

Historical homes of Prairie du Sac: a project of the Sauk Prairie Area Historical Society. 1999

[Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin]: Sauk Prairie Area Historical Society, 1999

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Historical Homes of Prairie du Sac







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HISTORICAL HOMES OF PRAIRIE DU SAC

A Project of The Sauk Prairie Area Historical Society

First Printing Prairie du Sac, August 1999

Additional copies are available at The Tripp Museum Building, 565 Water Street and The Prairie du Sac Library, 560 Park Avenue.

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> Prairie du Sac Library 560 Park Ave. Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

State of Wisconsin

County of Sauk

Village of Prairie du Sac

RESOLUTION NO. <u>5-25-99</u>

WHEREAS, the Village of Prairie du Sac, WI is home to a significant number of state and national Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that beneficial and progressive community growth cannot occur without supporting recognition and awareness of the community's historical character; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, the Sauk Prairie Area Historical Society initiated a photographic survey of significant architectural and historical homes and businesses in the Village of Prairie du Sac; and

WHEREAS, the dedicated efforts of Leta Ambler, Jon Giegerich, Henry Russell and other members of the Sauk Prairie Area Historical Society produced a pictorial survey of the historic homes and businesses of the community,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board of the Village of Prairie du Sac do hereby proclaim their appreciation and support for this informative and valuable contribution to the residents and community of Prairie du Sac.

Adopted by unanimous vote of the Village Board of the Village of Prairie du Sac, May 25, 1999

Cheryl A. Sherman Village President

Shawn M. Murphy Village Administrator



"Face our future, by remembering our past." An Introduction

IT IS indeed an honor to write some introductory remarks for this marvelous booklet.

The village of Prairie du Sac is very fortunate to have such a hardworking, dedicated group of "historians." The Sauk Prairie Area Historical Society has compiled the information for more than 80 of our oldest homes. All the buildings included were constructed before 1920.

The Prairie du Sac Post Office displays Prairie du Sac's original Centennial Sign that reminds us to "face our future, by remembering our past." The Sauk Prairie Area Historical Society certainly helps us "face our future."

Going through this booklet has been very enjoyable. It has been very entertaining "visualizing" what life would have been like as these buildings were added to the village. Putting names to the homes has been a real education. I never realized how many homes had been moved from one spot to another. I am thankful that we have recorded, with pictures, the buildings that were razed in the name of progress.

On behalf of the citizens of Prairie du Sac, I wish to thank the Sauk Prairie Area Historical Society for reminding us of our past and preserving it for the future with this booklet.

- Cheryl A. Sherman

Village President Prairie du Sac May 1999



Acknowledgments

IT IS the wish of the Committee that this collection of houses built before 1920 will be of interest. The historic houses included were ones for which information about style, construction, and ownership was available. We thank the present owners as well as families and friends for sharing their knowledge.

As time passes it becomes more difficult to trace home histories. Some older houses have been removed to make way for new buildings while other homes are being beautifully restored. Previous farms on the edge of the village, such as the Bickford, Patchen, Junge and C.C. Steuber properties, are now in the village and lost as farms. Apartment houses stand where pea fields and cow pastures once were.

As you look over this booklet you might enjoy adding your own family's recollections to these descriptions.

And you may find a few mistakes.

Our sources did not always agree.

The photographs were taken by Marlene Meyer, Harlan Stone, Robert France, Leta Ambler and Forrest Zantow

The Committee: Leta Ambler, Janice Bender, Marjorie Oneson and Florence Sprecher

A Special Note of Appreciation

For the work done by Walter G. Doll in preparation for the production of *Historical Sketches of PRAIRIE DU SAC*.

For the material written by Erhart Mueller that appeared in The Historical Society's Newsletters between 1975 and 1992.

They both contributed greatly to this booklet.

August Derleth

Historical Homes of Prairie du Sac

THE following collection of photographs and prints attempts to capture significant and historical homes in the Village of Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin. This project was initiated with a donation from the Village Board; however, the combined volunteer efforts of dedicated individuals such as Leta Ambler, Janice Bender, Marjorie Oneson, Florence Sprecher, Jon Giegerich and Henry Russell are principally responsible for the compilation of this book.

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69 Water Street: Built in the 1890's, this was the home of F.S. Eberhardt who operated a variety store in Prairie du Sac. He was also a photographer and took many of the picture scenes around the village. He was the official photographer for the building of the Prairie du Sac Dam. Mrs. Eberhardt taught classes in oil painting and china painting. The home has been remodeled several times and is now an apartment house.



185 Water Street: Built in 1906 by Mary Jane Oertel Atwood and her husband, Professor Atwood, when he retired from the Presidency of Straight University in New Orleans. It is a typical American Four-square house with hip and gabled roofs, bay windows on the two floors, leaded glass windows, attic dormers and a full width porch.



205 Water Street: This was the home of Horatio Moore, a Prairie du Sac merchant and gunsmith. It was a beautiful home with a unique fireplace and stairway and with a shooting range in the basement.



295 Water Street: ".. a proud house high above the river..." – *August Derleth*. Built in 1889 for Miles Keysar who had moved here from New Hampshire. He was a leader in the growth and development of the village. He was in business and lumber, built the Keysar Grain Elevator, partly owned the Ellen Hardy Steamboat and helped bring in the railroad. The home was designed by Louis Clas, formerly of Sauk City. In addition to the usual rooms the home boasted a library, conservatory, art room and a massive open stairway built of swamp oak. Gumwood, mahogany, rosewood, cherry and walnut were used in addition to red and white oak. Louis Pohlman did the carpentry and Wm. F. Steuber the masonry.

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325 Water Street: This Queen Anne Home is known as the Albert (Dudley) Tarnutzer home. He was postmaster from 1898-1922. It has remained in the Tarnutzer family throughout the years.



An early picture: The first three houses on Water Street. It was taken before the Graff House was built in 1911. From left to right, the original owners of these homes were A. Tarnutzer, M.C. Moore and C.I. Kindschi.



339 Water Street: M.C. Moore built this home in 1901. Mr. Moore was the son of E.C. Moore. He operated his own hardware store at 624 Water Street. His wife was Alice Kelsey, a daughter of one of the early settlers, Attorney Samuel Kelsey.

The woodwork on the first floor is oak with a crown molding. The dining room has a lovely builtin china cabinet. The upstairs wood is red pine. There are five bedrooms and a bath upstairs. The two front bedrooms have window seats for viewing the river.

It has since been owned by Dr. Milton Trautman.



351 Water Street: C.I. Kindschi was the original owner of this residence with its beautiful view of the river and hills. It is located in Owen's Subdivision. Porch pillars are constructed of Bedford (Indiana) stone. Unique ovals on the north side are typical of the Queen Anne style. Plans were drawn by C.C. Menes of Lodi, carpentry by Dresen Brothers, mason work by W.F. Steuber and painting by C.G. Just. There are stained glass windows in the front door. The open stairway was removed and stored when it was made into apartments.

