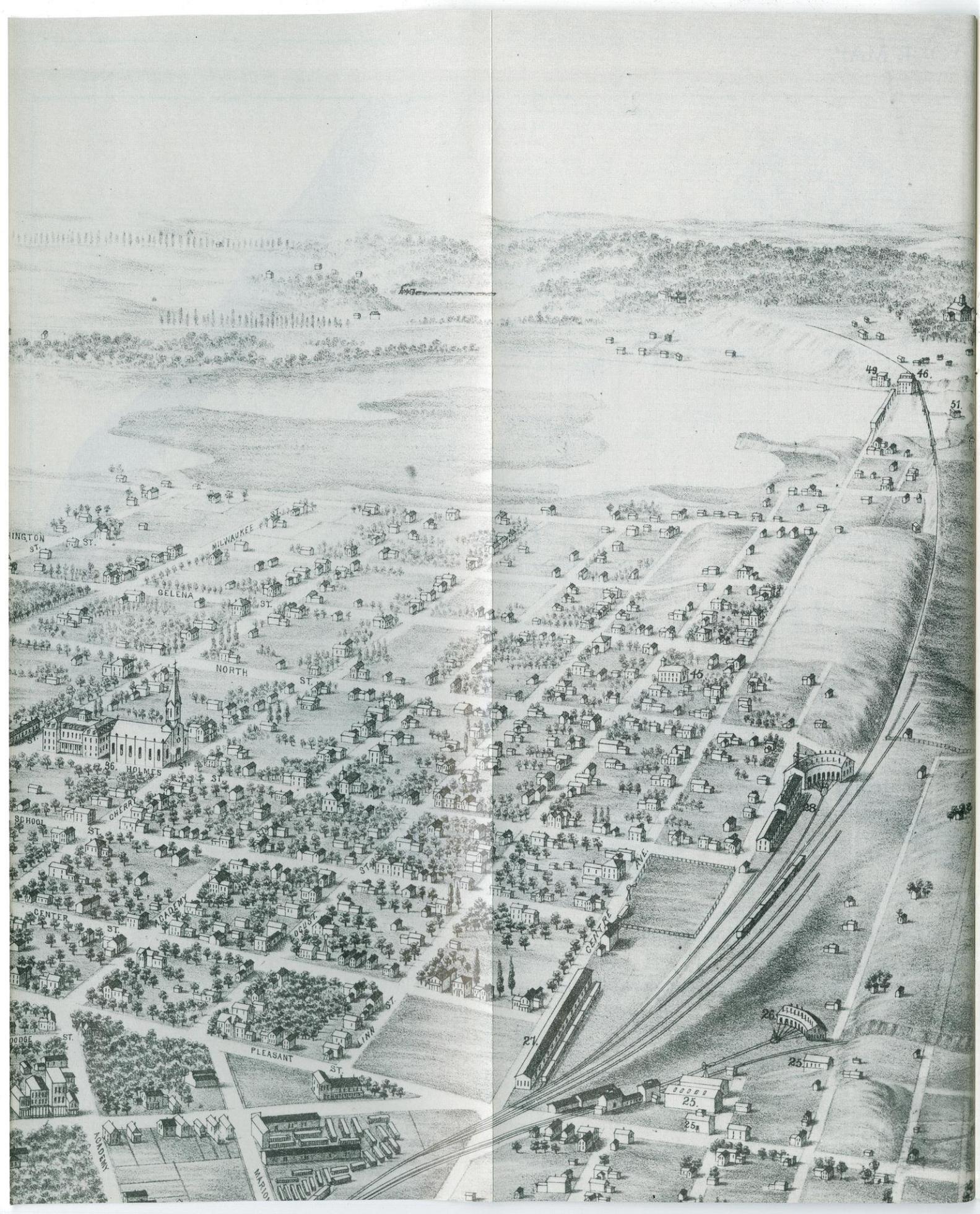
Vousoir

Wedge-shaped stones, which form an arch.



Rose window





For Further Reading

An excellent discussion of the architecture of Rock County is contained in *Rock County Historic Sites and Buildings*, written by Nancy B. Douglas and Richard P. Hartung and published by the Rock County Historical Society in 1976. Among many surveys and guides dealing with the development of American architectural styles:

Harris, Cyril M. *Dictionary of Architecture and Construction*. New York: McGraw Hill, 1975.

Poppeliers, John C. *What style is it?* Washington, D.C.: Preservation Press, 1983.

