

**CITY OF PORTAGE
COLUMBIA COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

**UPDATE OF CITY OF PORTAGE 1993 INTENSIVE SURVEY
REPORT**

prepared by

Timothy F. Heggland, Principal Investigator
Mazomanie, Wisconsin

prepared for
City of Portage

Mr. Shawn Murphy, Project Director
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City of Portage

City of Portage Historic Preservation Commission

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ABSTRACT

Report Update of City of Portage 1993 Intensive Survey Report

Author: Timothy F. Heggland, Principal Investigator

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This report documents an intensive architectural/historical resurvey of all the historic resources located within the city of Portage, the intent of which was to identify resources built between 1940 and 1975 that had not been looked at as part of the original 1993 intensive survey. The boundaries of the study area consisted of everything located within the corporate boundaries of the City as of January 1, 2016 and these boundaries were set by the City of Portage in conjunction with the staff of the State of Wisconsin's Division of Historic Preservation (DHP) prior to the beginning of this study. Subsequently, a reconnaissance survey of this study area was undertaken by the principal investigator as the first part of the intensive architectural/historical survey, after which an intensive research effort designed to ascertain the historic and architectural significance of the resources identified by the reconnaissance survey was undertaken by the principal investigator. The results of this research is summarized in this intensive survey report and they are also embodied in individual data entries for all the resources studied, which were prepared in electronic form to standards set by the Division of Historic Preservation.

The purposes of this intensive survey project were two-fold; to identify all the resources within the study area that were built between 1940 and 1975 that are potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and to provide the City of Portage and other county, state, and national agencies with a comprehensive data base that covers all the historic resources within the study area. The intensive resurvey ultimately surveyed 146 new individual resources. Of these, one new historic district containing a total of 24 individual buildings, and nine new individual buildings were identified as having potential for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

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Introduction

On August 17, 2015, the City of Portage authorized Timothy F. Heggland, an historic preservation consultant based in Mazomanie, Wisconsin, to undertake both a reconnaissance survey and an intensive resurvey of all the historically and architecturally significant resources that are located within the project area. This project area encompasses all the land located within the corporate boundaries of the City of Portage and the intent of the resurvey was to identify resources built in the sturdy area that were built between 1940 and 1975, 1939 having been the cut-off point for the original intensive survey of the city, which survey took place in 1993.

The reconnaissance survey conducted between November and December of 2015, and it was charged with surveying all the resources within the project area that still retained their original appearance and were 50-years-old or older plus an additional 10 years that would extend the value of the survey beyond the 50-year mark. Ultimately, 146 new resources were surveyed within the project area and these resources include a public building, churches, commercial buildings, and other types of resources but the overwhelming majority were single family dwellings that range in age from 1940 up until the late-1970s. All of these buildings were photographed and mapped and a complete inventory of these resources is appended at the end of this report. The reconnaissance survey phase of the project was then followed by the second phase, the intensive survey, which was completed in mid-June of 2015, and this report is a summary of the findings of that survey. This phase consisted of an intensive research effort that was designed to generate an overview of the history of the survey area, an overview of those historic themes that are most closely associated with this history, and more in-depth historic information about the select group of resources that were identified by the reconnaissance survey as being potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP, either individually or as part of an historic district.

The primary objective of the intensive survey was the identification of all the individual resources and groups of resources within the project's survey area that are of architectural or historical significance and that are potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. A second, equally important objective of the survey was to add the surveyed resources to the comprehensive computerized data base that is maintained by the DHP. This database, known as the Architecture and History Inventory (AHI) contains all of the historic resources that have been surveyed within Wisconsin thus far, including those in Portage, and one of its functions is to provide information to the City of Portage that can be used by the City when it is making planning decisions for the community.

Funding for both the reconnaissance survey and for the intensive survey that followed was provided by a grant in aid from the U.S. Department of the Interior as administered by the Division of Historic Preservation (DHP) of the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS). Both the reconnaissance survey and the intensive survey phases of the overall project were conducted by Mr. Heggland and were monitored by Mr. Joe DeRose, Staff Historian at the DHP, and by Mr. Shawn Murphy, the City Administrator of Portage, who is acting as the City's Project Manager. Additional oversight was provided by Ms. Daina Penkiunas of the DHP, who is Wisconsin's Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

PRELIMINARY STEPS

The City of Portage determined the boundaries of the project area prior to the hiring of a consultant. Consequently, the first step in the reconnaissance survey consisted of a pre-survey during which the consultant undertook a series of drives and walks through the project area. This was done both to familiarize the consultant with the project area and to uncover any unusual aspects of it that might call for special treatment. The first finding of this pre-survey was that the project area is composed almost entirely of historic residential neighborhoods that are well-defined and that are still readily identifiable as historic entities. The second finding, and one of significance for the future of the project, was that there are still a significant number of intact historic Post-World War II era resources within the project area boundaries.

Consequently, it was decided to survey all the resources within the project area that were believed to be fifty years old or older and which still retain their original appearance and exterior cladding. Unfortunately, this decision meant that many of the project area's resources could not be surveyed due to their lack of integrity. In addition, the scope of the survey was also expanded to include a number of intact buildings dating from the 1970s that are good representative examples of their different styles and which it is believed will be of historic interest to the City in the near future.

While the issue of deciding what to survey was being considered, the process of identifying pertinent historic resource materials was also begun. This involved a search of the resources held by the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison, and the City of Portage. As anticipated, the WHS and the City of Portage proved to be especially fruitful sources that produced the majority of the items listed in the bibliography that follows this report. Along with such essential items as Columbia County plat maps and plat books, microfilm copies of the Portage newspaper, and Sanborn-Perris fire insurance maps of Portage, the WHS's Division of Historic Preservation added additional information that is contained in its files. Other essential resources are housed in the City of Portage include all of the extant historic City of Portage Real Estate Tax Assessment Rolls as well as the City Assessor's Records, both of which supplied building construction dates.

Another early goal of the survey was to find suitable base maps that could be used to record the locations of the resources surveyed. Ideally, such maps would show building footprints, lot lines, and addresses, and it was anticipated that such maps would be found. Fortunately, the Columbia County was able to provide excellent large scale maps of the city dating from 2015 that show lot lines, addresses, and parcel identification numbers for the entire project area as of that date. This meant that satisfactory maps were already in existence and did not have to be produced for the survey; a significant savings in time and money.

RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY

Once the survey criteria had been decided, the field survey itself began. This meant analyzing the very large numbers of Post-World War II buildings that were not surveyed or analyzed by the 1993 intensive survey. Specific methodology at this point consisted of a judgment being made in the field by the consultant as to whether or not to include a particular building in the list of newly inventoried resources because of some aspect of its architectural composition. Following this decision, field notes were written and the resource was then photographed.

The consultant began this work in November, 2015, a time when there was no snow on the ground and little or no foliage to obscure the buildings, thereby making it possible to produce superior photos. The resulting survey recorded 146 resources of all types within the project area, these being primarily buildings of architectural interest, and these newly surveyed resources were then added to the existing inventory. All of these new resources are listed in the inventory at the end of this report and a smaller group of these resources was researched in greater detail as part of the intensive survey.

Following completion of the field work, field notes were checked and organized to facilitate the site-specific research that would take place in the intensive survey phase. Each site already had or was assigned

an address and this number was then transferred to the base maps of the project area that help both the DHP and the City of Portage locate surveyed resources. These maps also assisted the consultant in identifying areas where surveyed resources appear to be concentrated and which, following field review, could be considered candidates for historic district status. This resulted in the identification of one new historic district where potentially eligible inventoried resources are concentrated. After further analysis, separate draft maps showing the individual resources within the provisional district boundary were prepared for the new historic district and a district survey form and map for this district is located at the end of this report.

The reconnaissance survey concluded with a tour of the project area with DHP staff. Ms. Daina Penkiunas, who is the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer at the DHP, met with the consultant on April 7, 2016, in order to review the findings of the reconnaissance survey. The result was that nine individual buildings were found to be potentially individually eligible for listing in the NRHP and a single potentially eligible historic district containing 24 additional buildings was also evaluated at this time and the district's boundaries were refined. The results are included in the summary section of this report.

INTENSIVE SURVEY

With the photographs and the list of resources inventoried by the reconnaissance survey in hand, the consultant began the task of organizing the inventoried resources into groups based on stylistic attributions. Once this task was completed, each of these groups was further evaluated and the best examples in each group became the subject of the more intensive research process that forms the core of the intensive survey. For example, all buildings surveyed that represent the Ranch Style were grouped together to identify the typical stylistic subtypes and building forms that this style displays in the project area. These were then compared and evaluated to determine which were the best examples within each subtype. The best examples were then evaluated against National Register criteria and those which appeared to meet the criteria were designated as "potentially eligible." The results of this evaluation process can be found in the Architectural Styles section of this report. It needs to be noted, however, that at this stage this designation is advisory only and represents just the best judgment of the consultant. Actual designation of "eligible" status can only be made as a result of a formal evaluation, either through the National Register nomination process or through the Determination of Eligibility process, both of which are evaluated by the staff of the DHP and the Keeper of the National Register in Washington D.C.

While this evaluation process was taking place, the surveyed resources were being compared with the information contained in the City of Portage's Building Permit files in order to determine building construction dates for the buildings surveyed. Unfortunately, it turned out that the City does not keep permits that are more than 20-years-old, so this line of inquiry was not fruitful. Fortunately, the computerized City of Portage Assessor's Records, which are available on-line, provided building dates for most of the buildings that were surveyed.

The revised building list, complete with construction dates, was then compared with the results of the style evaluation process described above and buildings that ranked high in their respective stylistic categories were included in the intensive research effort. Also included in the intensive research effort were all of the buildings that were included within the provisional historic district boundary, and those buildings considered to be potential eligible individually.

The relatively modest number of buildings on the resulting list made it possible to do individual historic tax assessment roll research on all of them. In addition, a selective search of the *Portage Daily Register* newspapers published between 1945 and 1976 was made, which provided detailed additional information about a number of the individual buildings in the project area, including architect's names. This research occupied much of the months of January through May of 2016 and it ultimately produced approximate or exact building construction dates and for most of the properties on the list and also most of the original owner's names.

While this research was being conducted a parallel effort was being made to identify and research those historic themes that have been important to the history of the project area. The basis of this research is the

large group of historic themes that have already been identified by the extensive research that is embodied in the DHP's *Cultural Resource Management Plan*, which research is ongoing and is intended to accomplish the same goals, but on a statewide basis. These themes cover or will eventually cover nearly every aspect of the built history of Wisconsin and it is intended that the research conducted for site-specific projects such as this intensive survey will be complimentary to this larger ongoing effort.

At the community level the purpose of thematic research is to develop an overview of the history of a community that will facilitate the identification of those remaining resources that can be considered historically and possibly architecturally significant from the standpoint of the National Register program and local preservation efforts. Preliminary research undertaken at the onset of the Portage Resurvey suggested that the following themes, which are listed in alphabetical order, were important and would prove productive:

Architecture
Government
Health Services
Religion

The research that followed the identification of these themes relied heavily on secondary sources such as historic Portage newspapers and published Portage histories. The information thus generated is included in this report and will be found in the historic themes section.

Ultimately, the intensive survey researching almost all of the 146 new resources that were identified in the reconnaissance survey phase, all of which were also photographed and evaluated in light of NRHP and DHP criteria. In addition, every property surveyed during the course of the project has had an electronic database entry prepared for it in accordance with DHP standards. These entries consist of a digital photo of the resource, a summary of the historical and architectural analysis performed on the subject property, and they also include other required information such as an address and a parcel identification number. These entries were made for the DHP as additions to its Architectural Historic Inventory (AHI), which now includes more than 200,000 building located throughout the state. In addition, all the written information contained in these entries and additional historic data was copied into the DHP's electronic data base using the software developed by the DHP and this can be viewed by accessing the Wisconsin Historical Society's web site: www.wisconsinhistory.org.

INTENSIVE SURVEY FINAL REPORT

Several of the historic theme chapters in this report that deal with only a few extant resources such as Religion and Government, have been in progress since January of 2016. Most of the other chapters, however, including especially those relating to architectural styles, had to wait until tax assessment roll and newspaper research was completed before they could be written. With the completion of the newspaper research in June of 2016, work on the final chapters of the intensive survey report commenced and was completed by July of 2016. In addition to the thematic chapters, the building inventory list, and the bibliography, this report also includes copies of the Historic District Survey Form prepared for the proposed historic district.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

The consultant worked closely with employees of the City and Columbia County from the onset of the project and received valuable support and assistance from them throughout the course of the survey. Presentations were made to the City by the consultant and the first public meeting with the larger community took place on December 10, 2015, when a presentation by the consultant and Mr. DeRose of the DHP was made to the Portage Historic Preservation Commission. A second meeting is scheduled for August or September, 2016, when a final report on the survey will be made to the community by the consultant and a member of the DHP staff.

HISTORIC OVERVIEW OF PORTAGE'S POST-WORLD WAR II BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Normally, one of the tasks of an intensive survey such as this one is the creation of an historic overview of the community being surveyed, its purpose being to place the resources surveyed into an understandable historic context. In the case of Portage, however, a history of the city prior to the beginning of World War II can be found in the City of Portage Intensive Survey Report published in 1993.(1) Consequently, that history will not be repeated here. Instead, what follows is an historic overview of Portage from 1945 until 1965, with an emphasis on Portage's built environment and the forces that shaped it.

The entrance of the United States into World War II effectively ended building activity in Portage and elsewhere in the nation due to the restrictions that were placed on materials and on non-war-related construction, and no new buildings were built in Portage until the last year of the war. Once the war ended, however, Portage found itself in the same situation as the rest of the nation; it needed more housing units for its returning soldiers and their families but materials to build these housing units were still being tightly controlled by the federal government. Mostly, the shortage of materials was the natural result of the nation's transition from wartime to a peacetime economy, but the pressure to accommodate the housing needs of the country's returning veterans was huge.

The restrictions that existed at the end of the war in 1945 regarding the allocation of building materials would continue for at least two more years, which meant that the allocation of these materials was prioritized. Preference was given to housing for veterans but the shortage of materials meant that ideas about how to solve this problem took many forms, as a public membership meeting of the Portage Chamber of Commerce in April of 1946 demonstrated.

The charge that Portage lags in dealing with the housing emergency, and the assertion that we cannot hope to improve or build the community until we provide living quarters for our citizens and especially our returning GI's was repeated in various forms by several members.

The "quonset" type of home as an emergency measure was discussed by William Fredricks of the Firari Machine company [of Portage]. He exhibited pictures of "quonset" homes and told of the work now being done in many communities to provide temporary housing through the use of the "quonset." He suggested that a subdivision devoted to such residences may well be established and appealed for all engaged directly or indirectly in any phase of building to work to secure the various materials to make these quonsets into homes.

Harold Sommers, speaking as a newcomer to the city, stressed the desperate need for homes in the community. "I had no idea that the situation is as bad as it is until I came here," he asserted. He suggested a program to convince owners of large homes that they should divide these residences up to provide apartments.

L. S. Walker, manager of the Schultz Brothers store, also spoke as a newcomer. He called attention to the vacant space above the downtown stores. The owners of this property should be induced to provide apartments for rent to returning GI's.

That an active market exists for housing of all types was attested to by Attorney Ross Bennett, who asserted that "people will buy anything now that they can live in." He also directed a couple of barbs at the city and county for the attitude in holding property which might well be developed for housing. He spoke of his own effort to secure some property from the county and referred to an offer made for land in the Fifth Ward marsh.

Ben Gothompson also discussed the subject of housing and urged action. Finally, on motion from the floor, the president of the chamber was directed to appoint a committee to study the housing situation in Portage and submit a report at the next membership meeting which will be held in about a month.(2)

Little more than a week later the Chamber's housing committee announced that they had a goal.