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This picture shows the first home on this location with its rock formation which is still in place. The home was moved to 395 Holly Court when Mr. Graff built his new home.

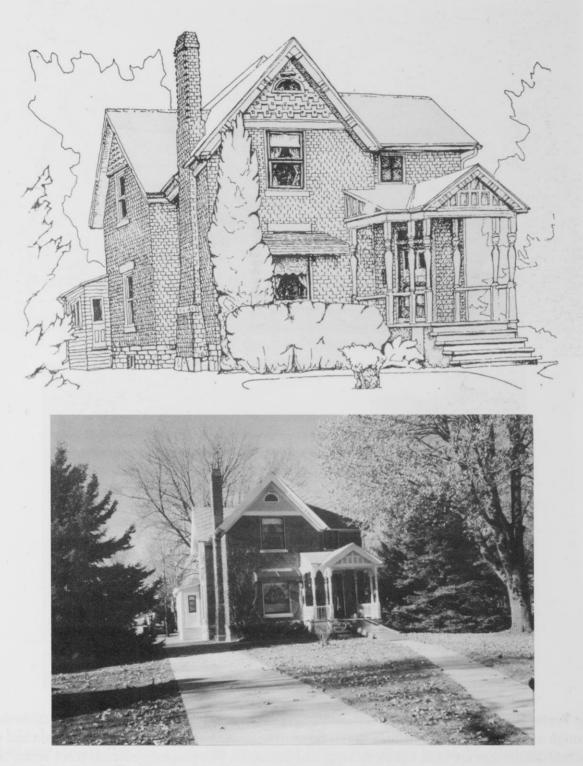


393 Water Street: Built in 1911, this Queen Anne house overlooks the Wisconsin River. It was constructed by Dresen Brothers for August Graff, a retired farmer from the Black Hawk area. It has oak woodwork and oak and maple floors. Alice Graff, daughter of August, was a librarian in Tripp Memorial Library for 40 years.

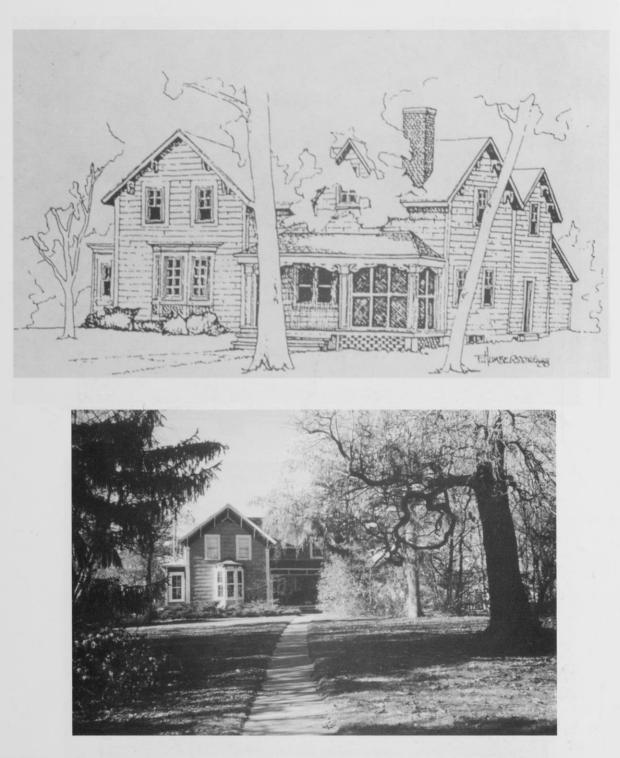
In 1991, Jim Kirner bought and completely renovated the house. It has operated as a bed and breakfast under the name "Graff House."



729 Water Street: David Conger came west in the early 1860s and with his sons started the Conger Store in 1863. This was his home. Its features include two sets of French paneled doors, one ten-panel pocket door, and two sets of bay windows with decorative panels. The front entrance opens to a stairway with black walnut railing. The molding trim around the doors and windows is painted. In the rear of the house is a maid's stairway. To the north is a doorway without a step to the outside, which is thought to be for those entering from carriages. The house was the scene of much social activity.

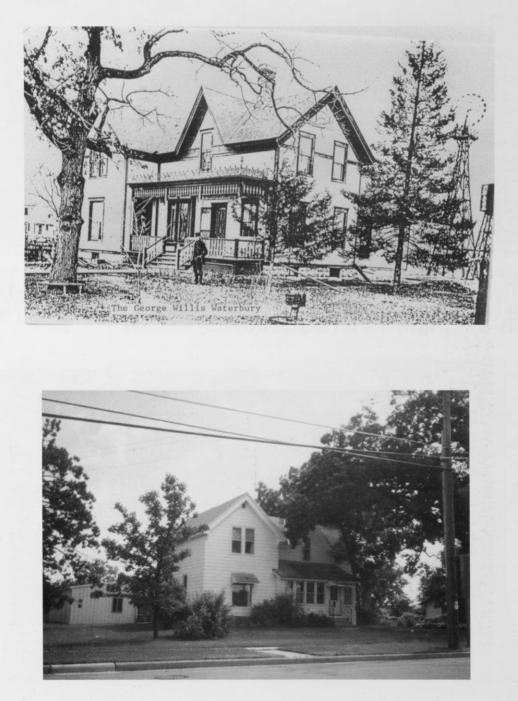


771 Water Street: The land on which this house sits was originally a part of the Waterbury/Tripp property. The house was built in 1892 and is an example of the Queen Anne style. The builder was Orlando Stone, a retired farmer from Sumpter. He remained associated with agriculture and was manager of the Sumpter Creamery from 1892-1901. He was also employed as a clerk in Tripp's bank and became president of it in 1917.



783 Water Street: In 1868 James Isaac Waterbury purchased 110 acres in the town of Prairie du Sac through a tax deed and in 1870 he built this home. The house has a shape known as upright and wing and has details that are both Greek Revival and Italianate. The property extends from Water Street to Seventh Street.

This was also the home of J.S. Tripp when he married Nellie Waterbury and he lived here until his death in 1915. Mr. Tripp was a lawyer and a banker and was very active in local government.



798 Water Street: This was originally the George Willis Waterbury home. Mr. Waterbury was a longtime farmer who lived just south of the Waterbury School in Sumpter. After the marriage of his son Judson, he and his wife moved to Prairie du Sac. Previously they purchased an old house and moved it to this site. It was placed on a cellar wall and an ell portion was added to the building. For many years this was the Albert Gastrow home.



856 Water Street: In 1870 Reverend John Thilke purchased this property and built the limestone, marble-faced house overlooking the Wisconsin River. The limestone used was from a local pit near Cassell. The walls of the house are 2 feet thick. The lumber is white pine that was floated down the Wisconsin River, board upon board forming a raft, held together by large wooden pegs. The well on the east side of the property is 32 feet deep and completely brick lined.