Roth, Leland. *A Concise History of American Architecture*. New York: Harper and Row, 1979.

Whiffen, Marcus and Koeper, Frederick. *American Architecture 1607-1976*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1981.

Much of the information contained in this guide is found in the Old Fourth Ward National Register of Historic Places district nomination prepared by Carol L. Cartwright for the Janesville Historic Commission (1990) and in the thematic reports prepared by Randall Waller (1988). Copies of this material can be obtained from the Janesville Community Development Department.



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Opposite:

The Old Fourth Ward in 1877. From Janesville, Wisconsin, Looking Down the River in 1877. The mills at Monterey, the tree-covered public square at Rockport, and the churches and dense settlement of the Near Downtown area are evident in this view.

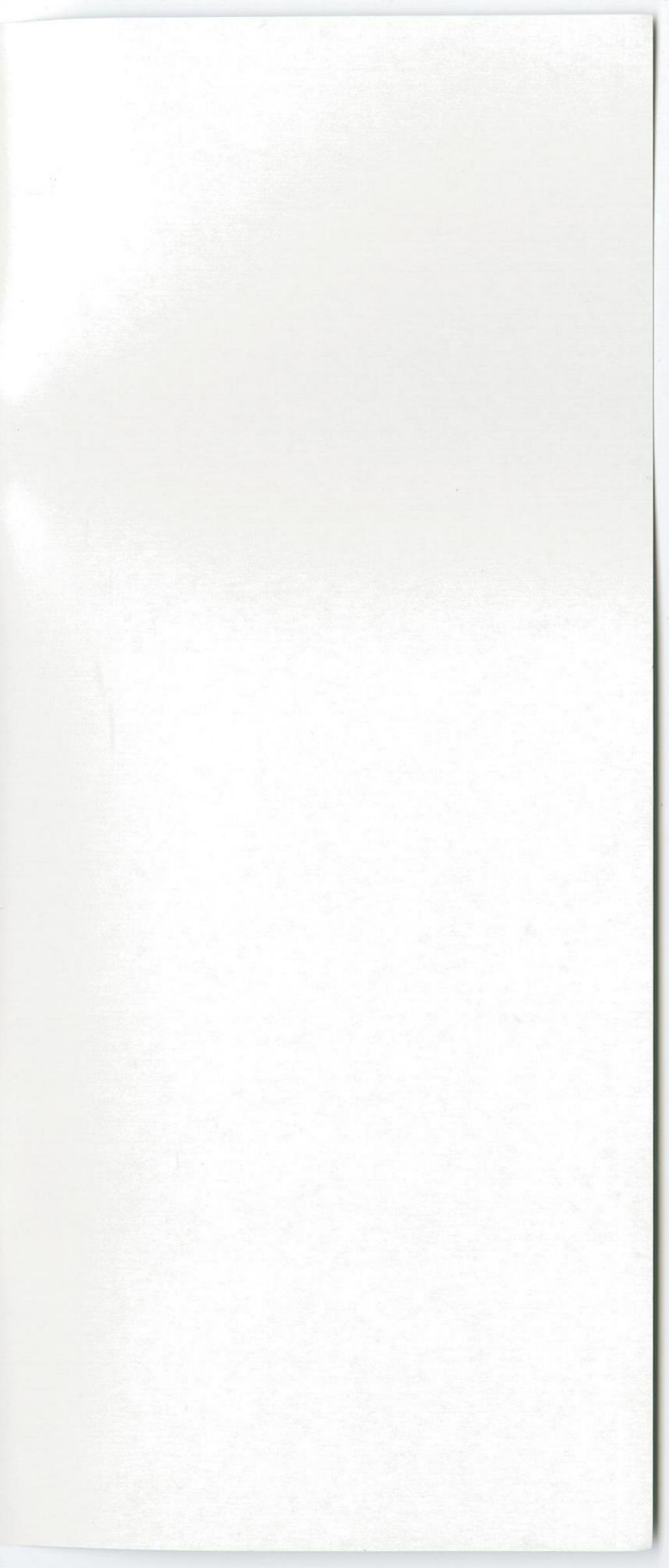
Cover:

252 South Franklin Street. Ellis Shopbell House, 1873. Photo: Judith Adler.

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For further information on historic preservation programs in the City of Janesville, please contact the Janesville Historic Commission, 18 North Jackson Street, Janesville, Wisconsin 53545, (608) 755-3085 or 755-3065.





The Janesville Historic Commission

1990