Twenty new homes for GI's to cost \$5,000 or less to be erected in the city as soon as materials and labor can possibly be secured, is the goal set last night by the newly formed housing committee of the Portage Chamber of Commerce. ... From information available now it is believed that small houses can be erected in the city for less than \$5,000. ... These can be erected for GI's and sold under the provisions of the FHA [Federal Housing Authority] whereby the veteran pays for his home in the form of rent and pays off completely in about 25 years. ...

Committee members are in the meantime studying all aspects of the problem of providing housing in the community. Its members have no intention of entering into the building business themselves or even of investing in such a project. But they do feel that efforts on their part can get something started. This new housing for the present must be available only for returned GI's it is explained, for they alone have the priorities essential for securing the materials. Even with these priorities it is desperately difficult to secure materials, but the committee members are of the opinion that concerted efforts on the part of all citizens interested in developing the community may produce results.(3)

In the meantime, however, it was left to the privates sector to address the local housing problem as best it could, given the restrictions on materials that were still in place at the time. In mid-June of 1946, the local newspaper published a list of the 36 building permits that had been issued in the city since the start of the year. These permits were for everything from porch additions and garages to a new buildings for Portage's nationally known curling club (extant), several warehouses, and commercial buildings, and they also included permits for six new houses as well.(4)

In August of 1946, the City of Portage finally took concrete steps to address the needs for future housing in the city by embarking on an extensive public works program whose goal was to first create three new sewer districts in the city and then build new sewer lines in these districts.

Plans for the establishment of three new sanitary sewer districts in the city of Portage, comprising one of the largest public works programs in the history of the city, were accepted last night and the hearing set for August 22 by the city's Board of Public Works. These districts consist of the following areas: Silver Lake district, includes the entire residential area living north of the Milwaukee road tracks, and consisting of that portion of the city commonly referred to as "bone hill." West Carroll street district. Bounded on the east by Sanborn [Street] from Conant [Street] to River street, on the north by River street to Promenade, on the west by Promenade street and on the south by Conant [Street] back to Sanborn street intersection. This includes West Pleasant, West Prospect, West Carroll and West Franklin streets within the boundaries and all of Prospect street. The River street district includes River street between Sanborn and Promenade and all of James, Herman and Charles streets. ...

It is estimated that there are from 120 to 150 homes in the area, and that more than 250 property owners will be directly affected by these projects. This will provide sanitary sewers to approximately 250 to 300 vacant building lots, and it is felt that the program will encourage the development of some of the finest residential areas within the city.

Many of the property owners in these areas petitioned for this improvement years ago but petitions were withdrawn during the depression era. They have been [re]submitted and it is expected that the overwhelming majority of present property owners will favor early completion of the project.(5)

Two of these districts, West Carroll Street and River Street, were located in what in 1946 was the far west end of the developed part of the city, which at time was largely confined to the land located north of the Wisconsin River and south of the east-west-running tracks of the Milwaukee Road railroad, and was bounded by Waunona Trail (State Highway 33) on the east, and today's Summit Street on the west. At that

time, most of the land north of the railroad tracks was then undeveloped except for a small area west of New Pinery Road (US Highway 51) and just south of Silver Lake that included Haertl, Albert and Averbeck streets, and Silver Lake Drive, this area being where the third proposed new sewer district was to be located.

Two weeks later, the local paper noted that there were 20 dwelling units in various stages of completion in Portage at that time. One of these was a "quonset type house built in the 700 block of E. Conant St. (non-extant) and at least ten others were also being constructed as well, including one on Summit Street that was being built by Lynn H. Gunderson, whose Gunderson Construction Co. had been formed by him in Portage earlier in that same year. Attention was also being paid to less traditional methods of building as well.

Local builders and material dealers see some possibilities in the erection of prefabricated units in the city. There are prefabricated structures available now which offer much promise as a way for the quick solution of the housing emergency, but one of these must first be erected in the city to get the movement started, he explains. Building material dealers are giving thought to the possibilities of pre-fabricated structures, but are hesitant to enter that field so long as shortages of many materials remain acute. Plumbing, wiring, and other installations are still bottle necks in the construction industry whether conventional construction is employed or the pre-fabricated units are used.(6)

Local interest in pre-fabricated housing reflected the nation's building situation at that moment in time. In early 1946, the entire nation was facing the same housing shortage issues as Portage and with access to building materials still being restricted, the federal government was allocating materials to those entities that could produce houses the fastest, which meant that the pre-fabricated housing industry was then receiving top priority.

The federal government finally lifted restrictions on lumber at the beginning of 1947, and this act made possible the first great expansion of post-war residential construction, both in the nation in general and in Portage in particular. By September of 1947, another 20 homes and twelve apartment units were also in the process of construction or had been completed.(7) Five of these houses were being built by Lynn Gunderson including one, an early Ranch Style house (extant) being built for Claire Heath and located at 104 W. Franklin St., that had no basement and radiant heating, while William A. Kutzke had two houses building and five or six more that he would be starting on before winter set in. These houses are interesting for the fact that, the Heath house aside, most of them were still examples of the simplified Colonial Revival style that had become popular in the late 1930s, while the apartment units that were being built were, in fact, almost all to be found in large older houses that were being converted into apartments such as the one at 421 E. Conant St. Also interesting is the fact that at this time all of these new houses were being built on lots that were located within the already established neighborhoods of the city. Post-war suburban development still had several years to go before it would appear in Portage.

By October, six more building permits for homes had been filed and again, three of these were to be built by Lynn H. Gunderson and another by William A. Kutzke, these two firms being the most active ones in Portage in the post-war period and for many years thereafter.(8) These new houses were built all over the city, some on lots that had never been built upon and some on new lots that were created when larger original lots were split, and as was noted before, most of these houses still reflected the Colonial Revival style that had predominated in Portage through the late 1920s and the 1930s. Still, at least one other house built in 1948 pointed towards the future. This was the all steel pre-fabricated house (extant) built at 1125 W. Wisconsin St. for Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Lennon. This is an example of a Lustron Home, so-called because it was fabricated by the Lustron Corp. in Ohio, from which it was shipped as a complete unit to Portage and then assembled.

Another event that happened late in 1948 also pointed towards the future as well. This was a petition filed by a number of west side property owners who requested that River Street be extended further from James Street to Summit Street and then north to LaMoure Street. Creating such a street would thereby open up more property for building by allowing presently unoccupied lots on Wisconsin Street, many of which extended south as much as 600-feet, to have houses built on them that faced both north and south.(9)

By 1949, the housing crisis in Portage was over and while building activity in the city continued at a steady pace, the pace now was more in keeping with the normal growth that a city of Portage's size could expect. Most of the new houses that were built during this period were built on unsold lots in already existing plats such as the Bank Addition to Portage, which had been platted as early as 1875 and was bounded by Wisconsin, River, Summit, LaMoure and Herman streets. That these new houses were sufficient to meet the demand for housing during this post-war period may also partially be explained by the fact that despite the sometimes dire predictions, Portage's population only expanded by 4.5 % from 1940 to 1950, from 7016 to 7334.

In the new decade that began in 1950, what would drive building activity in Portage and elsewhere in the nation was in many ways bound up in the phenomenon now known as the post-war baby boom. For many couples, the war had disrupted plans to marry or to begin families but with the return of peace the numbers of newborns began to soar and Portage was no exception to this trend. Among those who foresaw the consequences that this new trend would have on Portage were Lynn H. Gunderson and William A. Kutzke, the city's two biggest building contractors. Both of these men realized that the city's existing vacant lots would not satisfy the increased demand for housing that the baby boom would produce and they also realized that by engaging in the development of new plats themselves, lots in these additions could be offered at a much cheaper price than lots in the city's existing plats so building new houses on these lots would therefore be more profitable.

Lynn Gunderson was the first to act. In November of 1950 the Gunderson Construction Co. filed its Bluffview Addition plat, which was located on nine acres of land that Gunderson had acquired on the far west edge of the city. This plat was bound by Silver Lake Cemetery to the north, River Street to the south, and Summit Ave. to the east and it included some 35 lots located on three cul-de-sacs; Bluffview Court, Riverview Court, and Crestview Court. Platting the addition and selling the lots were two different things, however, and no houses would be completed in this addition until 1955.

Meanwhile, in 1952, Portage's Centennial year, the Kutzke Construction Co., William A. Kutzke, president and J. Warren Patterson, corporate secretary, platted their own new Indian Hills Addition on land they owned that was located just east of New Pinery Road and opposite the north end of Silver Lake. This new subdivision was bounded by what would become E. Slifer Street on the north, Yellowstone Avenue on the east, and Winnebago Ave. on the south, and it was bisected by Hiawatha Ave. and E. Minnehaha Ave. and contained some 62 lots. What made this subdivision unusual, though, was Kutzke's relationship with the P&H Harnischfeger Co. of Port Washington, Wisconsin. The Harnischfeger company had begun operations in Milwaukee in 1884 as Pawlings & Harnischfeger and had become an important manufacturer of cranes, mining equipment and other heavy machinery by the 1920's. In order to build a product line that was less subject to the boom and bust cycles of the machinery industry, however, Harnischfeger also got involved in the pre-fabrication industry in the late 1930's and by the 1950's it had become a major manufacturer of pre-fabricated wood frame homes as well as heavy machinery. One of this firm's dealers for P&H Homes, as they were called, was William A. Kutzke of Portage, and when his new subdivision was ready, Kutzke let a prospective home buyer choose from among the several different small Ranch Style plans that were offered by P&H. P&H would then fabricate the house and ship it to Portage where it was constructed by the Kutzke Construction Co., who also acted as agents for the sale of lots in the subdivision. The first houses in the new subdivision were built in 1952 and within a couple of years at least 22 of these P&H Homes had been erected on lots on both sides of Winnebago Ave, and another had been built on Hiawatha Ave. (10)

By 1955, the first houses were also being constructed in the Bluffview Addition as well and additional homes were being built on lots in other already platted parts of the city including along W. Wisconsin St and especially in the Bank Addition, which is located just to the east of the Bluffview Addition. By this time, all of the new houses being built were, with rare exceptions, examples of the Ranch Style, the exceptions being mostly custom-designed houses built in one of the various manifestations of the Contemporary Style. And yet, despite the population growth that was occurring, little more was done in the way of the platting new residential developments in Portage during the remainder of the 1950s. Part of the

problem was that much of the land within the city boundaries that was located north of the Milwaukee Road's tracks was marshland and was unsuitable for development. Another problem was that while some new development was happening on parcels that were located north of the railroad tracks along East and West Slifer Street and New Pinery Road and on lakeshore parcels located on Silver Lake, most retail shopping continued to take place in the historic downtown portion of the city and all of the city's schools and churches were also still located south of the railroad tracks as well. As a result, new home construction in the city never reached more than 25 units a year from 1956 to 1960; 22 in 1956, 17 in 1957, 20 in 1958, 25 in 1959, and 21 in 1960, by which time the city's population had climbed from 7334 to 7822, a 6.6% increase.

The biggest change that affected Portage during the second half of the 1950s was the establishment of Interstate Highway 39 at the end of the decade, whose route took it north around the city's far west side and east across the city's far north side. Considering that Portage's history was built on the excellence of its transportation connections, beginning first with the Portage Canal in the 1830s and later with the coming of the railroad in 1857, it is ironic that the construction of the Interstate was looked upon by many in Portage with misgivings. Eventually, though, the new Interstate proved to be the engine of change that compelled development to move across the railroad tracks and into that part of the city that lay to the north of them.

In 1962, the United Methodist Church decided to move from its historic downtown location to a much larger new site located on New Pinery Road just east of Silver Lake, it being the first of the city's senior congregations to do so, and in that same year an even more important event occurred when the city's new Senior High School opened on the northwest corner of New Pinery Rd. and E. Slifer St. Also in that same year the offices of Columbia County moved into a new courthouse that had been completed in that year on the same site as the old one. Nevertheless, the fact remains that despite these signs of change, Portage still continued to grow at just a slow pace during the 1960s. In 1961, just 21 new houses were built, the same as the year before, in 1962, just 10 more were built, in 1963, 17 more, and in 1964, 19 more. In fact, the majority of these houses were still being built in already existing neighborhoods such as the Bank Addition, the Bluffview Addition, the Indian Hills Addition, and the Bluffview Addition 2, which had been developed in 1966 by the Gunderson Construction Co. on land located just to the west of its first addition and which was bounded by Cemetery Street to the north, River Street to the east, and included within it Ridgeview and Parkview courts. It therefore appears that the impetus to create new subdivisions was lacking during this period because the volume of new houses being built in the city was simply not great enough to justify much developer interest.

By 1970, the city's population had actually dropped by one, going from 7822 to 7821, and while by 1980 it had started to grow once again, it had only reached 7896 by that year. By 2010, however, the city's population had reached 10,324, so it is clear that much of the Post World War II growth that the city has experienced occurred after the end of this Resurvey's study period. Consequently, the story of this growth must await the next resurvey in order to be properly told. Nevertheless, Portage continues to fulfill its historic role as the trading center for the rural farming area that surrounds it today and it continues to experience gradual growth and continues to upgrade its civic amenities as the need arises.

Endnotes:

1. McKay, Joyce. *An Historical Architectural and Historical Survey of the City of Portage, Columbia County, Wisconsin*. Portage Area Chamber of Commerce, 1993.
2. "Citizens Discuss Home Shortage in City at Meeting." *Portage Daily Register*, April 25, 1946, pp. 1, 8.
3. "Chamber to Promote 20 Low Cost Homes." *Portage Daily Register*, May 3, 1946, p. 1.
4. "36 City Building Projects Planned." *Portage Daily Register*, June 27, 1946, p. 1.
5. "Three Sewer Districts Get Board Approval." *Portage Daily Register*, August 6, 1946, p. 1. James, Herman and Charles streets are located in the Bank Addition to Portage while the west ends of Carroll, Pleasant, Franklin and Prospect streets are all located in the Prospect Hill Addition. See also: "Western Part of Fifth Ward Will Have Sewer System In Carroll Street District Plans." *Portage Daily Register*, August 30, 1946, p. 3.
6. "20 Dwelling Units Underway in City." *Portage Daily Register*, August 22, 1946, p. 1.

7. "Portage Steadily Gains in Housing, Apartment Units." *Portage Daily Register*, September 27, 1947, pp. 1-2.
8. "Permits Given For Six Homes Since August." *Portage Daily Register*, October 30, 1947, p. 1.
9. "Street Study in Fifth Ward." *Portage Daily Register*, February 13, 1948, p. 1.
10. Goc, Michael J. *Portage: A Sesquicentennial History*. Portage: Portage Historical Society, 2004, pp. 174-175.

GOVERNMENT

County Government

A history of all the government-related buildings that were built in Portage prior to the beginning of World War II can be found in the *City of Portage Intensive Survey Report* published in 1993.(1) Consequently, this history will not be repeated here. Instead, what follows is a brief account of the history of the present Columbia County Courthouse, the only newly surveyed government-related building in Portage that was built between 1945 and 1975.

Portage's role as the historic seat of county government of Columbia County has played an important part in the city's growth and prosperity. The County's first courthouse was built in Portage in 1865 and it occupied the east half of the block that is bounded by DeWitt Street to the east, Pleasant Street to the north, Clark Street to the west, and Conant Street to the south. This courthouse continued to fulfill its role as the seat of County government for nearly a century but after World War II ended it became clear that a new, larger modern building was needed in order to accommodate all the roles that government was now being expected to fulfill. As a result, in 1960 the County Board decided to demolish its old courthouse and replace it with a modern one. This large two-story-tall Contemporary Style building was completed in 1962 to a design supplied by the Green Bay architectural firm of Foeller, Schober, Berners, Safford & Jahn, and it occupies the same site that was occupied by the original 1865 courthouse.(2) The 1962 building is still used for its original purpose today, it is exceptionally intact, both inside and out, it is believed to be eligible for listing in the NRHP, and it is one of Wisconsin's best early Post-World War II courthouses.