865 Water Street: Mr. William R. Patchen (1827-1920) lived in this home in 1865. He was listed in the Village Directory as a creamery route agent. (He is buried in the Prairie du Sac Cemetery.) The area back of this house was known as Tripp's Grove and many residents used it as a pasture for their cows. It was also a good source of leaf mold; a mixture of decayed oak leaves and black dirt which was good for potted plants. Later it was the home of William Schreiber, Sr. and Jr.

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875 Water Street: This house is known as the Jake Hatz home. It was built by Mr. Hatz in the 1890's. He was the operator of a Mercantile Store in what was known as the Moore Building. In 1889 he built the Hatz Hall. His daughter Dorothy operated the store until she moved to California in 1938.



910 Water Street: The U.S. Government sold this land to William Simon in 1844. It is believed the house was built in the 1890's. It was owned by William Shell in 1916 and by E.M. Waffenschmidt in 1942. Note the decorative wrought iron detail above the front porch.



929 Water Street: In 1880 this was the last house on Water Street. It was known as the Louise Bailey home. Miss Bailey taught grade school for 23 years and was the village librarian for 30 years. Her salary as librarian was 25 cents an hour - when the library was open. She served on the Prairie du Sac School Board from 1923-1926.



963 Water Street: Frank Miles was the former owner of this home. He was depot agent for 47 years. It was built in the 1890's. Interior features oak woodwork and trim. Between the kitchen and dining room is an open china cupboard. Windows to the east feature a beautiful sunburst design. Recently remodeled.



Where the toll house was located at the first bridge.



347 Holly Court: After the toll house was no longer needed it was relocated on this site. This lot was recorded to Oliver Hoyt in 1894. Reuben and Esther Mueller purchased it in 1936. They lived in it until Reuben's death in 1990. Mr. Mueller was a local carpenter with a shop in back of the house on First Street.



Park Avenue May 1908



Looking north on Park Avenue May 1998



202 Park Avenue: The Dresen home was designed and built by Dresen Bros. in 1901. Mr. Dresen did the carpenter work; John Litscher and Cyrus Quimby did the mason work and inside plastering; F.C. Grip & Co. of Rockford, Illinois did the outside pebble plastering; Lawrence Stoddard installed the plumbing and the hot water heating; M.C. Moore did the tin work; Frank Haberman and John Derleth did the inside wood finishing; C.G. Just did the outside painting and cement waterproofing. Dr. R.J. Hudson lived here for many years and during that time it was known as The Hudson House.



259 Park Avenue: This cream brick home was built by Herman Wagner in 1906 and 1907. The interior woodwork is all oak lumber that came from the Baraboo bluffs. Previous owners were Charles and Clara Bole. There is now an apartment upstairs.



265 Park Avenue: Arthur Wagner built this Queen Anne Home in 1906. The wood came from Baxter Hollow and the red brick came from the Merrimack Brick works. Long time resident Martin Accola purchased it in 1918.



274 Park Avenue: This unique Queen Anne home features a wrap around porch made of large local stones, a stone fireplace, and a beautiful open stairway. For many years it was owned by Marion Fisk, a rural mail carrier. He raised goats in a backyard barn.



301 Park Avenue: In 1897, the 164 members of the Friedens Gemeinde petitioned the Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelische Gemeinschaft for a resident pastor. During the pastorate of Reverend H.E. Erffmeyer a new parsonage was built (about 1899) on Park Avenue at the cost of \$2,500. The location was about half-way between the site of the first church (Friedens Gemeinde) in Middletown and the present one (Concordia United Methodist) at the corner of 5th and Galena. It was used until 1969 when a new parsonage was built at 760 Center Street.



312 Park Avenue: Christ Held had a small farm on this site. Later, John Held had his residence and photo studio here. Lots facing First Street were sold. This house was one of the first three houses built on the east side of Park Avenue.



315 Park Avenue: This home was built in 1895. Ulrich Clemens, a blacksmith, lived here; his shop was behind the house. His "Blacksmith" sign stood on the tree bank.



325 Park Avenue: A Dutch Colonial home with cross gambrel roof and a first story bay window. Built in 1905 by John Gruber for his daughter Ursula Gruber Page Ploetz.



329 Park Avenue: This home was built for Professor Bergan. It has oak flooring and woodwork, large windows and doors and attractive extras. It was later owned by Carl Lehman, a local businessman.



330 Park Avenue: This American Four Square home was built in 1902 by James Carpenter, grandfather of the present owner. The entrance was redesigned in 1941.



330 Park Avenue: The Carpenter House as it looked in the early years. An inside and an outside view.



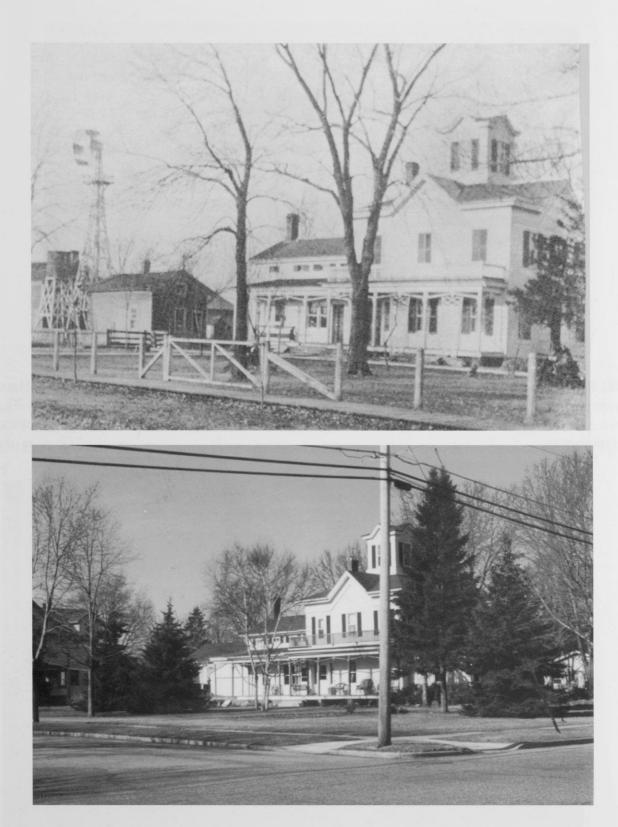
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351 Park Avenue: The Hatz House was built in 1895 for Jacob F. Hatz. Jacob F. And Jacob Hatz were partners in the mercantile store in Hatz Hall. The interior of this house features oak woodwork, two sets of pocket doors, a deep china cupboard in the dining room and a large gracious entranceway.

