

## Chapter 7: Cultural and Historic Resources Element

*Credit to Cindy Arbiture, who originally drafted and presented this element.*

### 7.A. Vision Statements

1. The Town of Concord will continue to have a rural character and the aesthetic quality associated with that character.
2. Concord's cultural historic resources and unique historic rural buildings will continue to contribute to the Town's historic sense of place in local and state history, to the Town's rural character, and to the quality of life currently enjoyed by residents of the Town.
3. The cultural historic resources of the Town will not be compromised by establishment of land uses that may reasonably be expected to have a negative impact on those resources.
4. The Town Board and the Concord Historical Society will continue to have a cooperative working relationship
5. The Concord Historical Society will be successful in its desire to restore the Old Concord Center School's (also referred to as the old Town Hall) original features and use the building as a local history museum.
6. Concord residents will become more aware of the Town's unique cultural resources.



### 7.B. Strategies

1. The Town may consider enacting a Historic Preservation Ordinance.
2. The Town will work with the Concord Historical Society, the Jefferson County Historic Sites Preservation Commission, and the Wisconsin Historical Society to identify and preserve cultural historic resources.
3. The Town may consider providing incentives to preserve old buildings
4. The Town may work with organizations established to aid in historic preservation to maintain and protect historic resources and to educate the public. These resources include the following: the Jefferson County Historic Sites Preservation Commission, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the BARN AGAIN! Program, the Wisconsin Barn Preservation Initiative, and the Wisconsin Historical Society (*see 7.E. Historic Preservation Resources for more information*).
5. The Town could consider "place-based" economic development strategies where appropriate. These strategies build on the existing, unique assets that are found in rural areas,

including natural and scenic amenities, cultural heritage and traditions, and distinctive historic structures (*see section D, Appendix B*).

6. The Town will support the Concord Historical Society in its efforts to utilize the resources provided by the Wisconsin Council for Local History and the Wisconsin Department of Tourism and to develop a heritage tourism interest in Laura Ingalls Wilder.
7. The Town may consider working with the Jefferson County Parks Department to purchase land with the goal of preserving more local historic rural resources.
8. The Town will support the Concord Historical Society in their efforts and desire to restore the Old Concord Center School's original features and to use the building as a local history museum. (This building is also referred to as the "old Town Hall.")

### 7.C. Issues

1. Our farms, open land, and historic rural architecture all contribute to our historical sense of place in local and state history. These cultural resources are disappearing on a daily basis in our Town and across the County and State; they are *irreplaceable* and *finite* resources. We have one chance to preserve them before they are gone. We need to include *their* future in *our* plan for the future.
2. In the last twenty years the Town of Concord has lost many old homes, barns, and outbuildings. A rare brick barn once stood on the corner of CTH F and CTH B. Many of the remaining historic buildings are in jeopardy, with impending future plans for development or housing replacement. Some pioneer log structures still remain under clapboard farmhouses in the Town. Some historic barns still have original wood planking from trees that were cut in this area. There is a barn on Concord Center Drive with oak plank walls and tamarack wood ceiling rafters. Many local barns still have unique historic features. There were at one time eleven one-room schoolhouses in the Town of Concord. Some of the school buildings remain but have been converted to homes, and some still have their original exterior architectural features. Only one of these schools remains intact, the Old Concord Center School. It stands at its original location, complete with old chalkboards, original wood floor, and tin ceiling. The Concord Historical Society has expressed its interest and desire to restore the school's original features and to use the building as a local history museum. The society currently has some funds to start the restoration, but more fund-raising may be needed.