NOTES ON SOURCES

The best sources of information on Portage's courthouses, both old and new, are the *Portage Daily Register* newspaper and the 1993 *Portage Intensive Survey Report* by Joyce McKay. See also: Goc, Michael J. *Portage: A Sesquicentennial History*. Portage: Portage Historical Society, 2004, pp. 88-91.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED

AHI# 231811	400 DeWitt St.	Columbia County Courthouse	1962
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Endnotes:

1. McKay, Joyce. *An Historical Architectural and Historical Survey of the City of Portage, Columbia County, Wisconsin*. Portage Area Chamber of Commerce, 1993, pp. 212-221.
2. Dedication plaque in the courthouse's entrance hall. See also: Berners-Schober Archives Collection, Stick Number 706.

RELIGION

A history of all the church buildings that were built in Portage prior to the beginning of World War II can be found in the *City of Portage Intensive Survey Report* published in 1993.(1) Consequently, this history will not be repeated here. Instead, what follows is a history of those surveyed church buildings in Portage that were built between 1945 and 1975.

For a number of years after the end of World War II members of Portage's existing congregations continued to worship in their nineteenth century church buildings, either because their existing churches were adequate for their needs or because the means to build new ones was lacking. In larger cities, however, the immediate post-war years were marked by rapid suburban expansion that was also accompanied by new church building activity. These new suburban settings offered attractions to church congregations located in this city's increasingly congested historic central business districts that the downtown could not compete with. For instance, the suburbs could provide congregations with large parcels of relatively inexpensive, undeveloped land that provided ample room for both new buildings and for automobile parking. In addition, the suburbs were increasingly the place where many congregations' parishioners actually lived. Even before the war began, many families had already begun to move from the downtown to the suburbs and once the war ended this process accelerated dramatically. Not surprisingly, once these families had reestablished themselves in their new suburban homes, many preferred to worship in churches that were located close to where they lived rather than in the historic downtown churches they had previously attended. This was even more true of the new families that came to these cities in ever greater numbers after the war. These families had no previous allegiance to the city's historic downtown churches and they too looked to the suburbs for places to live and for congregations located nearby.

In Portage, though, the very gradual growth of the city's suburbs after the war meant that for a time the city's senior churches were able to absorb the growth that their congregations experienced and at least three of them; St. Mary's R.C. Church, St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, and the United Presbyterian Church, still hold services in their nineteenth century downtown churches to this day. Others, however, like the United Methodist and St. John's Evangelical Lutheran congregations, would eventually forsake their old churches for new ones that would be built where parking and downtown congestion was not a problem.

At the same time, new congregations began to take root in the city after the war ended and like the nineteenth century congregations that preceded them, many of these congregations, such as the Bible Baptists, were at first housed in rented quarters before they acquired a building of their own.

The Resurvey found that just two new churches that met survey criteria for integrity were built in the city between 1945 and 1976.

Bible Baptist Church

The Bible Baptist Church was established in Portage starting in the early 1950s and by 1959 the congregation had grown to the point where a new and larger church building of their own was needed. This resulted in the construction of a new Contemporary Style church building, which was built at 101 Hiawatha Ave. in 1960 to a design supplied by the Madison, Wisconsin architectural firm of Ames, Torkelson, and Nugent.(2) The new church continued to house the Bible Baptist congregation and/or its school until 1999, when the building became the new home of the Silver Lake Community Church. Today, this building is no longer a church and instead it houses the office of the Wisconsin River Title Consultants.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

The St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church congregation was founded in Portage in 1859 and it was associated with the Missouri Synod of that church. By 1874, this congregation had outgrown its original home and so it built a new and larger cream brick church at 701 McFarlane St. and this church building (still extant) would continue to be their home for just over 100 years. By 1976, however, the congregation

had grown to the point where it once again needed a new and larger church, so land on the corner of Armstrong and Wisconsin streets was purchased and a new Contemporary Style church building designed by Milwaukee architect Louis H. Fields became their new home. This new church was dedicated on June 13, 1976, and this building still serves the congregation today.(3)

NOTES ON SOURCES

The best source of information on the post World War II history of churches in Portage is the *Portage Daily Register* newspaper. See also: Goc, Michael J. *Portage: A Sesquicentennial History*. Portage: Portage Historical Society, 2004, pp. 154-161.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED

AHI# 231784	850 Armstrong St.	St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church	1976
AHI# 231829	101 Hiawatha Ave.	Bible Baptist Church	1960

Endnotes:

1. McKay, Joyce. *An Historical Architectural and Historical Survey of the City of Portage, Columbia County, Wisconsin*. Portage Area Chamber of Commerce, 1993, pp. 171-187.
2. State of Wisconsin Division of Safety and Buildings. Building plans correspondence (e-files). Wisconsin Historical Society, Archives Division.
3. "New St. John' Lutheran Church to be dedicated." *Portage Daily Register*, June 11, 1976, p. 9.

HEALTH SERVICES

A history of all the buildings associated with health services that were built in Portage prior to the beginning of World War II can be found in the *City of Portage Intensive Survey Report* published in 1993.(1) Consequently, this history will not be repeated here. Instead, what follows is a history of those surveyed buildings in Portage that were associated with this theme and which were built between 1945 and 1975.

For most Wisconsin cities the size and age of Portage, the construction of buildings designed specifically to house persons or organizations providing health services to the community was a twentieth century phenomenon. Persons needing health care in the nineteenth century were usually treated in a doctor's own office or at home and care was usually provided by the patient's family or sometimes by a private nurse. Even in large cities, the first hospitals were often the result of the efforts of a single doctor who turned a house or similar building into a hospital facility.

By the beginning of the twentieth century, though, buildings built for the specific purpose of providing health care services began to appear and many of the earliest ones were organized by various religious groups including especially the Roman Catholic Church. Such was the case in Portage, where the city's first purpose-built hospital, Divine Savior's, was organized in 1914 by the Sisters of the Divine Savior Order of the Catholic Church as a non-profit community hospital. The original hospital building was located at 1015 W. Pleasant St. and was completed in 1917, but it was significantly enlarged in 1921 and again in 1928, 1954 and 1957. This resulted in a fully accredited hospital facility that provided 135 beds, one large enough to serve both Portage and the surrounding area. By 2000, however, the need to build a larger modern facility was clear. As a result, a fundraising campaign was begun and in 2003 a fine new Contemporary Style hospital located at 2817 New Pinery Rd. was opened to the public. The original hospital building was then demolished and it has now been replaced by condominium and apartment buildings.

Hospitals were not the only new health service-related buildings that came to prominence in the twentieth century, however. After World War II, a new building type, the professional office building, became a familiar feature in Wisconsin cities. Such buildings sometimes housed a variety of professional tenants but as the medical profession expanded after the war it became common for groups of doctors to band together and form medical service groups of their own. Sometimes these groups organized themselves into clinics that provided a wide range of medical specialties and Portage has a fine example, the Portage Clinic. This clinic was started by two Portage doctors who hired Lynn H. Gunderson to design their new building and the Gunderson Construction Company to build it. Their new Ranch Style-inspired building is located at 1508 New Pinery Rd. and was completed in 1967, and although currently vacant it is still largely intact today.(2)

Another new resource type that came into prominence after World War II was the nursing home. Houses that had been converted into places where the elderly could live and be cared for existed long before the twentieth century and so too did city, county, and state facilities that were intended to house those elderly members of the population who lacked funds or family to care for them. As the country's population expanded and the number of its elderly citizens increased, however, new buildings designed specifically to house the elderly in modern, sanitary buildings that were staffed by professional care givers began to appear and the Divine Savior Nursing Home in Portage is an outstanding example of this resource type. This large Contemporary Style building was built for and operated by the Sisters of the Divine Savior and it was completed in 1966 to a design supplied by Milwaukee architect Henry R. Slaby.(3) The new building had a 100-bed capacity, it occupied the site of a large house (non-extant) that had been the previous nursing home run by the Sisters, and it was still in use as a nursing home until very recently and is considered to be eligible for listing in the NRHP as an outstanding example of this resource type.

NOTES ON SOURCES

The best source of information on the post World War II history of health services in Portage is the *Portage Daily Register* newspaper. See also: Goc, Michael J. *Portage: A Sesquicentennial History*. Portage: Portage Historical Society, 2004, pp. 128-133.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED

AHI# 231855	1508 New Pinery Rd.	Portage Clinic Building	1967
AHI# 231864	715 W. Pleasant St.	Divine Savior Nursing Home	1966

Endnotes:

1. McKay, Joyce. *An Historical Architectural and Historical Survey of the City of Portage, Columbia County, Wisconsin*. Portage Area Chamber of Commerce, 1993, pp. 237-240.
2. State of Wisconsin Division of Safety and Buildings. Building plans correspondence (e-files). Wisconsin Historical Society, Archives Division
3. "Dedicate Nursing Home." *Portage Daily Register*, October 3, 1966, pp. 1, 3 (illustrated). See also: "Divine Savior Nursing Home to open in September." *Portage Daily Register*, July 13, 1966, pp. 1-2 (illustrated); "Nursing Home to be 'home' not an institution." *Portage Daily Register*, September 28, 1966, pp. 1, 3 (illustrated).

ARCHITECTURE

ARCHITECTURAL STYLES and VERNACULAR BUILDING FORMS

The principal intent of the National Register of Historic Places is to assist in the identification, evaluation, and preservation of America's historic and archeological resources by creating a nationwide list of the most significant examples of each type. Because inclusion on the National Register implies that a listed resource meets standards which have been developed to apply to all similar resources in the nation, federal, state, and local governments and private citizens can use this list to make better informed decisions regarding which resources should be preserved and protected by comparing unlisted resources with those already on the list.

The process of creating this National Register has been complicated because in a nation the size of America there exist a staggering variety of resources which can legitimately claim a place on this list. As a result, one of the principal tasks of the National Register program has been that of identifying and categorizing these resources and then adopting criteria which make it possible to select the most significant examples within each category. A good example of this larger process of identification and categorization has been the creation of the catalog of architectural styles which is used to describe and identify the nation's buildings. The history of this catalog actually begins with those European architects of the Renaissance and Baroque periods who sought to identify and understand the underlying design principles they believed were present in the Greek and Roman buildings of antiquity. One of the methods they devised to study such buildings consisted of assigning them to different categories (or "styles") based on an analysis of their visual characteristics. This was done by describing and labeling the building's component parts and then analyzing how the various parts were used to make up the whole. When enough buildings having a similar appearance had been analyzed to create a consensus of opinion as to their common characteristics, they were given a descriptive name (such as Greek or Roman) which was then called a "style". When the formal study of architectural history began in the early nineteenth century this method became a standard interpretive tool because categorizing buildings according to style proved to be of great value in giving a sense of coherence to the historic progression of architecture and to the design of the built environment.

The subsequent efforts of several generations of architectural historians resulted in the creation of a long list of architectural styles and the process of adding new names to this list and refining the definitions of existing ones continues to this day. The ongoing nature of this process must be emphasized because existing stylistic definitions are sometimes modified and even superseded by newer, more accurate ones when knowledge about historic buildings increases and understanding of common stylistic characteristics becomes more sophisticated. When the National Register program first started, for example, a whole group of late-nineteenth century buildings were lumped together under the general heading of the "picturesque style" for want of better names. Today this term is no longer in use, it having been superseded by several more narrowly defined and accurate ones. Consequently, an updated catalog of architectural styles has been incorporated in each successive version of the National Park Service's (NPS) Guidelines For Completing National Register of Historic Places Forms (now National Register Bulletin No. 16A) and the evaluation of buildings based on their stylistic characteristics has always been an integral part of the process of assessing the potential National Register eligibility of architectural resources. The NPS' justification for evaluating buildings based on their stylistic characteristics was originally stated in the beginning of the architectural classification listings on p. 54 of Bulletin No. 16A: " The following list [of architectural categories] reflects classification by style and stylistic influence, which is currently the most common and organized system of classifying architectural properties."

The National Park Service's early acceptance of the concept of architectural styles and its subsequent drafting of an approved list of such styles were events of considerable significance for the current study of America's built environment. Because so much of the effort of state and local preservation organizations today centers around placing buildings on the National Register, the criteria used by the National Register automatically become the standard criteria used by each state. Therefore, the net result of the National Register program has been to codify architectural styles at the national level. It is fortunate, then, that the National Register program was set up to treat the process of defining architectural styles as an ongoing one.

Definitions used by the National Register are routinely updated as more and better information becomes available from such important sources as intensive surveys such as the ones undertaken in Portage. One of the principal tasks of an intensive survey, after all, is to produce quantitative information about the architectural resources within the area being surveyed. When the results of several intensive surveys are compared and synthesized, our understanding of the evolution and distribution of architectural resources is increased accordingly and this is sometimes manifested in revised and expanded stylistic definitions.

The importance of the National Register as an influence on other, more specialized studies of the nation's buildings can best be shown by examining its influence on such works as the *Comprehensive Resource Management Plan* (CRMP) published in 1986 by the State of Wisconsin's Division of Historic Preservation (DHP). This multi-volume work is ultimately intended to provide a thematic overview of all the built resources in the state of Wisconsin and one of the themes covered in the three volumes already published is that of Architectural Styles. The CRMP's definitions of the various architectural styles found in Wisconsin are essentially the same as those used by the National Park Service except that those in the CRMP also include information on the Wisconsin manifestations of these styles gleaned from the many intensive surveys the DHP has conducted. Consequently, these have become the standard stylistic definitions used at the state level to describe Wisconsin's architectural resources and they are used in paraphrased form in the following architectural styles portion of this chapter. Each stylistic definition found on the following pages describes in some detail the way that style was used in the Resurvey area and mentions any manifestations of the style peculiar to the survey area. The resulting definitions are consistent with those used by the National Park Service but also reflect the local manifestations found by the Intensive Resurvey.

Most of the stylistic definitions contained in the CRMP apply to buildings designed prior to the end of World War II, and it is these styles that predominate in those portions of Portage that were the subject of the previous 1993 architectural survey of the city. The Resurvey area, however, contains not only all the pre-World-War II buildings that were previously surveyed, but also areas of today's city that were not platted until after the end of the war and which were therefore not looked at in the original 1993 intensive survey. The newly surveyed buildings in the Resurvey area are, with one exception, all post-World War II buildings, most of which are now 50-years-old or older, and most of these are examples of styles that are not discussed in the CRMP and which even today do not have commonly accepted definitions. The authors of the CRMP, which was written in 1986, acknowledged this problem in their discussion of buildings constructed from 1950 to the present, which they called "Contemporary Style" buildings, and which the National Register of Historic Places calls "Modern Movement" buildings.