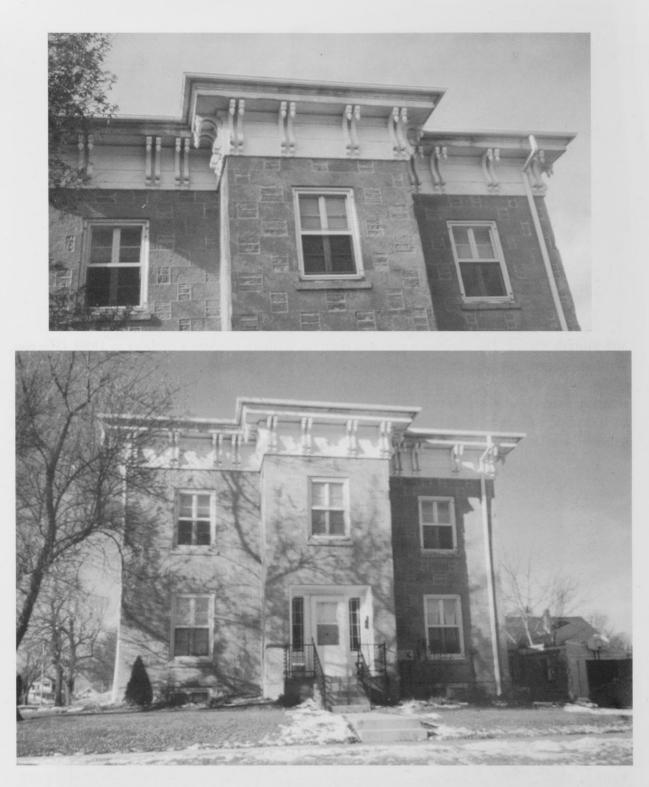


363 Park Avenue: Built by Dr. Buehler in 1911, it features a gabled roof, wrap around porch, ornamental woodwork of oak and maple, corner windows and Palladian Attic windows.



393 Park Avenue: This was the first house on Park Avenue and it was built by Melatiah Willis, a lumberman. Lumber was floated down the river and from the cupola on top he could detect the arrival of lumber shipments. This home also had an early form of running water made possible by a windmill and a water tower in the side yard. Date of construction was 1863.

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505 Third Street: Home of Attorney Samuel Kelsey. Mr. Kelsey came to Prairie du Sac from New York State in 1840. The house was built prior to 1870. The main entrance is very attractive with the original door bell still in place. There are ten rooms in the home. The open stairway is to all three floors, railing is of black walnut. Lower floor has a paneled glass door and three deep paneled French windows. Note the decorative roof brackets. This home originally had rights to the river. It now is an apartment house.



305 Fourth Street: The Steuber home was built by William Frederick Steuber in 1889. (His son, William Steuber is a well-known Wisconsin author.) Dr. L.J. Steuber, a veterinarian, and a brother of the builder bought the house in 1941. An ornate oak open stairway is in the front hall. The back stairway is made of pine; it leads to the maid's room also finished with pine woodwork. There is an Italianate influence to the home: overhanging eaves with curved brackets, tall round arched window, and window heads. The interior has been restored. The porches will be restored.



309 Fourth Street: This house was built in Clifton across the river from Prairie du Sac. It was moved across the ice in winter to what is now the northwest corner of the Sentry parking lot. Ada Evans, a seamstress, lived there. Gilbert Pulvermacher later owned it. He sold it to Greg Mulcahy who moved it to Fourth Street. Ada Evans and her sister donated a patchwork quilt and other items to the Sauk Prairie Area Historical Society.

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350 Fourth Street: Built in 1912 by John Litscher, this later became the home of Peter Enge, a retired farmer from Honey Creek. It still has the beautiful iron railing on the top.



370 Fourth Street: Professor Robert Babington built this Dutch Colonial Revival Home in 1915. This house is unique because of its gambrel roof. It has oak woodwork and hardwood floors. It was in the family until 1982. Mr. Babington was Principal of Schools from 1907 to 1940. After retirement he was elected president of the school board for 6 years. In later years he wrote a book called *Cassell Prairie*.



432 Fourth Street: this was the location of the first school in the village as early as 1843. A Scotsman by the name of Quentin Smith started a private school in his home.



685 Fourth Street: This house was built in the 1880's by George and Elizabeth Schneller. The elaborate Four-square home has several rectangular bays, one extending up through the second story. Later additions in the rear included a kitchen and utility area and a two-storied screened porch. George Schneller was a store keeper. His daughter, Anna, taught history and German for 33 years in the local high school.



305 Fifth Street: Originally located a few miles west of the village on PF, it was moved to this location circa 1900 by Wm. Steuber for his widowed sister, Emma Steuber Schellenberger and her children, Walter and Emma. Dr. Walter became a local dentist. He and his wife, Ida, were noted for their lovely floral gardens.



306 Fifth Street: Once owned by Count Haraszthy and later by Miles Keysar. The house was moved from 295 Water Street when Keysar built his new home. Note the very small second story windows typical of early construction. Much remodeled.



The former Sumpter home of William Simon built in early 1900. It was moved to Prairie du Sac. The large home was divided into two parts – a separate home was made out of each part. They are located beside each other 330-340 Fifth Street.



330 Fifth Street: This is the smaller part of the William Simon house which was moved from the Badger Ordnance Area in the early 40's.



340 Fifth Street: The larger part of the Simon Home. This 2½ storied home has oak woodwork throughout the house. Floors are maple and oak.



365 Fifth Street: Dr.Henry Ragatz home. The home has oak woodwork with leaded glass windows. It has a fireplace. Dr. Ragatz was a local dentist from 1902-1946.



507 Fifth Street: The home of E. Conway Moore (born in New Jersey, 1835). He is best remembered locally as the proprietor of a general store that was located where the Bonham Theater now stands. It was one of the leading establishments of the village. At one time he also operated the toll bridge as one of the principal owners. It was authentically restored in 1995.



545 Fifth Street: This house was built for Dr. Albion P. Cummings when he moved here in about 1850. He was a highly respected physician. His daughter, Ella, married Jessie Cooper who managed the Cummings Drug Store. The house has a Greek Revival style entrance and door. It is made of fine limestone with stone window ledges.



605 Fifth Street: This was the home of John (J.L.P.) and Ruth (Hutchins) Accola. Mr. Accola was a partner in the Hatz Store in 1905. In 1916 he helped to organize the People's State Bank (later called the Bank of Prairie du Sac). Mrs. Accola was instrumental in starting the library and served as the first librarian.



605 Sixth Street: This house known as the Grotophorst home was built in 1900 by L.W. Pohlman. Plans were made by Classin of Milwaukee. Butternut was used for the living room woodwork. The dining room features board paneling and a plate shelf with rails. The second floor was remodeled into an apartment in the 1940's.



330 Seventh Street: This house was built in 1916 by Mary Clement sister of John and Emil Clement. Emil became the owner after his sister's passing. He was the janitor of the Prairie du Sac grade school. In the early years John Clement was caretaker of the North Grade School when it housed the entire system. Later he was at the High School. He retired after 27 years.