### 7.D. Background

#### A Brief History of the Concord Area

The pre-European settlement history of Wisconsin includes the following cultures: Paleo, 7000 to 5000 B.C.; Archaic (Old Copper and Red Ocher culture), 3000 to 250 B.C.; Hopewellian, 100

B.C. to 500 A.D.; Middle Mississippian, 1000 to 1300 A.D.; Woodland 1000 B.C. to the arrival of European settlers. The Native American cultures that were displaced by European pioneers were the Sac, Fox, Potawatomi, and Winnebago (now known as the Ho Chunk). These are the descendants of the Woodland and Middle Mississippian prehistoric cultures. Recently, the rare remains of the Archaic culture have been found in the Town of Concord and have been documented by the Wisconsin Historical Society and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

Originally the Concord area was part of Brown County, which was later subdivided to become Brown and Milwaukee Counties, and then finally in 1839 a portion was set off to become Jefferson County. From 1839 to 1843 Jefferson County had five original towns: Aztalan, Watertown, Jefferson, Finch, and Bark River. The Town of Concord was originally part of the Town of Watertown.

### **Town of Concord Beginnings**

On February 12, 1841, a new town composed of townships seven and eight north of range sixteen east (T7N R16E and T8N R16E) separated from the Watertown civil township to form the Town of Union. On January 21, 1846, the Town of Union divided into two separate towns, Concord and Ixonia. The two towns took different paths in their future development. The railroad would be routed through Ixonia providing opportunities for commerce and industry. The Town of Concord remained rural, with a focus on agriculture and dairy farming.

The first general meeting of the Town of Concord was held on the first Tuesday of April 1846, at the house of Austin Kellogg. The meeting was organized by the election of Luther Thayer as Moderator and Jost D. Petrie as Clerk. Town officials were then elected for the ensuing year: Chairman of Board of Supervisors, Horatio N. Carlton; Assistant Supervisors, Luther Thayer and William Sacia; Town Clerk, Jost. D. Petrie; Treasurer, William Dunning Jr.

The Town of Concord grew because it was a central stopping point between Milwaukee and Madison on the Wisconsin Stage Lines route along the old territorial road, Concord Center Drive. Territorial roads were the first roads, and they often followed Native American trails. Access to transportation routes has always played an important role in the development of any area. Concord had a population of 725 in 1850, which increased to 1,627 by 1870. By the turn of the century, Concord was a growing farming community with a Town Hall, Post Office, general store, schools, churches, a sorghum mill, barber shop, broom factory, creamery, and cheese and butter factories. There are three remaining historic church buildings in the Town: Concord Methodist, St. Mary's Catholic Church, and St. Stephan's Lutheran Church. A small Jewish synagogue called Bakerstown also had a brief history in the southwest corner of the Town. A school called Bakerstown School was also located in this area and was later moved to the City of Jefferson for use as a museum.

### **Quiner/Ingalls History**

The Town of Concord was also home to the family members of the well-known author Laura Ingalls Wilder. Laura's grandmother, Charlotte Quiner, purchased 40 acres of land in Concord, moving from Brookfield, Wisconsin, as a widow in 1848. Lansford Ingalls, Laura's paternal grandfather, also purchased land in Concord on December 31, 1853. Laura's mother Caroline, a daughter of Charlotte Quiner, grew up in Concord where she became a teacher and met her husband Charles Ingalls. Charles Ingalls and Caroline Quiner were married in Concord by Reverend J. W. Lyman on February 1, 1860. Charles and Caroline moved to Pepin, Wisconsin, in

1862, where Laura Elizabeth Ingalls was born five years later. Later in her life Laura wrote a series of books about her pioneer childhood days on the Midwest prairie. The first book in her series is entitled *Little House in the Big Woods* and is a recollection of her family's log cabin home in the woodlands of Pepin.

### **Conclusion: Historic Resources in Need**

The 1850 census shows Austin Kellogg as the wealthiest man in Town. He was the owner of the stagecoach stop and went on to become a state and county leader. He was appointed Lt. Colonel of the 3rd Regiment of the Militia of the State of Wisconsin for Jefferson County. His Kellogg Stagecoach Inn survived for over 145 years in the Town. It was a prime example of Greek Revival Architecture, a neoclassical style that appears in many Yankee structures in New England. The Kellogg Stagecoach Inn was burned to the ground in 1993. The land now sits vacant. William Sacia, one of our first Town officials, claimed to be the first pioneer settler in the Town of Concord. His old farmstead is located on CTH E adjacent to the Oconomowoc River. The 105-year-old farm home located on that site was burned down in July 2007 to prepare the site for a new home.