Contemporary architecture cannot be defined or described in the manner of other preceding stylistic movements. "Contemporary" can be used to designate any twentieth century building of distinction and potential interest, whose identity or features cannot be ascribed to styles and forms discussed in this report. Although architectural historians have invented names for some contemporary schools of architecture (i.e., Brutalism, The New Formalism, Neo-Expressionism, Late Modernism, Post-Modernism, etc.), buildings of these genres are not of sufficient age, and generally do not have widely-recognized and understood scholarly value, to be evaluated for significance according to National Register criterion. Other widely accepted terms for mid-twentieth century residential architecture such as "ranch house," "tract home," and "split-level," refer to buildings generally not surveyed in the Wisconsin program. As with contemporary schools of architecture, a terminology will likely be adopted as scholarship develops and as these buildings reach 50 years of age.(1)

That these post-war buildings cannot yet be placed within accepted architectural stylistic categories does not mean that they should not be surveyed or that they are ineligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. According to the National Register, in order for a property to be listed in the National Register, that property must possess integrity and historic significance, and in addition, "generally properties must be fifty years of age or more to be considered historic places." This 50-year rule constitutes a rolling horizon, however, and every year another year's worth of resources become potentially eligible. Thus, for the purposes of the Portage Resurvey, generally speaking, any property that is now 50-years-old or older (i.e., ones that were built prior to 1965) is potentially eligible for NRHP listing if it also possesses

both integrity and historic and/or architectural significance. Consequently, because the goal of intensive surveys such as the Portage Resurvey is to identify all buildings and other resources within the survey area that are potentially eligible for National Register listing, the post-World War II resources in the survey area whose designs do not have currently accepted scholarly definitions were also surveyed as well. Therefore, surveyed buildings that reflect Ranch style, Split-level style, and Contemporary style designs are included in this chapter, and provisional definitions of these post-war styles are also included in paraphrased form in the following architectural styles portion of this chapter.

What follows is a catalog of the styles identified by the Portage Resurvey. The style names and the periods of their occurrence are taken directly from the CRMP as are the basic definitions of each style, when available. This is followed by more specific information about the way each style was used in the survey area and by a list of addresses of both the most important and the most typical of the intact and extant local examples of each style that were identified by the Resurvey. Further information on the styles themselves can be found in the second volume of the CRMP and in its bibliography.

Endnote:

1. Wyatt, Barbara (ed.). *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin: Vols. 1-3, A Manual for Historic Properties*. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1987. Vol. 2, (Architecture), p. 2-37.

PERIOD REVIVAL STYLES

The phrase "period revival" is a generic term used to describe the many different historic styles and design elements that architects revived and reinterpreted for modern use in the first decades of the twentieth century. These "period" designs were the products of the scholarly study of architectural history and they began to exert more and more influence on architectural design as the nineteenth century matured. By the turn-of-the-century, the study of architectural precedent had become a basic part of architectural training and resulted in buildings which were increasingly careful copies of historic styles. The most accurate copies were usually produced for houses and churches; two building types for which historic models actually existed. More often, though, architects were confronted with the challenge of producing designs for building types for which there were no historic precedents such as high-rise office buildings and gas filling stations.

Colonial Revival

Interest in America's historic Colonial Period architecture increased at the end of the nineteenth century at a time when a reaction to the stylistic excesses of the Queen Anne style was beginning to set in. The greater simplicity of Colonial examples gave new houses designed in this manner a fresh, modern appeal. The Colonial Revival style is simple and regular in design and typically features symmetrically placed windows and central doors. Usually, these buildings are two stories in height, they have exteriors sided in either clapboards or wood shingles, although brick and even stone examples are also found. Many Colonial Revival houses have an L shaped plan but most examples have rectilinear plans and post World War I examples often have an attached garage. Symmetrical designs are typical but not invariable. Borrowing architectural detailing from genuine Georgian, Federal, and Dutch Colonial examples is typical in Colonial Revival buildings although such details are usually not elaborate. These features include classically derived main entrances and front (and side) entrance porches that are typically supported by simple one-story-tall classical order columns and are topped by pediments. Other popular features include corner pilasters, denticulated cornices, and shutters. The great majority of Colonial Revival designs have simple gable roof designs although hip roof examples are also found, and dormers are also popular features.

The Colonial Revival style is primarily a residential one and although buildings designed in the style were occasionally quite grand, most were medium size houses and these were built in vast numbers all across America. Indeed, so enduring has the popularity of this style been that many modern homes in Wisconsin and elsewhere still imitate it. Not surprisingly, Colonial Revival style houses come in many shapes and forms. Many are highly symmetrical in design but others are quite informal and rambling, it all depended

on the particular historic precedent each was trying to emulate. Wall cladding also varies considerably. Houses clad entirely in stucco, brick, stone, wooden clapboards, or steel that imitates wooden clapboards are plentiful but so also are examples that mix these various materials, although few if any mix more than two kinds at once. Despite this variety of designs and materials, however, the use of some elements such as double hung multi-light windows, main roofs that have very shallow boxed eaves, and main entrance doors that typically have some classical allusions, is relatively consistent.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

Most of the Colonial Revival Style houses that have been surveyed in Portage were surveyed as part of the original 1993 Intensive Survey and are discussed in that survey report. Nevertheless, the enduring popularity of the style has meant that examples were still being built in Portage in the immediate post World War II period as well.

The survey found three two-story Colonial Revival style houses that were built in the Resurvey area beginning in 1950. These houses constitute a subtype of the Colonia Revival style that gained increased popularity with builders at the end of the Depression and in the Post-War period and they are listed below.

AHI# 231814	522 W. Edgewater St.	William Leitch House	1950
AHI# 231876	812 River St.	Mr. & Mrs. James M. Evansen House	1972
AHI# 231878	302 Riverview Ct.	Gale K. & Donna Hill House	1965

Lustron (1949-1950)

Although short-lived, the all metal Lustron House produced by the Chicago Vitreous Enamel Products Company's subsidiary, the Lustron Corporation, was one of the most successful and is now the best known of the pre-fabricated houses that were developed just after World War II to meet the enormous post-war need for new housing. The houses were produced in the former Curtiss-Wright airplane factory in Columbus, Ohio, and were especially notable for being made entirely of steel.

Lustron homes are distinctive in their appearance, with two-foot-square, porcelain enameled steel panels on the exterior, usually colored yellow, beige, gray, or aqua. The roof is similarly made of steel, but these panels are sized and shaped to look much like standard shingles. Although several different models were planned, the vast majority—perhaps more than 90%—of those shipped from the factory were the original, two-bedroom Westchester model measuring 31 feet by 35 feet. This model has four picture windows, one in the dining room, one in each bedroom, and one in the living room, which is a bay window.

The interior of the Lustron is all porcelain-enameled steel as well, but these panels are 2 feet wide by 8 feet high and beveled, much like standard paneling, to give the appearance of a conventional home. The design features an open floor plan with only the bedrooms and the bathroom having doors. The space is very efficiently planned, with plenty of storage, making the 1024 square feet seem like more. Built in shelf, drawer and mirror areas are located in the dining room, living room and master bedroom. The closets all have shelves in them as well.(1)

Although a design success and a practical success, the Lustron House was a manufacturing and commercial failure and only some 2500 were made before the company closed its doors in 1950, and only 150 were built in Wisconsin. Never-the-less, the houses lived up to their claim of being practically maintenance free and they also represent an important step in the concept of pre-fabricated housing. Consequently, these houses have an architectural and historical importance that makes all intact examples potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

One example of the Lustron home was found by the intensive resurvey, but, unfortunately, it has now been altered, and since integrity is the most important attribute of these otherwise identical houses, it is not considered to be eligible for listing in the NRHP.

AHI# 231928 1125 W. Wisconsin St. Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Lennon House 1948

Endnote:

1. Canaday, Tricia. "The Lustron Home." Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, *Wisconsin Preservation*. Vol. XVI, No. 5, Sept/Oct. 1992, pp. 7-10.

Wrightian

As the name implies, Wrightian style buildings are ones whose designs, if not actually by Frank Lloyd Wright himself, are close in spirit and in appearance to those designed by him. The term "Wrightian" is relatively new and does not yet enjoy universal scholarly currency, partly because Wright himself was so protean and varied a designer that it is hard to place limits on what to include or leave out. Suffice it to say that at this point in time, a "Wrightian" building is one having a close physical resemblance to existing Wright-designed buildings of whatever period but especially those built after 1930.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

There are three fine examples of this style in the survey area and they are listed below. Two of them were designed by Herb Fritz, Jr., who was an apprentice at Taliesin and both are evaluated as being potentially eligible for NRHP listing, as is the third house, which was designed by Portage designer Lynn H. Gunderson.

AHI# 231874	1005 W. Prospect St.	Kenneth & Joyce Scherbert House	1952(1)
AHI# 231875	404 River St.	Kenneth & Joyce Scherbert House	1958(2)
AHI# 231898	104 W. Slifer St.	Dr. John R. & Kathy Curtis House	1966(3)

Endnotes:

1. This house was designed by Madison architect Herb Fritz, Jr.
2. Ibid.
3. This house was designed by Lynn H. Gunderson of Portage.

Ranch Style

As the name implies, the inspiration for today's modern Ranch Style houses came from the vernacular houses that could once be found on historic ranches located in the nation's southwestern states and especially in California. In the 1930s, California architects such as William Wurster and Cliff May transformed these vernacular designs into a modern idiom that became known as the Western Ranch House; an idiom whose growing popularity owed much to the publishing activities of *Sunset Magazine*. In addition, the Prairie School Style houses of Frank Lloyd Wright, with their low, ground-hugging appearance, hipped roofs, and wide, overhanging eaves, were another important source of inspiration. By the beginning of World War II, house catalogs featuring Ranch Style designs had begun to appear, and after the war ended, the Ranch Style was quickly embraced by builders all over the country and the style soon evolved into the ubiquitous single family residential form that can now be found in most of the nation's mid-20th century suburbs.

Ranch Style houses are one-story-tall, they typically have either rectangular, L-shaped, or U-shaped plans and most examples also have attached garages as well or at least a carport, and these automobile-related

elements typically face the street. In addition, examples of this style also share a number of other common characteristics. “Asymmetrical one-story shapes with low-pitched roof predominate. Three common roof forms are used: the hipped version is probably the most common, followed by the cross-gabled, and finally, side-gabled examples. There is usually a moderate or wide eave overhang. This may be either boxed or open, with the rafters exposed as in Craftsman houses. Both wooden or brick wall cladding are used, sometimes in combination. Builders frequently add modest bits of traditional detailing, usually loosely based on Spanish or English Colonial precedents. Decorative iron or wooden porch supports and decorative shutters are the most common. Ribbon windows are frequent as are large picture windows in living areas.”(1)

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

The Portage Resurvey found 121 examples of Ranch Style houses that met survey criteria, this being 83% of all the new resources that were surveyed. These houses come in a variety of sizes and they also utilize a variety of cladding materials, including either wood, steel, or aluminum clapboards, and brick or stone, and many examples combine two or even three of these materials. Most of these examples were the work of local builders utilizing published plans, but some may also be the work of architects as well. The best and most intact of the surveyed examples are listed below, irrespective of their size or their cladding materials.

AHI# 231783	415 E. Albert St.	Erwin Butzlaff House	1960
AHI# 231785	303 Bluffview Ct.	Earl & Margaret Winkler House	1961
AHI# 231788	307 Bluffview Ct.	Dr. & Mrs. Robert T. Cooney House	1959
AHI# 231791	310 Bluffview Ct.	Mr. & Mrs. Bruce J. Rogers House	1956
AHI# 231792	311 Bluffview Ct.	Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Moore House	1956
AHI# 231795	314 Bluffview Ct.	Viola Siebers House	1955
AHI# 231796	121 W. Carroll St.	Walter & Norma Evensen House	1964
AHI# 231797	526 W. Carroll St.	Mr. & Mrs. Donald A. Murphy House	1956
AHI# 231800	122 Charles St.	Dr. Edward & Betty Harkins House	1961
AHI# 231801	210 Charles St.	Carl F. & Cora Mantuefel House	1973
AHI# 231802	212 Charles St.	Donald J. & Gale Roecker House	1966
AHI# 231805	724 W. Cook St.	Linus Blank House	1968
AHI# 231806	310 Crestview Ct.	Clifford M. & Clara Barnard House	1961
AHI# 231808	305 Crestview Ct.	Roger G. & Janice Race House	1961
AHI# 231812	409 W. Edgewater St.	Anton Lohr, Jr. House	1952
AHI# 231815	604 W. Edgewater St.	Mr. & Mrs. Ben Palmer House	1955
AHI# 231816	612 W. Edgewater St.	Mr. & Mrs. Everett V. Bidwell House	1960
AHI# 231818	630 W. Edgewater St.	Mr. & Mrs. John Staudenmeyer House	1955
AHI# 231821	926 W. Franklin St.	Paul E. & Jeanne Huebner House	1962
AHI# 231823	106 W. Haertl St.	Albert Frederick House	1960
AHI# 231832	214 Highland Ave.	Mr. & Mrs. Al Jirsa House	1953
AHI# 231833	220 Highland Ave.	Mr. & Mrs. William P. Lucassen House	1955
AHI# 231834	221 Highland Ave.	Dr. & Mrs. Edward Harking House	1953
AHI# 231835	314 Highland Ave.	Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Pfeil House	1953
AHI# 231836	217 W. Howard St.	Maynard & Elma Whitney House	1965
AHI# 231837	219 W. Howard St.	Edward & Gladys Gerstenkorn House	1963
AHI# 231838	116 James St.	William & Patricia Schoon House	1966
AHI# 231840	204 James St.	Frederic & Myrtle Port House	1969
AHI# 231843	311 La Moure St.	Edward & Victoria Riley House	1966
AHI# 231849	206 E. Minnehaha St.	House	1968
AHI# 231850	207 E. Minnehaha St.	Gordon H. & Jeanette Bern House	1963
AHI# 231852	209 E. Minnehaha St.	Fred Schoenknecht House	1963
AHI# 231862	846 Parkview Ct.	John E. & Elaine McSorley House	1967
AHI# 231863	116 E. Pleasant St.	William & Zelia Taylor House	1939
AHI# 231866	900 W. Pleasant St.	Thomas Manley House	1950
AHI# 231882	308 Riverview Ct.	Thomas & Velia Samuels House	1960

AHI# 231890	404 Silver Lake Dr.	Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Roesler House	1953
AHI# 231891	406 Silver Lake Dr.	Norman W. & Margaret Hill House	1965
AHI# 231903	225 Summit St.	Mr. & Mrs. Freeland Van Epps House	1950
AHI# 231904	301 Summit St.	Frank L. Van Epps House	1954
AHI# 231909	402 Summit St.	Stanley & Josephine Cichocki House	1962
AHI# 231910	704 Thompson St.	Robert E. Little House	1957
AHI# 231911	225 W. Town St.	Robert L. & Mary Burton House	1969
AHI# 231913	600 Volk St.	Glenn & Marion Roesler House	1953
AHI# 231915	210 Winnebago St.	Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Lesser House	1974

In addition, the Resurvey also found two medical office buildings, both designed by Lynn H. Gunderson and built by Gunderson Construction Co. that are also examples of the Ranch Style as applied to non-residential buildings.

AHI# 231855	1508 New Pinery Rd.	Portage Clinic	1967
AHI# 231856	1512 New Pinery Rd.	C. A. & Mary Villavicencio Building	1971

Endnote:

1. McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984, p. 479.

Split Level

Split Level style houses are a subtype of the Ranch Style that “retained the horizontal lines, low-pitched roof, and overhanging eaves of the Ranch house, but added a two-story unit intercepted at mid-height by a one-story wing to make three floor levels of interior space. ... Families were felt to need three types of interior spaces: quiet living areas, noisy living and service areas, and sleeping areas. The Split-level form made it possible to locate these on separate levels. The lower level usually housed the garage and commonly, the “noisy” family room with its television, which was becoming a universal possession. The mid-level wing contained the “quiet” living areas, and the upper level, the bedrooms.”(1)

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

The Resurvey identified nine examples of the Split-level Style that met survey criteria. The best and most intact of these are listed below as follows:

AHI# 231804	1031 W. Conant St.	Leslie & Barbara Roesler House	1961
AHI# 231807	304 Crestview Ct.	Nello & Ruth D’Orazio House	1965
AHI# 231810	307 Crestview Ct.	Donald & Bernice Hoffman House	1961
AHI# 231828	510 Herman St.	William & Irma Brockley House	1971
AHI# 231880	306 Riverview Ct.	Donald H. & Ann Lee House	1961
AHI# 231881	307 Riverview Ct.	Donald & Jeanette Witt House	1970
AHI# 231892	407 Silver Lake Dr.	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Croft House	1957
AHI# 231920	454 Winnebago Ave.	Richard & Carolyn Winiecki House	1974

Endnote:

1. McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984, p. 481.

Contemporary Style (1946-)

The Contemporary Style is a provisional term which is applied to the vast numbers of buildings built after World War II that are truly modern in inspiration and which owe nothing to past designs or historic

examples. Unfortunately, because the scholarly effort that will eventually categorize these buildings into separate styles is still in its infancy, it is easier to identify Contemporary Style buildings of architectural merit than it is to categorize them. In addition, many of these buildings are not currently eligible for inclusion in the NRHP, which normally accepts only those buildings that are 50 years old or older. Nevertheless, it is important that intensive surveys such as this one try to identify buildings that, by virtue of their fine design, may eventually be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

EXTANT RESOURCES SURVEYED:

The Portage Resurvey found 18 examples of Contemporary Style buildings that met survey criteria, this being 12% of all the resources that were surveyed. The majority of these were single family residential buildings but the survey also identified two apartment houses, one public building, one education-related public building, two commercial buildings, one medical-related building, and two church buildings that also exhibit Contemporary Style designs and all of these buildings are discussed below.