360 Seventh Street: The Knecteges Home was later owned by Bernice Albertus and Daniel Einhorn. This home has four bedrooms and bath. It features a beautiful front door of oak wood with beveled oval glass window. It has a spacious front porch. The yellow pine woodwork has been refinished.



363 Seventh Street: This restored house, built about 1895, is known as the Wiskocil home. The floors are of wide pine boards. The woodwork is all painted with small circle designs in the woodwork above the doors and windows. There is one bay window in the kitchen.



505 Seventh Street: This was the farm house for the Bickford farm which was located on the western edge of the village. It was built about 1880. Besides farming Addison M. Bickford operated a creamery on Water Street for eleven years. His name was on the petition for incorporation of the village and he was one of the first village trustees.



569 Seventh Street: This elegant Queen Anne "Victorian" home was built in the late 1800's. Christian Grass was the owner. It has 3 bedrooms and 1½ baths. The original hitching post is still in place. Later it was the home of John Kindschi



718 Seventh Street: This was the home of Jeramiah Keysar and his wife, Amanda Alvaniah Tabor. Mr. Keysar came to Wisconsin in 1845 from Canterbury, New Hampshire. The home was built before 1880.



725 Seventh Street: Frank Keysar, born in 1852 in Prairie du Sac, married Cora Bushnall of Horicon and lived in this house just across the street from his parents. This house has also been a Baptist parsonage. Mrs. Keysar was a fine seamstress and sewed for the ladies of Prairie du Sac. She made fashionable clothing of the nineties using jet beads on satin. In 1991 her granddaughter, Betty Kitchen of California, donated one of her black-beaded stoles along with other Keysar items to the Sauk Prairie Area Historical Society.



742 Seventh Street: This land was owned by Martin Sprecher in 1800 and Wm. Simon in 1844. The house was built in 1846. Other owners have been Ervin Elsing and Jonas Grosenheider.



747 Seventh Street: In 1882 Alonzo Waterbury purchased this property from his brother James and built this cream colored brick home. The local paper wrote of the care with which Mr. Waterbury tended his lawn and described it as the nicest place in the village with its park-like flowers, shrubs and trees. Later it was the home of James and Elsie Cramer.



750 Seventh Street: This is one of the oldest houses in the village. When Lavallette V. Tabor married Tamson Freeborn in 1848 they lived here. At one time it was partially destroyed by fire. It was purchased by Bert McCoy who was a rural mail carrier and post master. Other owners were Frank Wilcox and Charles Gramiling



757 Seventh Street: The Charles Stoddard House. Mr. Stoddard came to Prairie du Sac in 1855. For more than 50 years he served the community as a carpenter. He also helped move many buildings, fix pumps and repair windmills.



773 Seventh Street: The Wiswall house. Edwin Clark Wiswall graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1876. He married a Prairie du Sac teacher, Miss Ella Taylor on August 11, 1876. That year he also became Principal of the Prairie du Sac Schools. In 1877 they built this house. Mr. Wiswall guided education in several capacities in the area. Later he went into business in Madison with his son. Mrs. Wiswall was a taxidermist and a naturalist.

After they moved away this became the George Gasser Dairy, then the Walter Accola Dairy and then the Heinz Dairy.



795 Seventh Street: This house is known as the Peter Kindschi house. It has also been owned by Henry Mettel. His daughters Adeline and Marguerite Mettel owned the Coffee Shop. This house has oak woodwork throughout and an open stairway as one enters the front door.



Looking north on Seventh Street from Broadway: One of the many village scenes by F.S. Eberhardt — 1911. Before Miles Keysar had built his home at 295 Water Street he lived at the corner of 5th and Broadway. While there he was interested in horse racing and had a track built around the two adjoining blocks to the west. That accounts for the rounded corner at Broadway and Seventh Street.



115 Lincoln Avenue: This large Queen Anne cement block house was built in 1911. It was built by Anton Koch for his son John Koch. A. Koch was the great-grand-grandfather of Dr. Dusty Koch. The cement blocks were made at the site. The three front rooms are finished with beautiful oak woodwork. It has one set of pocket doors. The remainder of the house is yellow pine. Mrs. Koch was a seamstress and a large upstairs room was her workshop. Mr. Koch joined the blacksmith shop of Doll and Ragatz in 1898. The original cement porch balustrades have been removed. It was sold in 1992 to the Sauk Prairie Memorial Hospital. (*Below*) The home as it appears today.



Historic Homes of Prairie du Sac 📽 39



410 Galena Street, the Edmund Keysar Home. William H. Hubbard purchased this lot from the U.S. Government in 1843. In 1850 it was sold to Israel Green for \$200, to Solomon Brown in 1851 for \$170, to Alexander Morrell in 1856 for \$500 and Edmund Keysar in 1864 for \$600.It would appear that a house had been built in the 1850's and improvements and additions made while Keysar owned the property. When F.O. Sisson bought the property in 1885, the amount paid was \$1,100.



480 Galena: The Lantz House was built about 1850 and is located at the corner of Galena and Fifth Streets, in Block 11 of the Original Plat. The land was part of the 75 acres deeded to William H. Hubbard by the United States Government in 1843. 1843–Wm.H. Hubbard; 1844-Daniel B. Crocker; 1848-Burk Fairchild; 1848-Martin S. Parker; 1850-Alex M. Morrell; 1862-Isaac F. Smith; 1874-Drew Sisters; 1878-Emma Stone (later Mrs. Wakeley); 1885-John Keller; 1901-John Kaufman; 1904-August Graff; 1907-Frank P. Neu; 1909-Mrs. Barabara Lantz.



180 Broadway: The main part of this Italianate style house was built by Mr. George Baldwin. In 1889 it was owned by William Frame Conger who added the ell. It has often had several apartments, but now it is a private residence.



285 Broadway: This Queen Anne house was built by William Frame Conger, one of the founders of the Conger Store. The house faced Third Street and was built so he could see what was going on in town. In 1894 he was elected to the State Senate. Later his son, William A. Conger, lived here. For many years it was the Lawrence Hutter home. It has recently been restored.



375 Broadway: The Valentine Accola home was built in 1881. It is an ell shaped house built in two parts. This family was in the hardware business as Accola and Buehler and later Accola and Osterfund. The small boy on the hobby-horse is J.L.P. Accola.



House as it appears today



475 Broadway: Known as the Zarwell House. The woodwork is mostly pine; it has 2 sets of pocket doors; there are 3 large rooms upstairs and a bath. Mr. Zarwell was a furniture dealer. It was sold to Chas. Schoephorster, and turned into apartments.