Residential Buildings

The survey identified 10 single family residences that met survey criteria, among which are the finest Contemporary Style houses that were built in Portage between 1945 and 1975. These 10 houses are scattered throughout the survey area. Some of these houses were undoubtedly designed by architects but these designers have not yet been identified. The best of these houses are listed below in two separate groups.

The first of these houses is a member of a subset of the Contemporary Style for which a provisional definition has already been proposed. These are flat-roofed one-story houses, a subtype that “is a derivation of the earlier International Style and houses of this subtype [that] are sometimes referred to as American International. They resemble the International Style in having flat roofs and no decorative detailing, but lack the stark white stucco wall surfaces, which are usually replaced by various combinations of wood, brick, or stone.”(1)

The intensive survey identified one examples of the flat-roof subtype that met survey criteria and it is believed to have been architect-designed and to be potentially eligible for NRHP listing.

AHI# 231895	612 Silver Lake Dr.	William T. & Mary Comstock House	1950
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The second group consists of the other nine Contemporary Style single family residences that were identified by the Resurvey and these houses are as yet unclassified in terms of subtypes. These buildings represent many different design strategies and a few are only a few years old, but all of them meet the same survey criteria that the buildings discussed previously had to meet; they have architectural significance and they have integrity.

The best of the houses in this second group are listed below and they are all probably the work of still unknown architects and are considered to be potentially individually eligible for listing in the NRHP.

AHI# 231896	627 Silver Lake Dr.	Hugo J. & Dorothy Traub House	1962
AHI# 231861	836 Parkview Ct.	Kenneth & Rosemary Van Bree House	1968
AHI# 3676	420 Herman St.	G. Douglas & Bonnie Bogue House	1968

Other fine, intact examples that are scattered throughout the survey area and whose designers are also as yet unknown are listed below.

AHI# 231871	1123 W. Pleasant St.	Larry & Caroline Sopha House	1971/1973
AHI# 231905	315 Summit St.	Alvin & Karen Hamele House	1978
AHI# 231912	536 Volk St.	Glenn & Marion Roesler House	1967

The Resurvey also identified two multi-unit apartment buildings in Portage that exhibit notable Contemporary Style design.

AHI# 231841	114 James St.	Candlelight Apartments	1974(2)
AHI# 231899	120 W. Slifer St..	Murtagh Garden Apartments	1964(3)

Non-Residential Buildings

The Resurvey identified two commercial buildings that exhibit notable Contemporary Style design.

AHI# 231922	717 E. Wisconsin St.	A&W Root Beer Stand	1960
AHI# 231923	437 W. Wisconsin St.	Dan O'Connor Service Station	1959

The finest Contemporary Style public building that the Resurvey identified is the Columbia County Courthouse, which was designed by the Green Bay, Wisconsin architectural firm of Foeller, Schober, Berners, Safford, and Jahn and which is considered to be potentially eligible for NRHP listing.

AHI# 231811	400 DeWitt St.	Columbia County Courthouse	1962
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In addition, there is also a fine Contemporary Style public school building in Portage as well; the MATC-Portage Campus building, which was designed by Madison, Wisconsin architect Kenton Peters.

AHI# 231803	330 W. Collins St.	MATC-Portage Campus Building	1978
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The Resurvey also identified one medical-related Contemporary Style building in the survey area. This building represents an essentially new resource type, one that came into prominence following the end of World War II; the purpose-built nursing home. This large building, the Divine Savior Nursing Home, was designed by Milwaukee, Wisconsin architect Henry R. Slaby and it is believed to be individually eligible for listing in the NRHP.(4)

AHI# 231864	715 W. Pleasant St.	Divine Savior Nursing Home	1966
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The Resurvey also surveyed two good Contemporary Style church buildings.

AHI# 231784	850 Armstrong St.	St. John's Evang. Lutheran Church	1976(5)
AHI# 231829	101 Hiawatha Ave.	Bible Baptist Church	1960(6)

Endnotes:

1. McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984, p. 482.
2. The Candlelight Apartments were designed by the Madison, Wisconsin architectural firm of John J. Flad & Assoc.
3. The Murtagh Garden Apartments was designed by Lynn H. Gunderson of Portage.
4. All individually eligible buildings are described more fully in the Potentially Eligible Individual Resources Section of this report.
5. St. John's Evang. Lutheran Church was designed by Milwaukee architect Louis H. Fields.
6. The Bible Baptist Church was designed by the Madison, Wisconsin architectural firm of Ames, Torkelson, and Nugent.

ARCHITECTS and BUILDERS

Among the principal objectives of an intensive survey is the identification of the designers and the builders responsible for creating the resources in the area being surveyed, followed by the compilation of an inventory of the work associated with the persons in each of these groups. This objective is central to the primary intent of intensive surveys, which is, to provide information that will help determine which resources are potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and it is embodied in National Register Criteria C, which states that "The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity and that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master." One result of the many intensive surveys done over the last three decades has been a redefining of the term "master" to make it broader and more inclusive than it was previously when the term was usually assigned exclusively to professionally trained architects. Now we recognize that many of the historic resources we study and preserve were designed by the craftsmen who built them and that the buildings and structures created by these largely unsung designers are as worthy of inclusion in the National Register as are the works of many more formally trained designers. This more sophisticated view of the historic development of the built environment has resulted in a much deeper and richer understanding of our surroundings and has provided a richer context within which to view the works of our most important designers. It has also made it possible for far more buildings to be considered eligible for listing in the National Register than was possible in the past.

The overwhelming majority of all Portage buildings were built and were also probably designed by local builders using published plans. Portage was probably too small a place for a standalone architectural practice to thrive, although that notwithstanding, at least one local designer/architect, Lynn H. Gunderson, did conduct a successful career as a builder/designer in Portage during this period. In addition, the Resurvey also found a number of buildings in the project area are the work of some of the best known professional architects practicing in the capital city of Madison and elsewhere in Wisconsin who worked during this period and these buildings are listed in the short architect's biographies that follow. Unfortunately, only a few of these buildings are single-family residences, even though it is likely that a number of the City's other post-World War II era houses are, in fact, also architect-designed. Partly, this is due to the fact that the best source of information about the architects and builders who designed the buildings that were surveyed is, unfortunately, one that is not readily accessible, this being the original blueprints that many of the property owners in the project area undoubtedly still possess.

The principal resources employed by the Resurvey to identify architects and builders who provided designs for buildings in the community were issues of the *Portage Daily Register* newspaper and historic State of Wisconsin E-Files, which are housed in the Wisconsin Historical Society's Archives Collection. Local newspapers proved to be the most valuable source of information and a number of those printed between 1945 and 1975 were searched for relevant architecture-related information. This effort showed that in the absence of building permit information, newspapers are the single best readily accessible resource for identifying the work of the designers and builders who worked and practiced in Portage.

ARCHITECTS

Portage Architects

LYNN H. GUNDERSON

Lynn H. Gunderson (1914-2005) is arguably the most important person connected with building and real estate development in Portage during that portion of the Post-World War II period that is covered by this survey. Gunderson was born in Portage in 1914. His father, Henry A. Gunderson, was a successful dairy farmer, real estate developer, a former Columbia County District Attorney, and a former Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin, and his grandfather, Samuel Stotzer, had come to Portage from Switzerland in 1879 and established a successful monument works in that city and he also had an interest in a local lumber yard.

Lynn Gunderson graduated from the University of Wisconsin's School of Engineering in 1937, the same year he married his first wife, Marion Moore. Subsequently, Gunderson worked as an engineer for the Portland Cement Association in Chicago, Milwaukee and Minneapolis before being employed by the defense industry in San Diego, California, during World War II. After the war ended, Gunderson returned to Portage and founded Gunderson Construction Company, which became Portage's largest construction company during the post-war years.

Gunderson was a registered professional engineer but he was also an excellent building designer as well and his obituary stated that during the course of his long career "he designed and built hundreds of homes and commercial and industrial buildings in and around the city of Portage."⁽¹⁾ Most of these buildings have not yet been identified and since his construction company also advertised that they could supply their clients with plans it is likely that not all the designs that his firm built came from his hand alone. The ones that did, though are of high quality and show that his own design abilities extended well beyond the limits of the catalog designs that his firm undoubtedly kept on hand.

In addition to his designing and building activities, Gunderson was also an important area real estate developer as well and his firm was responsible for creating a number of additions to the city including the Bluffview Addition to Portage, which is believed to be eligible for listing in the NRHP as an historic district.

The Portage Resurvey has identified three buildings for which Gunderson is the known designer, but there are undoubtedly many other that are still extant as well. One of these three, the excellent Wrightian Style Dr. John R. & Kathy Curtis House, is also believed to be potentially eligible for NRHP listing.

Portage buildings by Lynn H. Gunderson

Murtagh Garden Apartments	120 W. Slifer Street	1964(2)
Portage Clinic Building	1508 New Pinery Road	1967(3)
Dr. John R. & Kathy Curtis House	104 W. Slifer Street	1966(4)

Endnotes

1. *Portage Daily Register*: June 3, 2005. Obituary of Lynn H. Gunderson.
2. Wisconsin Department of Administration. E-Files, Box 637, E Number 131496.
3. Wisconsin Department of Administration. E-Files, Box 459, E Number 095737.
4. Interview with Mrs. Kathy Curtis, July 12, 2016.

Non-Portage Architects

AMES, TORKELSON & NUGENT

Harold Richard Ames was born in Belvedere, Illinois in 1927. He graduated from Shurtleff College in Alton, Illinois in 1946 and from the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago in 1950 with a degree in Architecture. Ames then became as associate in the Madison office of Kaeser & McLeod and continued with this firm until 1956, when he opened his own firm. In 1959, Ames associated with Robert P. Torkelson and Frederic T. Nugent in the firm of Ames, Torkelson & Nugent.(1)

Robert P. Torkelson was born in Merrill, Wisconsin in 1922. He graduated first from the University of Wisconsin with a degree in mathematics in 1951 and then from University of Illinois with a masters degree in architecture in 1954. Torkelson worked first as an architect and engineer with Stanley Engineering Co. of Muscatine, Iowa, and then with Mead & Hunt in Madison, Wisconsin from 1956 to 1959. In 1959, Torkelson entered into partnership with Harold R. Ames and Frederic T. Nugent in the firm of Ames, Torkelson, & Nugent.(2) By 1985, Torkelson had formed his own firm, Torkelson & Associates, in Madison.

Ames, Torkelson & Nugent designed a single identified building in Portage; the Bible Baptist Church, which was built in 1960. This firm also advertised in the Portage Telephone Directories in 1965, 1966, and 1967 and they were the only firm to do so within the survey period.

Portage building by Ames, Torkelson, & Nugent

Bible Baptist Church	101 Hiawatha Avenue	1960(3)
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Endnotes:

1. Koyl, George S. (ed.) *American Architects Directory*. New York: R. R. Bowker Co., 1962, p. 13.
2. *Ibid.*, p. 709.
3. Wisconsin Department of Administration. E-Files, Box 420, E Number 084635.

LOUIS H. FIELDS

Louis H. Fields (1927-2004) was born in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, the son of Louis and Gertrude Goetsch Fields. Fields attended the Sheboygan public schools and subsequently graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in architecture. After serving in the U.S. Army, Fields was first employed in the Sheboygan architectural offices of Edgar A. Stubenrauch before going out on his own and forming the Sheboygan firm of Louis Fields: Architect.(1) Little is known about his career at this time but he produced at least one known building in Portage, the Contemporary Style St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, built in 1976.

Portage building by Louis H. Fields:

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church	850 Armstrong St.	1976(2)
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Endnotes:

1. <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page+gr&GRid+116485530> Accessed June 30, 2016
2. "New St. John's Lutheran Church to be Dedicated." *Portage Daily Register*, June 11, 1976, p. 9 (illustrated).

JOHN J. FLAD & ASSOCIATES

John Joseph Flad (1889-1967) was born in Madison and attended the public schools of this city. In 1907, he apprenticed with Madison architect James O. Gordon, followed by a short period as a draftsman with another local architect, Robert Wright. From 1909-1914, Flad worked as a draftsman in the offices of several Chicago architects and contractors including: George Nimmons; Howard Van Doren Shaw; the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad; and the Leonard Construction Co. Returning to Madison in 1914, Flad worked as an architect in the architectural office of Alvan E. Small until 1917, when he left to work in the office of the State Architect for a year and 10 months. In 1922, Flad again returned to work with Small as his associate, this relationship lasting until 1925, when Flad took on Frank S. Moulton as a partner in the firm of Flad & Moulton.

Flad and Moulton lasted as a firm until 1933. In that year, Flad went into practice under his own name, but in 1941, he became associated with his son and fellow architect, Thomas H. Flad, in a new firm located in Madison. Gradually, this firm evolved into John J. Flad & Assoc., which, in the 1960s and 1970s, would grow to become one of Madison and Wisconsin's largest and most successful architectural firms and remains so today. Flad died in 1967, but his sons and descendants still continue to operate the firm he founded today.

John J. Flad & Assoc. designed just a single known project in Portage: the Candlelight Apartments on James Street.(1)

Bibliographic References for John J. Flad and John J. Flad & Assoc.:

The Capital Times. August 23, 1967 (obituary of John J. Flad).

Division of Historic Preservation, Wisconsin Historical Society. Architect's Vertical Files.

John J. Flad & Associates: Architects, Engineers, Planners. Madison, 1970. Published by the firm as a catalog of its past and then current projects.

State of Wisconsin. Wisconsin Board of Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers, and Land Surveyors: Licensing Application Forms, 1917-1974. WHS Archives Division, Series 1591.

Portage buildings by John J. Flad & Assoc.:

Candlelight Apartments	1114 James Street	1974(2)
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Endnotes:

1. City of Portage Assessor's Records.
2. Wisconsin Department of Administration. E-Files, Box 175, E Number 015615.

FOELLER, SCHOBER, BERNERS, SAFFORD & JAHN

Foeller, Schober, Berners, Safford & Jahn has been one of the most important architectural firms in northeastern Wisconsin since its founding in Green Bay in 1895. The founding partner was Henry A. Foeller (1871-1938), who was born in the French province of Alsace in 1871, the eldest of 17 children. He came to Wisconsin in 1885 and lived with an uncle in Oshkosh who put him through high school and Oshkosh Teachers College. During this time, Foeller was apprenticed to Oshkosh architect William Waters (1843-1917), the most prominent architect in that city and one of the most prominent in the state. In 1895, Foeller came to Green Bay where he formed a short-lived partnership with James E. Clancy under the name Clancy & Foeller. Two years later, Foeller began practicing on his own and he continued to do so until 1906, when he formed a partnership with Max W. Schober (1880-1965), a Green Bay native and graduate of the University of Illinois' special course in architecture, who had begun his career as a draughtsman in

Foeller's office. The new firm, Foeller & Schober, soon became the most important one in Green Bay, a position it continued to maintain long after the death of the original partners.