480 Broadway: The Walter Doll house was built in 1908 by Matthew Mettel. It was purchased by the Dolls at the time of their marriage and remained the Doll house their entire life time. Walter Doll taught high school subjects for 41 years; and was village clerk for 31 years. The house has beautiful oak woodwork and floors.



580 Broadway: The house as it appeared in 1920. Jacob and Anna Danuser and their daughter Pearl.



580 Broadway: This former Enge home was built in 1900. It has been kept much the same as when built except for the enclosing of the front porch. An etched deer scene appears on the glass panel of the front door which opens into an alcove. Wainscoting in the kitchen, a pantry, and sliding doors typify the period of time. All the woodwork has been restored.



575 Broadway: Home of Joseph Ragatz who was the grandson of pioneer Bartholomew Ragatz. This home was built in 1900 by Dresen Brothers. It has many charming features. Mr. Ragatz was village clerk from 1922 to 1936. He was also on the village board. The honest and efficient government that Prairie du Sac had during that period is due in no small part to J.B. Ragatz.



720 Broadway: Joshua Perkins home. In 1862 Perkins left his farm and moved to Prairie du Sac. This home was built before that time. It was later known as the Paul Schneller home.



675 Broadway: Christ Ragatz, a blacksmith, built this house in 1893. With his partner, George Doll, he purchased the Oertel Blacksmith and Wagon Shop at 225 Galena. In 1912, Mr. Ragatz opened a music store in the Tabor Hall Annex. He organized many church and community musical groups. Some features of the home include; pocket doors, oak woodwork, stained glass windows and beautiful wrap around porches. This later became the home of his son Cecil Ragatz and family.



Interior View



100 Washington Street: This was the home and office of Dr. Kendall, originally located on the corner of Water and Washington. It was moved circa 1935 to the rear of the lot facing Washington Street when William Jenewein built the filling station. It is now an apartment house.



315 Washington: This home was built about 1890 by Edwin Farr. It was a cream brick home with ornate cornice and frieze and window details. It has since been covered with stucco. Other owners have been Edwin Perkins, Fred Albertus, and Roy Peterson.



About 1840 Count Agostin Haraszthy discovered the Sauk Prairie area. A ten-acre burr oak grove, now known as Marion Park, was to serve as the backdrop for his Hungarian-type manor house. But in 1848 the Count, ever the adventuresome pioneer, after 9 years in Wisconsin, turned to new frontiers in California. Work on the first story cement walls of his home had already begun.

His unfinished house and 160 acre farm were sold to Dr. John and Elizabeth Wright. Dr. Wright, who was a chemist, felt the cement walls were not suitable for the rigors of Wisconsin winters – they were already cracked..



139 Prairie Avenue: The Wright House as it appears today. Walter Pashley, who designed railroad depots in Wisconsin, planned the new brick house for the Wrights. The red bricks were made in Madison, the lumber was floated down the Wisconsin River at a cost of \$169.50. The Wrights moved into their new home in August, 1851.



30 Winnie Street: The Glarner Gasser home was built in 1916. Glarner, son of milliner Anna Gasser Moore, was a partner of Henry Felix in the Felix and Gasser General Store from 1921 to 1950. Etta, his wife, operated a gift shop in the old hat shop on Water Street. The home features three porches, fireplace, leaded glass windows and hardwood floors and woodwork.



60 Winnie Street: Reverend John Schneller built this "mail order" house when he retired from the ministry. He liked this plan so much that he had another identical "mail order" house built at 187 Prairie Avenue.

Prairie du Sac Library 560 Park Ave. Prairie du Sac, WI 53578



85 Grand Avenue: Built in 1907 by William Fredrick Steuber for his widowed sister-in-law, Charlotte Wintermantel Straub. Mr. Steuber was the brick mason who had built himself a home at 305 Fourth Street in 1889.



97 Grand Avenue: Built in 1907 by William Fredrick Steuber for his father-in-law, John George Wintermantel. Later owned by Harvey Shields who taught Agriculture in Prairie du Sac High School for 33 years.



388 Prairie Street: This was the home of Myron Reynolds, butter maker for the Bickford & Lamson Creamery, which was located next door. The home is now converted into two apartments.



460 Prairie Street: Holmes Keysar was born in Canterbury, New Hampshire in 1830. He came to Wisconsin with his parents when he was 15. When he married Miss Adelaide Perkins in 1869 they decided to live with his parents. A 24 foot addition was built on the east side of the house at that time. Miss Perkins was the daughter of Joshua Perkins.



555 Prairie Street: This Carpenter house was formerly located in the town of Newport, near Lake Delton. It was taken apart in sections and floated down the Wisconsin River to Prairie du Sac where it was rebuilt in 1871. It was moved by Attorney S.S. Wilkinson. It was located at the corner of Fifth and Prairie Streets, and later relocated to the lot immediately to the west.



575 Prairie Street: The home of Reverend Henry Hutchins. This is another home that came from Newport. It was floated down the Wisconsin River from the deserted town of Newport and rebuilt at Prairie du Sac in 1871. Reverend Hutchins was the father of Ruth (Mrs. J.L.P.) Accola.



590 Prairie Street: "tall, white, with green shutters, it had a quiet dignity which pervaded the atmosphere of the entire street." - August Derleth. This frame Italianate was built in 1880 by Oliver S. Knapp on 3 acres of land purchased from Lavallette Tabor, an early village business man. Later it became the home of Thomas Baker, who among many other things was the Postmaster from 1861-1894. It was also the home of Jennie Baker, grade school teacher and world traveler. For some years it served the community as a rest home. It is now a private residence.



680 Prairie Street: There has been a dwelling on this site since 1870 but this home was built by August Sprecher in 1892. Land was purchased from Lavallette Tabor. The present owner is Delbert Sprecher, great great nephew of the original builder.

Houses that Moved

AN INTERESTING PART of this research was discovering how many houses were moved in the past. We list a few that have come to our attention. Moving houses was not as difficult when there was no plumbing or electrical wiring to contend with.

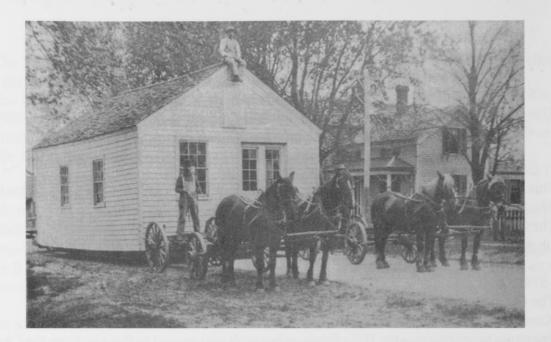
The structure to be moved was put upon timbers. Under these timbers rollers were placed, each about three feet long and six inches in diameter. There was a constant movement of rollers from the rear of the building where they were no longer needed to the front where they would again be placed under the timbers.

The power for moving was supplied by one horse attached to a capstan tongue or winch. As the horse traveled around the capstan the rope was wound upon it and the structure moved forward with little or no effort.