A major reason for this success was the skill that the firm showed in attracting new personnel who had the ability to design conservative versions of the latest architectural styles and fashions. This task was made easier because of the prominence of the firm, which made it the logical place for newly arriving architects and engineers in Green Bay to begin their careers. Among these persons was Edgar Berners, (1898-1992), who was born in Port Washington, Wisconsin, and was raised and educated in that community. Berners subsequently graduated from the University of Illinois department of architecture in 1921 and became an engineer. In 1925, Berners came to Green Bay, where he was promptly employed in the offices of Foeller & Schober, and in 1928 he was made a partner in the firm, which was renamed Foeller, Schober & Berners. Berners eventually also became certified as an architect and was later honored by being named a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, as was Henry A. Foeller before him. Later, other partners would also join the firm, including Clarence O. Jahn (?-1980) who became a partner in 1930, and Noel Ross Safford (?-1953), who received a degree in architecture from the University of Pennsylvania in 1922 and who also became a partner in 1930.(1)

New projects are still being created today by the latest generation of the firm, which is now known as Berners-Schober Associates, Inc. and it is now one of the oldest, if not the oldest, continuously operating architectural firm in Wisconsin. During the course of its long history this firm has been responsible for designing many hundreds of buildings in Wisconsin and other states, including the outstanding Contemporary Style Columbia County Courthouse, which is believed to be individually eligible for NRHP listing.

Portage building by Foeller, Schober, Berners, Safford, and Jahn:

Columbia County Courthouse 400 DeWitt St. 1962(2)

Endnotes:

1. Koyl, George S. (ed.) *American Architects Directory*. New York: R. R. Bowker Co., 1962, pp. 52, 344, 623.
2. Dedication plaque in the courthouse's entrance hall. See also: Berners-Schober Archives Collection, Stick Number 706.

HERB FRITZ, JR.

Herbert Fritz, Jr. (1915-1998) was one of several successful Madison-area architects who were deeply influenced by their direct or indirect associations with Frank Lloyd Wright. Fritz was born in Sioux City, Iowa in 1915 to Herbert Fritz, Sr. and Mary Larson Fritz. Herbert Fritz, Sr. was a respected architectural draftsman who by 1915 had worked in many of the most respected architectural offices in the Midwest. In 1913, Fritz was working in the offices of Frank Lloyd Wright at Taliesin, and it was there that he met his future wife, Mary Larson, who was the daughter of Wright's stonemason, Alfred Larson. The pre-existing connection of the Fritz-Larson union with Frank Lloyd Wright would eventually lead to the younger Fritz becoming, in 1938, a member of the Taliesin Fellowship after spending a year of study at the Art Institute's school in Chicago, a year at the UW, and two years (1936-1937) working in the Madison office of architect William V. Kaeser. From 1938-1941, Fritz studied at Taliesin, but in 1941, he left the Fellowship and purchased an adjoining farm that he named "Hilltop Farm." This new property would become Fritz' first architectural commission after lighting burned the farmhouse down in 1942 and it remained his home ever after.

Gradually, Fritz created a career for himself as a designer, mostly of houses at first. In 1959, however, Fritz became a registered architect with help from Wright. Subsequently, Fritz became "recognized as an important local architect who completed several hundred residential and commercial projects in the Madison area, throughout Wisconsin, and elsewhere in the country. His independent career began with the

design and execution of his own home at Hilltop after the fire, and slowly expanded, first within a small group of artists and intellectuals in the Madison area, later with Marshall Erdman and other developers on larger residential projects and substantial commercial undertakings."(1) Herb Fritz continued to practice up until the end of his life, which occurred at Hilltop Farm in 1998.(2)

Fritz designed two houses in Portage in the 1950s for Kenneth & Joyce Scherbert, who were devotees of the works of Frank Lloyd Wright, and each of these houses is believed to be eligible for listing in the NRHP.

Portage buildings by Herb Fritz, Jr.:

Kenneth & Joyce Scherbert House	1005 W. Prospect St.	1952(3)
Kenneth & Joyce Scherbert House	404 River St.	1958(4)

Endnotes:

1. Dowling, Jill. "A Taliesin Apprenticeship: The Architectural Career of Herbert Fritz, Jr." *Historic Madison: A Journal of the Four Lakes Region*: Vol. XIV: 1997, p. 8.
2. "Noted Architect, Wright Protégé Herb Fritz Dies." *Madison Capital Times*. Nov. 23, 1998. Obituary of Herb Fritz, Jr.
3. Herb Fritz, Jr. Building Lists. Architect's Files, Division of Historic Preservation, Wisconsin Historical Society.
4. Ibid.

KENTON PETERS

Kenton Peters (1931-) was born in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1931. His family subsequently moved to Glen Ellyn, Illinois, where he graduated from high school in 1949. Peters subsequently attended the University of Wisconsin, spent two years in the Army Corps of Engineers, and then attended architecture school at University of California, Berkeley. He subsequently returned to Madison, worked for John J. Flad and Assoc. for a few years, and then started the highly successful architectural practice based in Madison that he continues to operate to this day. Most of his best known projects are located in Madison, such as his award-winning Farm Bureau Building; the IBM Branch Office Building; the U.S. Courthouse (1985); the UW Foundation Building; and the Marina Condominiums Tower. Others are located elsewhere in the state including the Contemporary Style building he designed in 1977 for the Madison Area Technical College's (MATC) branch campus in-Portage, which is an early example of a building designed to be heated by solar energy.

Portage building by Kenton Peters:

MATC Campus-Portage	330 W. Collins St.	1978(1)
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Endnote:

1. Gribble, Roger A. "MATC Plans Sun Energy School." *Madison: Wisconsin State Journal*: February 4, 1977, p. 2, Sec. 4 (illustrated). See also: Gribble, Roger A. "Satellite MATC Campuses Grow." *Wisconsin State Journal*: December 18, 1977, p. 1, Sec. 4.

HENRY R. SLABY

Henry Robert Slaby (1906-1995) was born in Milwaukee in 1906 and was educated at the Academy of Beaux Arts (1927) and he also took courses from the University of Wisconsin Extension from 1927-1930. In 1932, he formed his own architectural office in Milwaukee and he continued to practice under his own name for the remainder of his career. What is known about his career at this time consists entirely of a

number of very impressive, mostly Contemporary Style buildings that he designed for various entities of the Catholic Church, including: Sacred Heart Monastery, Hales Corners, WI (1969); St. Mark Church, School & Convent, Kenosha, WI (1969); Mother of Good Counsel Church, Milwaukee (1968); Holy Family Church, Whitefish Bay, WI (1970); St. John the Evangelist, Milwaukee (1967), and St. Stephen Martyr Church, Milwaukee (1970).⁽¹⁾ Yet another outstanding works for the Church is Slaby's excellent Contemporary Style Divine Savior Nursing Home, which was built for the Sisters of the Divine Savior in Portage in 1966 and which is believed to be potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP.

Portage building by Henry R. Slaby:

Divine Savior Nursing Home	715 W. Pleasant St.	1966 ⁽²⁾
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Endnotes:

1. Koyl, George S. (ed.) *American Architects Directory*. New York: R. R. Bowker Co., 1962, p. 844.
2. "Dedicate Nursing Home." *Portage Daily Register*: October 3, 1966, pp. 1, 3 (illustrated).

BUILDERS

The great majority of the historically and architecturally significant buildings in Portage and elsewhere were designed either wholly or in part by the persons who built them. These designers played an important role in the creation of the built environment and the best of them are now considered to be fully deserving of the term "master" as it is used in National Register Criteria C. Consequently, an important goal of the Portage Resurvey, ideally, would be the identification of the most important builders who built the buildings in the project area. These persons possessed widely differing skills and design capabilities but were generally distinguished from those persons calling themselves architects by their less formal education and design training and by their greater degree of physical involvement in the building process. The first builders were usually skilled or semi-skilled carpenters and masons whose design sense developed out of the direct experience they acquired working with traditional building methods and designs. Prior to 1840 this experience was much the same for both builders and for those persons then calling themselves architects in Wisconsin. As a result, builders proved to be more than adequate designers for the vast majority of buildings built in this early period of Wisconsin's history, a period whose chief need was for shelter and functional utility. Even as the needs of society became more complex and buildings larger and much more numerous, builders were still able to satisfy the great majority of client's requests by resorting to pattern books for design ideas and to an ever-growing number of mail order catalogs which made available an endless variety of increasingly complex architectural details. In its essentials this system continues to exist today and most residences in particular are still built "from plans" much as they were in the nineteenth century.

The earliest builders in Portage were probably mostly itinerant craftsmen whose portable skills gave them great flexibility in choosing where to locate. Many of these persons probably stayed in Portage just long enough to finish a job and get paid. As Portage grew, however, it became possible for some of these men to move from job to job within the community and become permanent residents. For many of these men, part of the attraction of the work was the independence they enjoyed and such men did not often form lasting business associations with others. The associations that typical occur were between different generations of the same family, a pattern that gave a definite family feeling to the building trades.

Portage Builders

The principal resource that was employed to identify builders who practiced in Portage during the post-World War II period was the local newspaper. Unfortunately, building permits dating back to the survey period (1945-1975) were not kept, and while individual builders sometimes placed ads in the local newspaper, the paper itself did not identify buildings by building contractor, so much still remains to be done in terms of assembling historic information about these persons. For prospective home owners in Portage, their most likely sources for building plans would have been the city's lumber yards. Local yards advertised their plan services and it is likely that both prospective home builders and their contractors relied heavily on these resources. What follows is a listing of the only Post- World War II Portage builders for whom some of the actual buildings they constructed have been identified.

Gunderson Construction Company

The Gunderson Construction Company was founded in Portage in 1946, by Portage native Lynn H. Gunderson, who had returned to his hometown right after World War II ended. Gunderson's new firm began as a typical general contracting firm that built industrial, commercial and residential buildings and at least some of these buildings were designed by Gunderson himself, who was both a professional engineer and a more than competent designer. Before long, the firm also began to become involved in real estate development as well, and this led to the firm's being the developer of a number of new residential and commercial additions to the city, such as the Bluffview Addition, which was platted in 1950 and is considered to be a potentially eligible NRHP historic district. In 1966, Gunderson also platted and developed the Bluffview Addition No. 2 as well.

In 1947, Lynn H. Gunderson had been joined in the business by his brother-in-law, Robert C. Moore (1923-) who finally retired from the business in 1988. Lynn H. Gunderson was also joined in the business by his two sons, Robert Gunderson (1943-2015), who joined the firm in 1977, and David Gunderson, also a professional engineer with a degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison,, who joined the firm in 1975 after working for the Bechtel Corp. in San Francisco, and who continues as the president of Gunderson Construction Co. today.

The Gunderson Construction Company is still an active design/build firm today and it is also active in commercial and residential land development as well, their Rolling Hills Country Estates project in Portage being just the latest of a number of additions to the city that the firm has been responsible for.(1)

Bibliographic Reference for Gunderson Construction Company.:

1. [Http://www.gundersondesignbuild.com/html/comapny_profile.php](http://www.gundersondesignbuild.com/html/comapny_profile.php)

Accessed June 30, 2016

Surveyed Portage buildings by Gunderson Construction Company:

Murtagh Garden Apartments	120 W. Slifer Street	1964(2)
Portage Clinic Building	1508 New Pinery Road	1967(3)
Dr. John R. & Kathy Curtis House	104 W. Slifer Street	1966(4)
Earl H. & Margaret Winkler House	3030 Bluffview Ct.	1961(5)

Endnotes

2. Wisconsin Department of Administration. E-Files, Box 637, E Number 131496.
3. Wisconsin Department of Administration. E-Files, Box 459, E Number 095737.
4. Interview with Mrs. Kathy Curtis, July 12, 2016.
5. Interview with current owners.

Kutzke Construction Company

William Kutzke (1826-1903) emigrated to the United States from Germany, where he had worked as a mason and bricklayer before coming to this country. Once here, he made his way to Portage and established himself as a building contractor, and he carried on this trade there until his death. "By 1895-96, he had included his son, Herman in his business as William Kutzke and Son. Prior to 1895, Herman either worked independently or was as a relative. He indicated that he provided plans and estimates for both public and private buildings. In 1900, William Kutzke and Sons advertised as a masons' firm engaging in stone laying, brick laying, and plastering. They were owners of the Fort Winnebago sandstone quarries..."(1) By 1905, two years after their father died, Herman Kutzke and his brother, Charles J. Kutzke, were continuing the stone contracting business as partners and by then the firm had been renamed and was known as Kutzke Brothers. This partnership lasted until 1921, after which Herman continued in business as a cement contractor with his two sons, Benjamin and William A., the firm now being known as H. Kutzke and Sons. Eventually, the firm wound up being controlled by William A. Kutzke, who became the president of Kutzke Construction Co., a general contracting firm that, like the Gunderson Construction Co., also became engaged in real estate development after World War II ended.

In 1952, William Kutzke, as president of the Kutzke Construction Co., platted the Indian Hills Addition to Portage, which was located just east of what is now New Pinery Road and included the west half of Hiawatha and Winnebago avenues. This was the first subdivision to be developed in Portage after the war and it featured

POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL RESOURCES

As noted previously, the Resurvey inventoried 146 resources within the project area. The following potentially eligible historic district contain a total of 24 of those resources:

Historic Districts

Bluffview Addition Historic District 24 Buildings

In addition to the district listed above, which is more fully described in the District Survey Form that is located at the end of this report, the following nine resources are being recommended as being potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) on an individual basis:

Individual Resources

1. Divine Savior Nursing Home. 715 W. Pleasant St. This large, highly intact Contemporary Style building was completed in 1966 as a 111-bed nursing home that was owned and operated by the Sisters of the Divine Savior, a Roman Catholic religious institute that is dedicated to health care and education. Beginning in 1917, this Order had operated a hospital in Portage that by 1966 had become the principal hospital in Portage and still remains so today. In 1923, the Order also took over a large older house to use as a nursing home and it was the site of this house that became the site of the new, much larger nursing home facility that now occupies the site. The architect of the new nursing home was Henry R. Slaby of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and his design is an outstanding example of the kind of buildings that began to appear in this country after World War II that were specifically designed to house those elderly members of the general population who were challenged by living on their own. Although this building is no longer in use it is in excellent condition and now awaits a new use. This is Portage's finest post World War II non-residential building.

See: *Portage Daily Register*: July 13, 1966, pp. 1-2; September 28, 1966, pp. 1,3; October 3, 1966, pp. 1, 3.

2. Columbia County Courthouse. 400 DeWitt St. This Contemporary Style building was completed in 1962 to a design supplied by the Green Bay architectural firm of Foeller, Schober, Berners, Safford & Jahn. This large two-story limestone-clad building occupies half an entire city block and it has an E-plan with the principal facade facing east onto DeWitt St. The building contains Columbia County offices and the County courtrooms, it is still used for its original purpose today, and it is exceptionally intact, both inside and out and is one of the state's best early post-World War II courthouses.

See: Dedication Plaque. Courthouse entrance hall. See also: Berners-Schober Archives Collection, Stick No. 706.