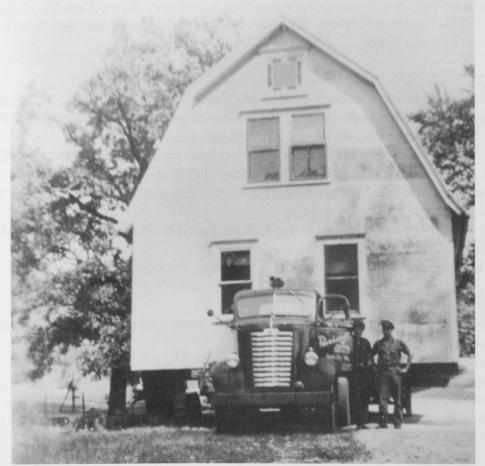
When the Badger Ordnance Works came into being the Eberhart Trucking Company found themselves moving homes and out buildings.



Cottage from Weigands Bay that was moved across the second Prairie du Sac bridge. It had to be jacked up higher in order to clear the bridge railings. Art Eberhart is backing up directing Jack who is driving the truck. Photo taken in 1942.



The local house mover, usually Charles Stoddard, was as familiar a tradesman as the carpenter and the mason. Frame buildings were relatively lightweight and easy to move. They were also not yet connected to water, sewer or electric lines, and could be moved for less than the cost of new construction. Many villagers preferred to move an old structure instead of building a new one.



This large house was moved to a farm near Black Earth. The road had to be widened in order for the house to get through. This photo was taken in 1943.

Other Homes that Moved

WATER STREET

977: This home was moved here by Andrew Gruber in 1912 from Sumpter when Garth Premo built the new home.

HOLLY COURT

250: This home was moved in from the Badger Ordnance area. It was the Rudolf Schlag farm house.
347: The Reuben Mueller home was originally the toll house for the first bridge in Prairie du Sac.
395: The Graff family had this home moved from 393 Water Street. They lived in it while their new home was being built.

FIRST STREET

241: The Oscar Bartnick home was floated down the river from the town of Newport.

247: Known as the John J. Gasser home, this home also came from the town of Newport.

- **295**: For many years this was the Billy Coulson home. It was moved to this site from the Christian Gruber farm (north of Prairie du Sac on City 12) circa 1912.
- **366**: The Donna Meyer home was moved from Newport to 491 First Street and then relocated to this address.

FOURTH STREET

309: Ada Evans/Gilbert Pulvermacker home was first moved over the ice from the Clifton area, to the corner of Third and Prairie Street. When Sentry needed this area for a parking lot it was once again moved to Fourth Street.

FIFTH STREET

- **5**: This small frame house had been located on Water Street in Sauk City; it had served that community as Post Office from 1891 to 1911. Charles Stoddard, builder mover, hitched this building to his new motor car and moved it to this site. It is now a residence.
- 305: The Dr. Walter Schellenberger home was moved from the C.C. Steuber farm on PF.
- 306: Count Agoston Haraszthy moved this house from 295 Water Street.
- **336**: This home was part of the William Simon farm house that was located in the Badger Ordnance area.
- **340**: This house had been the main part of the William Simon house that was located in the Badger Ordnance area.
- 385: The Ed Hager home was moved from 515 Broadway, the next lot north.

SIXTH STREET

- **245**: The Dale White house was moved from the Sinclair Station when the Ace Hardware shopping area was constructed.
- **305**: This house was built from Badger Ordnance barracks.
- 319: This house was also built from Badger Ordnance barracks.
- 359: This is another home built from the barracks.
- **650**: This house was moved from 610 Sixth Street by Fred Lemm, when he wanted the corner lot for his new home.

SEVENTH STREET

430: The back part of the Stan Postawa home was floated down the river from the village of Newport. The other part of the Newport house was located at 555 Prairie Street.

640: This home was moved in from Gruber's Grove.

- **715**: This home was moved from the site of the "new" Ford Garage on Water Street. (Meyer Electronics is located there now; it is next to the present bridge.)
- 753: The Krintz home was moved from the Badger Ordnance area.

WASHINGTON STREET

- **100**: This was Dr. Kendall's home and office. It was moved from the east side of the lot facing Water Street. (The Pit Stop is at that location now.)
- **779**: This home was moved from 404 Water Street when Kinzler & Frey rebuilt their garage after a fire: It has been used as a potato warehouse, a veterinary clinic, and a Justice of the Peace Office. It is now a private residence.

PRAIRIE STREET

- **555**: This home was moved from Newport by Smith S. Wilkinson. Part of this home was used in the house at 430 Seventh Street.
- 575: This is another home moved here from the village of Newport by Smith S. Wilkinson.
- **896**: The Elsa Wilhelm home was moved in 1942 from the Herman Wilhelm farm. (A second story has been added.)
- **910**: This home was moved here from the nearby government trailer park that was located where the Pines and The Forest are now. (The trailer park provided housing for Badger Ordnance workers when the plant was in full operation.)

Homes Razed for Progress

No pictures are available for the homes of;

Dr. D.E. Murphy Jim Clift Paul Gundlack Ernest and Anna Just Christian Ploetz and Leo Heinz Emma Schlag Charles Hill



No. 2 Water Street: The Haberman House was a sturdy brick and stone building which had numerous uses. It was here that Frank Kirchstein sold apples and other produce on the front porch before opening his grocery store. It was a three apartment house. In 1984 it was razed to make room for O'Donnell's Truck and Body Shop.



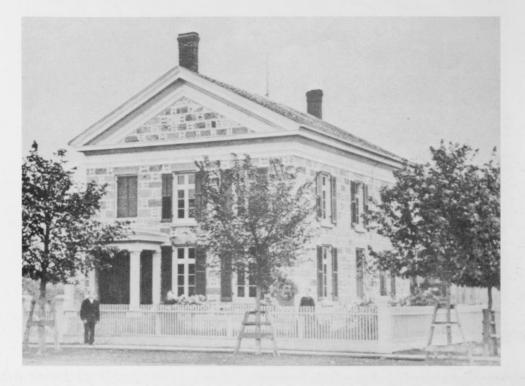
415 Water Street – Part of Hubbard's Addition. Jacob Pleuss opened a shoe repair shop in this home. Later it was owned and operated by Herman Kindschi. It was part of the business section of the village which included the printing office, a millinery store, a grocery store, another shoe repair shop, the Post Office, a lumber yard, a paint shop and a feed mill. The Briggs Hotel was also in this area.



470 Water Street: This home was located in Hubbard's Addition Block 1. It was the first house south of the Second Bridge. Gilbert Schumacher a local druggist lived here from 1933-1944. In 1992 Dr. William Knickmeyer bought the property and cleared it to build his new Eagleview Dental Office.