3. Dr. John R. & Kathy Curtis House. 104 W. Slifer St. This excellent, stone-clad Wrightian Style house was built by the Gunderson Construction Company for Dr. and Mrs. Curtis in 1966. The Curtis's were great fans of the architecture of E. Fay Jones, a nationally known architect who practiced in Fayetteville, Arkansas, and whose work was greatly influenced by the work of Frank Lloyd Wright. After seeing and admiring one of Jones's houses in a magazine, the Curtis's visited Fayetteville and spoke with Jones in the hope of being able to use the plans of the house they had admired for their own house, but were told that each of his designs was specific to a given site and could not be duplicated. Undaunted, the Curtis's continued to familiarize themselves with Jones's work and ultimately approached Lynn H. Gunderson of Portage to design their new house. The finished house overlooks Silver Lake and it is one of Portage's finest Post World War II houses and is a worthy tribute to both Wright and Jones.

Interview with Mrs. Kathy Curtis, July 12, 2016.

4. Kenneth & Joyce Scherbert House. 1005 W. Pleasant St. Herb Fritz, Jr. was one of Madison's most notable modernist architects and is best known for the many outstanding houses he designed in Madison, in the neighboring village of Shorewood Hills, and elsewhere in the state. From 1938 to 1941, Fritz was an

apprentice at Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin and his subsequent work would always be deeply marked by his associations with Wright. Fritz's early work was almost exclusively residential in character and the Wrightian Style house that was his first building built for the Scherberts was built in 1952 and is a very fine, highly intact example of his early work.

See: Herb Fritz, Jr. Building List. Architects Vertical Files. Division of Historic Preservation, Wisconsin Historical Society.

5. Kenneth & Joyce Scherbert House. 404 River St. The second, larger Wrightian Style-influenced house that Herb Fritz, Jr. designed for the Scherberts was built in 1958. This house sits on a large parcel that lies adjacent to the Wisconsin River flowage and while it appears to be just one-story tall from the street, its partially open basement story reveals it to be a two-story house whose principal living spaces are located in its lower story and open out onto a landscaped patio that is inset into the site. This outstanding house is one of Fritz's finest designs and it is also one of Portage's finest Contemporary Style houses from this period as well.

See: Herb Fritz, Jr. Building List. Architects Vertical Files. Division of Historic Preservation, Wisconsin Historical Society.

6. William T. & Mary Comstock House. 612 Silver Lake Dr. This very fine, highly intact, wood-clad Contemporary Style house was built in 1950 on a parcel that overlooks Silver Lake and it was built for William T. and Mary Comstock. The architect who designed this house is still unknown but Comstock was the owner/publisher of the *Portage Daily Register* newspaper at this time and two years later his Comstock Publishing Co. would also found Portage's first radio station, WPDR, as well. The Comstock's lived in this house until the early 1970s and it is still in excellent condition today.

See: Portage Real Estate Tax Assessment Rolls. Portage County Treasurer's Office.

7. Hugo J. & Dorothy Traub House. 627 Silver Lake Dr. Yet another very fine Contemporary Style house that was built on a sloping parcel overlooking Silver Lake, the wood-clad Traub house was built in 1962 to the design of a still unidentified architect. Traub was a local businessman and a longtime member of the Columbia County Board of Supervisors who served from 1984-1992. He was born in 1914 and died in 2007 in Peoria, Arizona.

See: Portage Real Estate Tax Assessment Rolls. Portage County Treasurer's Office. See also: Resolution No. 16-07, Columbia Board of Supervisors, June 20, 2007 (A Memorial Resolution on the Death of Hugo J. Traub.).

8. Kenneth G. & Rosemary Van Bree House. 836 Parkview Ct. A very fine wood-clad Contemporary Style house that was built on a large sloping site on the outskirts of Portage for the Van Bree's in 1968 to the design of a still unknown architect. Kenneth Van Bree was born in Milwaukee in 1925 and was an executive with Divine Savior Hospital in Portage. He died in Portage in 1994.

See: City of Portage Real Estate Tax Assessment Rolls. Portage County Treasurer's Office.

See also: <https://geni.com/people/Kenneth-Van-Bree/6000000015018797819> Accessed July 25, 2016.

9. G. Douglas and Bonnie Brogue House. 420 Herman St. The highly intact Bogue house is one of Portage's largest and most elaborate post-World War II residence and it is believed it is eligible for National Register listing for its architectural significance. This very fine stone and clapboard-clad Contemporary Style house was built on a corner parcel for the Bogues in 1968. George Douglas Bogue (1922-2009) was a lawyer in Portage and was a partner with his father, David Bogue, in the law firm of Bogue and Sanderson.

See: City of Portage Real Estate Tax Assessment Rolls. Portage County Treasurer's Office.

See also: *Portage Daily Register*, Nov. 20, 2009. Obituary of George Douglas Bogue.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for the Registration and Protection of Resources

A. Survey and Research Needs

It is believed that the project area covered by the intensive survey have been adequately documented and further survey work in this area is not recommended.

Some future research needs have already been suggested in the Architects and Builders theme. Chief among them is the need to identify the architects who designed the resources in the project area and the builders who built them. One source would be the *Portage Daily Register* newspaper, which was printed in Portage between 1945 and 1975. Some issues of this newspaper were searched but conducting a systematic search of this daily newspaper was beyond the scope of the resurvey's research effort. The most likely sources for residential properties in the survey area are the homeowners themselves. These homeowners are the ones who are most likely to possess original blueprints of their houses and it is these blueprints that are the most likely sources of information about both architects and builders. Contacting these people is a project that could be undertaken by a local historical society or by neighborhood associations.

In addition, an effort should be made to identify any portions of the project area that might contain either prehistoric or historic archeological remains besides the known sites that are located within the project area: CO-0025; CO-0066; CO-0073; CO-0174; CO 0210; CO-0218; CO-0228; CO-0249; CO-0282; CO-0326; CO-0330; CO-0331; CO-0332; CO-0333; CO-0334; CO-0366; BCO-0052; BCO-0053; BCO-0056; and BCO-0059.

B. Portage's Current National Register of Historic Places Listing

The project area currently contains four historic districts, four individual buildings, and one archeological site that are listed in the National Register.

Henry Merrell House	NRHP 7-08-1993.
Church Hill Historic District	NRHP 1-25-1997.
Old Indian Agency House	NRHP 2-1-1972.
Zona Gale House	NRHP 10-24-1980.
Portage Canal	NRHP 8-26-1977.
Portage Retail Historic District	NRHP 4-27-1995.
Portage Industrial Waterfront Historic District	NRHP 3-17-1995.
Society Hill Historic District	NRHP 3-5-1992
Fox-Wisconsin Portage Site	NRHP 3-14-1973

C. Threats to Resources

There is just one principal threat to the historic resources in the project area. This is the large number of historic residential buildings located throughout the area that have been inappropriately resided in recent years and/or which have had poorly designed additions added to them.

The principal problem preservation efforts face in this area is educating the property owners about the historic value of their buildings and about the best ways in which historic buildings can be altered.

The original intensive survey and the recently completed intensive resurvey found that the project area contains a large number of residential buildings of all kinds that have been poorly remodeled in recent years; inappropriate additions, siding choices, and window replacement choices being the most common problems. The reasons for this appears to be partly economic but there is clearly room for improvement in

terms of educating the general public as to the range of options that can and should be considered when remodeling or restoration projects are contemplated.

D. National Register Priorities

The top priority for listing in the National Register should be the proposed Bluffview Addition Historic District. Listing this district in the NRHP would be of material assistance to the owners of buildings in the district who want to maintain, upgrade, or restore their properties. The owners of these buildings also have much to gain by using the tax credits that are one of the benefits of NRHP listing and the favorable publicity that can be generated by being listed. The second priority should be listing the Divine Savior Nursing Home in the NRHP. This important building is currently for sale and any new purchaser would have much to gain by using the tax credits that are one of the benefits of NRHP listing.

In addition, the City should consider working with the DHP to see if any of the potentially eligible historic districts and individual properties that were identified by the original 1993 Intensive Survey, but have not yet been listed, still meet NRHP listing criteria.

E. Community Strategies for Historic Preservation

The most effective means by which a meaningful historic preservation strategy can be created in Portage is already in place, namely, there is already a local landmarks ordinance in place and there is also a local landmarks commission to administer the ordinance. Continued City support for the City of Portage Historic Preservation Commission will enhance the most effective tool that the City has for protecting its historic resources and the Commission is also the City's most effective potential educational tool as well.

An important step was taken in 2015, when the City received a Survey and Planning Grant from the DHP that was used to fund this intensive resurvey of the city. The City's intent in funding such a survey was twofold; to create a data base of information about the post-World War II historic resources in the project area, and to identify properties that might be eligible for the NRHP. Both of these goals have now been realized.

The principal questions that now face the City are: "How can it best make use of the information generated by the resurvey to better inform the public about the historic resources in their midst?" and "How can public opinion be mobilized to place a higher value on these resources?" The answer seems to be largely a matter of education. The City now has much of the information it needs to assess the importance of the buildings in the survey area and the resurvey also identified both individual buildings and groups of buildings in the survey area that meet NRHP criteria for listing. Therefore, the best course for the City to follow would appear to be to sponsor the nomination of these buildings to the NRHP as a way of demonstrating to the community the City's continuing commitment to preservation.

Listing these resources in the NRHP is an important step because people must first be made aware of their historic resources before they will place a value on them and be motivated to preserve them. Listing these resources is also a good way of introducing the community to the criteria that the National Register uses to evaluate buildings and districts. And finally, listing these buildings would also be a way of showing that a number of the historic resources in the project area that are privately owned stand to benefit from available restoration-related Federal and State tax credits.

The need for getting more and better information into the hands of the public is clear. For instance, the intensive resurvey found that a significant number of buildings in the survey area that might otherwise have been eligible for listing in the NRHP have been rendered ineligible because they have been resided, most often with inappropriate materials or with materials that are different in scale from the originals such as when aluminum or vinyl siding is used to replace original siding. By disseminating information that is readily available from the NRHP and the DHP about the importance of maintaining a building's original appearance and by making the public aware of the fact that siding of an appropriate size is now widely available, the City can help the public make better informed decisions about renovation projects.

The City can also use the products of the survey to help educate the community about its historic resources. Informational brochures and website information that touch on remodeling issues and the tax advantages of NRHP listing can be made available by the City as part of its education effort. In addition, lectures and workshops given by the members of the DHP can be used to better inform the community about preservation issues and techniques.

PORTAGE RESURVEY RESULTS

What follows is a complete list of all the resources that were surveyed in the City of Portage Resurvey's Reconnaissance Survey. Each property surveyed during the course of this project has had a digital photograph taken of it and this photograph and a summary of the historical and architectural analysis performed on the property and other required information such as an address and parcel ID number, plus additional historic data, has been copied into the DHP's computerized database using the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Database (WHPD) software developed by the DHP. Each property is then entered into the DHP's Architecture & History Inventory (AHI) and receives its own identifying number, which is called its AHI Number and which is listed in the first column of the table that follows.

Construction dates and owners names were derived from a variety of sources including historic newspapers and historic Portage Real Estate Tax Assessment Rolls. An especially valuable resource that was used was the City of Portage's Assessor's records, which usually lists a date of construction for each building.

Please note that this list includes all of the extant buildings that were newly surveyed by the present survey. The fact that these buildings have been listed here means that they meet survey criteria, but this does not mean that they are also eligible for listing in the NRHP. Some of them are, of course, but usually those that are located in a potential historic district.

The abbreviations given below for architectural styles and vernacular building forms are the same abbreviations used in the DHP's database. These are as follows:

CO = Colonial Revival
CON = Contemporary
LU = Lustron
RA = Ranch
WR = Wrightian

<u>AHI #</u>	<u>Number</u>		<u>Street</u>	<u>Original Owner</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Style</u>
231783	415	E.	Albert St.	Erwin Butzlaff House	1960	RA
231784	850		Armstrong St.	St. John's Evang. Lutheran Church	1976	CON
231785	303		Bluffview Ct.	Earl H. & Margaret Winkler House	1961	RA
231786	304		Bluffview Ct.	Robert & Melody Thalocker House	1967	RA
231787	306		Bluffview Ct.	Oscar H. Heming House	1955	RA
231788	307		Bluffview Ct.	Dr. & Mrs. Robert T. Cooney House	1959	RA
231789	308		Bluffview Ct.	O. Cornish Heming House	1955	RA
231790	309		Bluffview Ct.	Robert D. & Barbara Wheeler House	1958	RA
231791	310		Bluffview Ct.	Mr. & Mrs. Bruce J. Rogers House	1956	RA
231792	311		Bluffview Ct.	Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Moore House	1956	RA
231793	312		Bluffview Ct.	Mr. & Mrs. Keith E. Genrich House	1955	RA
231794	313		Bluffview Ct.	Mr. & Mrs. Gail D. Hansis House	1955	RA
231795	314		Bluffview Ct.	Viola M. Siebers House	1955	RA
231796	121	W.	Carroll St.	Walter & Norma Everson House	1964	RA
231797	526	W.	Carroll St.	Mr. & Mrs. Donald A. Murphy House	1956	RA
231798	114		Charles St.	John A. & Lorna McMahon House	1977	RA
231799	121		Charles St.	Larry R. & Mary Brewster House	1964	CON
231800	122		Charles St.	Dr. Edward & Betty Harkins House	1961	RA
231801	210		Charles St.	Carl F. & Cora Manteufel House	1973	RA
231802	212		Charles St.	Donald J. & Gale Roecker House	1966	RA
231803	330	W.	Collins St.	MATC-Portage Campus Building	1978	CON
231804	1031	W.	Conant St.	Leslie & Barbara Roesler House	1961	RA
231805	724	W.	Cook St.	Linus Blank House	1968	RA
231806	301		Crestview Ct.	Clifford M. & Clara Barnard House	1961	RA
231807	304		Crestview Ct.	Nello & Ruth D'Orazio House	1965	RA
231808	305		Crestview Ct.	Roger G. & Janice Race House	1961	RA
231809	306		Crestview Ct.	Roger L. & Kathryn Binder House	1962	RA
231810	307		Crestview Ct.	Donald J. & Bernice Hoff House	1961	RA
231811	400		DeWitt St.	Columbia County Courthouse	1962	CON
231812	409	W.	Edgewater St.	Anton Lohr, Jr. House	1952	RA
231813	512	W.	Edgewater St.	Mr. & Mrs. Harry J. Weber House	1948	RA/CO
231814	522	W.	Edgewater St.	William W. Leitsch House	1950	CO
231815	604	W.	Edgewater St.	Mr. & Mrs. Ben Palmer House	1955	RA
231816	612	W.	Edgewater St.	Mr. & Mrs. Everett V. Bidwell House	1960	RA
231817	620	W.	Edgewater St.	Mr. & Mrs. Royal C. Allen House	1950	RA
231818	630	W.	Edgewater St.	Mr. & Mrs. John Staudenmeyer House	1955	RA

<u>AHI #</u>	<u>Number</u>		<u>Street</u>	<u>Original Owner</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Style</u>
231819	722	W.	Franklin St.	Otto S. & Leola Selle House	1960	RA
231820	826	W.	Franklin St.	Bernard A. & Ruth Ebert House	1964	RA
231821	926	W.	Franklin St.	Paul E. & Jeanne Huebner House	1962	RA
231822	104	W.	Haertl St.	Warren G. & LaVerne York House	1965	RA
231823	106	W.	Haertl St.	Albert Frederick House	1960	RA
231824	219	W.	Haertl St.	Mr. & Mrs. Willis Voight House	1952	RA
231825	308	W.	Haertl St.	Delbert & B. Helen Crawford House	1975	RA
3676	420		Herman St.	G. Douglas & Bonnie Bogue House	1968	CON
231827	505		Herman St.	Wayne T. & Mary Jo Perry House	1976	RA
231828	510		Herman St.	William W. & Irma Brockley House	1971	RA
231829	101		Hiawatha Ave.	Bible Baptist Church	1960	CON
231830	235		Hiawatha Ave.	Mr. & Mrs. Edward Spencer House	1955	RA
231831	208		Highland Ave.	Rodney E. Breese House	1953	RA/CO
231832	214		Highland Ave.	Mr. & Mrs. Al Jirsa House	1953	RA
231833	220		Highland Ave.	Mr. & Mrs. William Lucassen House	1955	RA
231834	221		Highland Ave.	Dr. & Mrs. Edward Harkins House	1953	RA
231835	314		Highland Ave.	Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Pfeil House	1953	RA
231836	217	W.	Howard St.	Maynard & Elma Whitney House	1965	RA
231837	219	W.	Howard St.	Edward J. & Gladys Gerstenkorn House	1963	RA
231838	116		James St.	William G. & Patricia Schoon House	1966	RA
231839	151		James St.	William D. & Marion Engel House	1978	RA
231840	204		James St.	Frederick & Myrtle G. Port House	1969	RA
231841	1114		James St.	Candlelight Apartments	1974	CON
231842	309		La Moure St.	Urban R. & Jane Johnson House	1965	RA
231843	311		La Moure St.	Edward P. & Victoria Riley House	1966	RA
231844	314		La Moure St.	Paul W. & Rosemary Mandli House	1965	RA
231845	315		La Moure St.	Lyle M. & Carol E. Hayes House	1968	RA
231846	201		Locust St.	Charles & Margaret Heberlein House	1957	RA
231847	203	E.	Minnehaha Ave.	Frederic Chase Spec. House	1962	RA
231848	205	E.	Minnehaha Ave.	Eugene D. & Theresa Lorbeck House	1962	RA
231849	206	E.	Minnehaha Ave.	House	1968	RA
231850	207	E.	Minnehaha Ave.	Gordon H. & Jeanette Bern House	1963	RA
231851	208	E.	Minnehaha Ave.	House	1965	RA
231852	209	E.	Minnehaha Ave.	Fred Schoenknecht House	1963	RA
231853	211	E.	Minnehaha Ave.	Elmer & Cecily Hickethier House	1964	RA
231854	216	E.	Minnehaha Ave.	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Splitgerber House	1967	RA
231855	1508		New Pinery Rd.	Portage Clinic Building	1967	RA
231856	1512		New Pinery Rd.	C. A. & Mary Villavicencio Building	1971	RA
231857	1721		New Pinery Rd.	Porterhouse Motel	1961	CON

<u>AHI #</u>	<u>Number</u>		<u>Street</u>	<u>Original Owner</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Style</u>
231858	308		Orchard St.	Charles & Margaret Heberlein House	1959	RA
231859	309		Orchard St.	William J. & June Stetina House	1959	RA
231860	825		Parkview Ct.	John J. & Mary L. Warra House	1973	RA
231861	836		Parkview Ct.	Kenneth G. & Rosemary Van Bree House	1968	CON
231862	846		Parkview Ct.	John E. & Elaine McSorley House	1967	RA/CO
231863	116	E.	Pleasant St.	William & Zelia Taylor House	1939	RA/CO
231864	715	W.	Pleasant St.	Divine Savior Nursing Home	1966	CON
231865	820	W.	Pleasant St.	Harold & Lorraine Hill House	1956	RA
231866	900	W.	Pleasant St.	Thomas Manley House	1950	RA
231867	917	W.	Pleasant St.	Mr. & Mrs. H. R. Creamer house	1949	RA
231868	921	W.	Pleasant St.	Howard & Adeline Staudenmeyer House	1960	RA
231869	925	W.	Pleasant St.	David & Margret Bogue House	1954	RA
231870	1121	W.	Pleasant St.	Mr. & Mrs. Herbert H. Hill House	1952	RA
231871	1123	W.	Pleasant St.	Larry D. & Caroline Sopha House	1971/ 1973	CON
231872	1134	W.	Pleasant St.	John B. Sauer House	1958	RA
231873	927	W.	Prospect Ave.	Clara Nehls House	1954	RA
231874	1005	W.	Prospect Ave.	Kenneth & Joyce Scherbert House	1952	WR
231875	404		River St.	Kenneth & Joyce Scherbert House	1958	WR
231876	812		River St	Mr. & Mrs. James M. Evansen House	1972	CO
231877	833		River St	Roger G. & Marion Riedel House	1968	RA
231878	302		Riverview Ct.	Gale K. & Donna Hill House	1965	CO
231879	305		Riverview Ct.	Naste D. Knipfel House	1960	RA
231880	306		Riverview Ct.	Donald H. & Ann Lee House	1961	RA
231881	307		Riverview Ct.	Donald E. & Jeanette Witt House	1970	RA
231882	308		Riverview Ct.	Thomas A. & Velia Samuels House	1960	RA
231883	309		Riverview Ct.	Eldon & Doris Johnson House	1959	RA
231884	311		Riverview Ct.	Gilbert W. & Lucille Retzlaff House	1961	RA
231885	312		Riverview Ct.	Mr. & Mrs. George Rehdantz House	1955	RA
231886	205		Schneider St.	Melvin & Betty Wartner House	1960	RA
231887	206		Schneider St.	Neil D. & Marcella Stewart House	1966	RA
231888	110		Silver Lake Dr.	Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Groth House	1955	RA
231889	116		Silver Lake Dr.	Rodney Gifford House	1972	RA
231890	404		Silver Lake Dr.	Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Roesler House	1953	RA
231891	406		Silver Lake Dr.	Norman W. & Margaret Hill House	1965	RA
231892	407		Silver Lake Dr.	Jack N. & Bernice Croft House	1957	RA
231893	420		Silver Lake Dr.	Mr. & Mrs. Lewis J. Windt House	1950	RA
231894	605		Silver Lake Dr.	John Mullenbach House	1951	RA
231895	612		Silver Lake Dr.	William T. & Mary Comstock House	1950	CON

<u>AHI #</u>	<u>Number</u>		<u>Street</u>	<u>Original Owner</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Style</u>
231896	627		Silver Lake Dr.	Hugo J. & Dorothy Traub House	1962	CON
231897	652		Silver Lake Dr.	Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Goodland House	1955	RA
231898	104	W.	Slifer St.	Dr. John R. & Kathryn Curtis House	1966	WR
231899	120	W.	Slifer St.	Murtagh Garden Apartments	1964	CON
231900	219		Summit St.	Mr. & Mrs. Joe Frank House	1950	RA
231901	220		Summit St.	Mr. & Mrs. Blair C. Rogers House	1948	RA
231902	222		Summit St.	James L. & Leone Van Epps House	1951	RA
231903	225		Summit St.	Mr. & Mrs. Freeland Van Epps House	1950	RA
231904	301		Summit St.	Frank L. & Nellie Van Epps House	1954	RA
231905	315		Summit St.	Alvin F. & Karen Hamele House	1978	CON
231906	325		Summit St.	William R. & Freida Butzlaff House	1960	RA
231907	329		Summit St.	Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Fogelsong House	1955	RA
231908	332		Summit St.	Raymond C. Dorn House	1955	RA
231909	402		Summit St.	Stanley & Josephine Cichocki House	1962	RA
231910	704		Thompson St.	Robert E. Little House	1957	RA
231911	225	W.	Town St.	Robert L. & Mary S. Burton House	1969	RA
231912	536		Volk St.	Glenn & Marion Roesler House	1967	CON
231913	600		Volk St.	Glenn & Marion Roesler House	1976	RA
231914	125		Waunona Trail	Trail's Lounge Supper Club	1961	CON
231915	210		Winnebago Ave.	Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Lesser House	1953	RA
231916	402		Winnebago Ave.	Robert C. & Marlene Drake House	1969	RA
231917	422		Winnebago Ave.	Elmer O. & Erna M. Cady House	1972	RA
231918	441		Winnebago Ave.	James & Maureen Van Gaas House	1972	RA
231919	453		Winnebago Ave.	Stanley J. & Gail A. Dunne House	1976	CON
231920	454		Winnebago Ave.	Richard & Carolyn Winiecki House	1974	RA
231921	2407		Winnebago Ave.	Raymond A. & Wanda Disher House	1965	RA
231922	717	E.	Wisconsin St.	A&W Root Beer Stand	1960	CON
231923	437	W.	Wisconsin St.	Dan O'Connor Service Station	1959	CON
231924	815	W.	Wisconsin St.	Mr. & Mrs. Mark N. Casper House	1952	RA
231925	1102	W.	Wisconsin St.	Church of the Nazarene Rectory	Ca.1960	RA
231926	1117	W.	Wisconsin St.	Mr. & Mrs. Donald C. Witz House	1953	RA
231927	1119	W.	Wisconsin St.	Hilbert Markofski House	1953	RA
231928	1125	W.	Wisconsin St.	Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Lennon House	1948	LU
231929	2219		Yellowstone Ave.	William A. Schmeling House	1954	RA
231930	2311		Yellowstone Ave.	Ollin & Opal Spleth House	1962	RA
231931	2315		Yellowstone Ave.	Mr. & Mrs. Richard H. Christianson House	1960	RA

DISTRICT SURVEY FORM

1	<u>District</u> Bluffview Addition Historic District		<u>Surveyor</u> Timothy F. Heggland	<u>SHSW Staff</u>
	<u>City</u> Portage	<u>County</u> Columbia	<u>Survey</u> Update of Portage 1993 Intensive Survey	<u>Date</u> 2016
	<u>Streets</u>	<u>Numbers</u>	<u>Streets</u>	<u>Numbers</u>
	Bluffview Court	303, 304, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314	t	
	Riverview Court	302, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 311, 312		
	Crestview Court	301, 304, 305, 306, 307		

2 **Boundary Description**
 The district's boundaries begin at a point that corresponds to the SW corner of the lot associated with 305 Crestview Court. The line then continues N along the W lot line of said lot until reaching its NW corner. The line then turns 15° and continues in a SE direction along the south boundary of Silver Lake Cemetery, a line that also corresponds to the northerly lot line of 306 and 307 Crestview Court, 311 and 312 Riverview Court, and 313 and 314 Bluffview Court, until reaching a point that corresponds to the NE corner of the lot associated with 314 Bluffview Court. The line then turns 100° and continues S along the

3 **Boundary Justification**
 The boundaries of the district enclose all the land that has historically been associated with the district's resources.

- 4 **SOURCES OF INFORMATION**
- A. City of Portage Assessor's Office
 - B. City of Portage Real Estate Tax Assessment Rolls
 - C. *Portage Daily Register* (various issues)
 - D.
 - E.

DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 HP-02-66 (7/16/98)

5 **MAP REFERENCE**

USGS quad: Portage _____
 scale: 1-24,000 _____

UTM References	H.
A. 16/229160/4824300	I.
B. 16/229300/4824270	J.
C. 16/229300/4824100	K.
D. 16/229160/4824180	L.
E.	M.
F.	N.
G.	O.

6 **Opinion of National Register Eligibility**
 date: _____ initials: _____
 _____ eligible _____ not eligible _____ unknown
 _____ national _____ state _____ local

7 DESCRIPTION

General character, building types, styles, environment, important natural and man-made features, qualities that distinguish district from surroundings, nature of intrusions, and generally excepted properties.

The Bluffview Addition Historic District is a small residential district comprised of 24 single-family residences and it is located on the far southwest side of the city of Portage. The addition is bounded by Silver Lake Cemetery on the north and by the east-west-running River Street and the adjacent Wisconsin River's flowage to the south, and all the residences within the district are situated on a hillside that slopes downhill to the south towards River Street, which acts as the district's southern boundary. All the houses in the district are arrayed on both sides of three cul-de-sacs that have their southern ends opening onto River Street; Bluffview Court, Crestview Court, and Riverview Court, and these cul-de-sacs are all paved in asphalt and have concrete curbs and gutters. Mature deciduous shade trees can be found throughout the district and the individual lots feature mowed lawns and ornamental plantings consisting of shrubs and flower beds. There are no sidewalks in the district and all houses have attached garages that are accessed by paved driveways that open onto their respective streets.

The houses in the district were all built between 1955 and 1970, and with one late Colonial Revival style exception, all of them represent various manifestations of the Ranch and Split-Level styles. While not overly large in size, almost all of these houses are larger than houses of comparable age and architectural styles that are located in the neighboring residential areas to the east and northeast and to other houses built in Portage during the same time period. The district's houses are of at least medium size, although some are larger, they are mostly one story in height, and most of them are clad mostly in wood clapboards or vertical wood boards, although some are also wholly clad in brick and/or stone. Some of these houses may have been architect-designed but none of them have been positively identified as such at this time. These houses are notable for their fine, representative modern designs, they are very well maintained, and although six have now been resided, the large majority still retain a high degree of integrity today.

What distinguishes the houses in the district from the houses that surround them are primarily their size and the higher quality of their designs. Most of the houses in the areas that lie adjacent to the district are of similar vintage and are also examples of the Ranch Style but the houses in the district are generally more intact and are both larger and have more iconic designs than those in the adjacent area.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

Areas of significance

Architecture: Ranch Style History: _____
Colonial Revival Style _____
Period of Significance: 1955-1970 _____

Historical Development and Statement of Significance.

The Bluffview Addition Historic District is believed to be of architectural significance under NRHP Criterion C (Architecture) because it contains Portage's most intact concentration of single family houses that display the design principles that are characteristic of the architectural styles that were developed in the United States in the immediate Post-World War II years. The large majority of the 24 houses in this district were built by either local or area contractors using previously published plans as a starting point, although future research may identify architect-designed examples as well.

This addition was platted in 1950 by the Gunderson Construction Company of Portage, which is also believed to have constructed many of the houses within it. The first seven houses in the district were built in 1955 and 1956 on Bluffview Court (a single house was also built in 1955 on Riverview Court as well). In the late 1950s, two more houses (307 & 309) were built on Bluffview Court and another one (309) was also built on Riverview Court during this same period. All five of the houses on Crestview Court were built between 1960 and 1965, as were five of the houses on Riverview Court and one house (303) on Bluffview Court, and the district's two newest house were built on Bluffview Court (304) in 1967 and on Riverview Court (307) in 1970.

At the time this plat was in development it lay at the extreme western end of the city and the fact that it was bounded by Silver Lake Cemetery to the north and by a large area of undeveloped land to the south that is essentially unbuildable due to its being a flood plain that is regularly inundated by the adjacent Wisconsin River meant that those who chose to build homes in this plat were guaranteed a degree of privacy that other subdivisions could not match. As a result, the plat was especially appealing to those for whom privacy and freedom from additional suburban encroachment mattered, such as Dr. & Mrs. Robert Cooney, who lived at 307 Bluffview Court, and Gale K. and Donna Hill, Hill Being the owner of Portage's Chevrolet and Oldsmobile automobile dealership, who lived at 302 Riverview Court.

Since 1970, when the last house in the district was completed, the setting of the district has remained unchanged and as a result, the houses in the district continue to appeal to the same types of owners that created them in the first place. The Bluffview Addition Historic District is still highly intact today and its houses constitute Portage's most intact assemblage of Post-World War II residential designs.

DISTRICT SURVEY FORM: CONTINUATION SHEET

No. 2.1 of 2.1

2. Boundary Description, Continued

the E lot line of the lots associated with 314, 312, 310, 308, 306, and 304 Bluffview Court until reaching the SE corner of the lot associated with 304 Bluffview Court. The line then turns 90° and continues W along the south lot line of said 304 Bluffview Court until reaching a point on the E curbline of Bluffview Court that corresponds to the SW corner said 304 Bluffview Court. The line then continues W across Bluffview Court to the W curbline, then turns 90° and continues S to a point on the intersection of Bluffview Court and the N curbline of River Street that also corresponds to the SE corner of the lot associated with 303 Bluffview Court. The line then turns 60° and continues in a NW direction along the N curbline of River Street until reaching the POB, and in the process, the boundary line also crosses the south ends of Riverview Court and Crestview Court. The boundaries enclose 8.52 acres of land.