715 Water Street: Samuel Bassinger arrived in the Sauk Prairie area in 1850. He acquired the property the same year from Phllip Nichols. The house was constructed sometime between 1850 and 1853. The architectural style was Greek Revival with its pedimented gaggle facing the street. Cornice and frieze extend along the elevations. John Jacob Ochsner acquired the property in 1868 at a sheriff's sale for about \$1,700. It was in the Ochsner family for eighty years, and in 1948 it was sold to Bessie Birgen who lived in it until her passing. In 1989 it was sold to Schwarz Insurance for use as a parking lot.



Frederick Augustus Oertel came from Germany in 1847. He and his wife, Katherine, built this home. Corner of Third and Galena in 1861. It was torn down in 1958. Mr. Oertel was a wagon maker and sold farm implements at his nearby shop. In the picture, Mr. Oertel is standing in front of the fence, Mrs. Oertel and their daughter (Mary Jane Oertel Atwood) are behind the fence.



510 Prairie Street: George Doll, Sr. bought this property in 1888. It was in the family for 66 years. It was sold in 1954. This home was the birthplace of Walter Doll. A fence was built around the Doll house to keep out stray cattle. There were four entrances to the home. It had no indoor plumbing. Water was from a pump outdoors and a small pump in the kitchen used for pumping rain water from the cistern for baths and dishwashing.



285 Washington Street: Dr. Rex Schlag bought this house in 1909. Upon his death, his widow moved to the second floor and rented the first floor. In 1939 she sold the house to her brother-in-law, Robert Aton. In 1961 it was sold to Mr. Huehns and razed to construct a new funeral home. After neighborhood complaints the lot was sold again and the present day Prairie du Sac Post Office was built on this site.



280 Washington, located at the corner of Third and Washington, was built in 1840. At the time of the Civil War the parents of Captain National S. Frost lived in the house. Later William Tarnutzer and son Lloyd lived there. He hauled freight from the railroad. Alois Hutter bought the property and continued haulking freight. It was burned down to make room for the Bank of Prairie du Sac.



681 Prairie Street: Dr. Charles Riley, a highly esteemed citizen and respected doctor in Prairie du Sac, built the home in 1879. He lived there until 1894. Since then, it has had many owners and finally was made into an apartment house. The distinguishing features of this French Provincial home were the decorative upper windows, the iron railing or widow's walk on top, the oval beveled plate glass windows at the front door. It had three inside stairways.



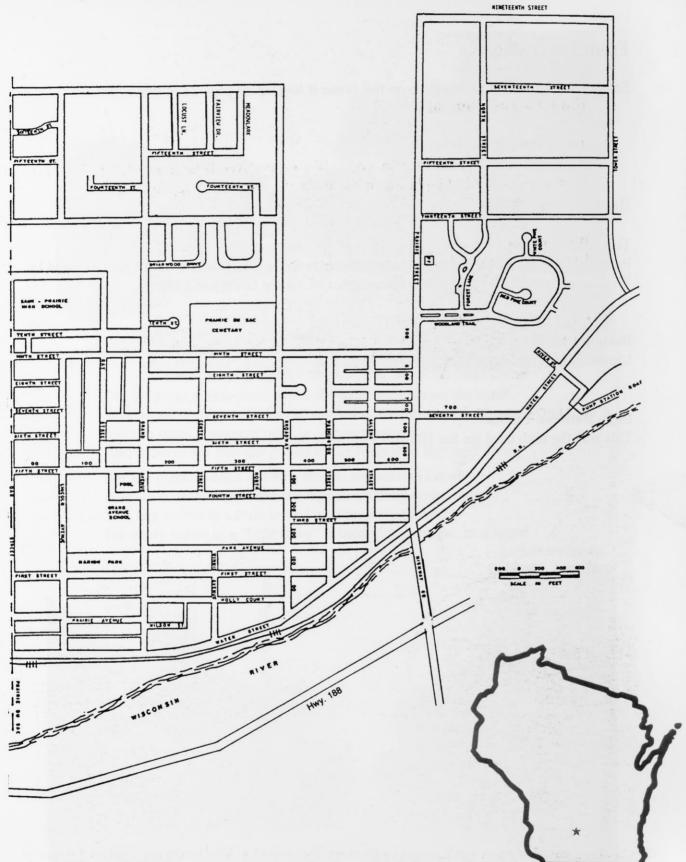
Highway PF: This was the location of the Matthew's Homestead. C.C. Steuber purchased the property in 1881. At one time he owned over 1000 acres. The home had no central heat nor water. After Mr. Steuber's passing, it was sold or rented. Alois Hutter worked the farm from 1917 to 1924. In 1936 it was sold to the Fellowship of Reconciliation. With the coming of World War II it was closed and sold to John Beinvogl. The Village of Prairie du Sac bought and developed it for an Industrial Park. The house was razed in a control burn in November 1990.



Alex "Happy" Jacoby House and Anna Huber house torn down for Village Hall parking.



This building was first known as Kaufman's Brewery. Mr. and Mrs. John Kaufman lived on the second floor. Later, Clifford, their son, and his family lived on the second floor. John Kaufman was the village policeman. Mrs. Kaufman was a seamstress and also baked pies for her son's restaurant. Clifford and his wife Clara operated the restaurant across the street.



The Village of Prairie du Sac

Front Cover Photo:

Samuel Kelsey home. Information on this home is located on page 23 of this book.

Back Cover Photos:

Top Photo:

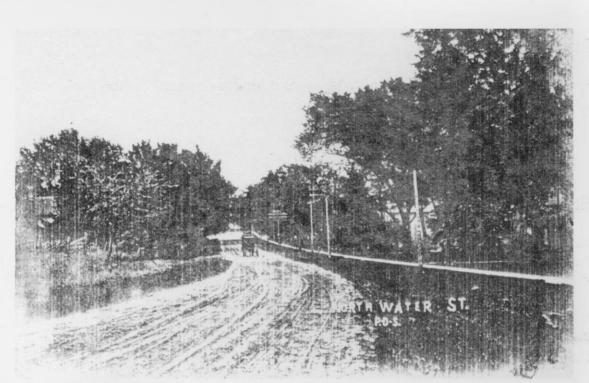
Prairie du Sac hydroelectric dam on the Wisconsin River. Built from 1910-15 and operated by Wisconsin Power and Light which became part of Alliant Energy in 1998.

Bottom Photo:

View of the Wisconsin River from Prairie du Sac.

Logo Between Photos:

This was the logo used for the 100 year Prairie du Sac Centennial.



Oh, to live in a little town where the trees meet across the street, Where you wave your hand and say hello to everyone you meet, I like to stand a moment outside a grocery store And listen to the friendly gossip of the folks who live next door.

For life is interwoven with the friends we learn to know And we hear their joys and sorrows as we daily come and go. So I like to live in a little town I care no more to roam, For every house in a "little town" is more than a house, its a home.

- Author unknown











HIS