Jefferson County was a leader in the dairy industry. William Dempster Hoard published his national dairy farm magazine called the *Hoard's Dairyman*, which had a significant impact on national dairy farm trends. Hoard went on to become Governor of the State of Wisconsin in 1888, and Wisconsin became the nation's "Dairy State." The Town of Concord was, at one time, part of this prosperous dairy industry in Wisconsin and was dotted with butter and cheese factories and a creamery. Most farms in the Town up until the early 1960s still had a herd of dairy cows.

## **7.E. Historic Preservation Resources** *(See Appendix B for contact information.)*

### **National Trust for Historic Preservation**

The National Trust for Historic Preservation provides leadership, education, advocacy, and resources to save America's diverse historic places and to revitalize communities. It is a private, nonprofit membership organization.<sup>1</sup>

### **BARN AGAIN! Program**

BARN AGAIN! is a national program that provides information to help owners of historic barns rehabilitate them and put them back to productive use on farms and ranches. The program provides technical assistance through a BARN AGAIN! hotline, publishes rehabilitation guides, sponsors workshops, exhibits, and other events, and presents annual awards for the best examples of historic barns rehabilitated for continued farming use. BARN AGAIN! is sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and *Successful Farming* magazine.

BARN AGAIN! works with local, state, and national partners involved in historic preservation, farmland conservation, and rural development. Joint activities have included barn preservation conference sessions, workshops, television programs, exhibits, and public policy initiatives.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.preservationnation.org/about-us/>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.agriculture.com/ag/story.jhtml?storyid=/templatedata/ag/story/data/barnagain\\_about.xml](http://www.agriculture.com/ag/story.jhtml?storyid=/templatedata/ag/story/data/barnagain_about.xml)

### **Wisconsin Barn Preservation Initiative**

The Wisconsin Barn Preservation Initiative was formed by the University of Wisconsin-Extension, the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin Trust for Historic Preservation to help preserve and protect many of Wisconsin's historic agricultural buildings. The program includes workshops and technical information. A state-wide barn preservation organization, Barns NOW!, was formed to focus public and political attention on barn preservation in the State. More information can be found at: [www.uwex.edu/lgc/barns/barns.htm](http://www.uwex.edu/lgc/barns/barns.htm).<sup>3</sup>

### **Wisconsin Historical Society**

The Historic Preservation Division of the Wisconsin Historical Society assists communities, organizations, agencies, and individuals with identifying and protecting archaeological sites, burial places, and historic buildings in Wisconsin. The State Historic Preservation Office maintains inventories of those properties, administers grants, conducts and supports archaeological research, and provides technical assistance to local governments and owners of historic properties. The division also administers federal and state tax credit programs for the rehabilitation of historic properties and catalogs burial sites (including Native American mounds) and prehistoric sites and structures.

### **Jefferson County Historic Sites Preservation Commission**

This commission was organized to effect and accomplish the protection, enhancement, and perpetuation of such improvements and of districts that represent or reflect elements of the County's cultural, social, economic, political, engineering, anthropological, archaeological, and architectural history and prehistory; safeguard the County's historic, prehistoric, and cultural heritage, as embodied and reflected in such historic structures, sites, and districts; foster civic pride in the beauty and noble accomplishments of the past; protect and enhance the County's attractions to residents, tourists, and visitors and serve as a support and stimulus to business and industry; strengthen the economy of the County; promote the use of historic and prehistoric structures, sites, and districts for the education, pleasure, and welfare of the people of the County. History is defined to include all prehistoric periods also.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.agriculture.com/ag/story.jhtml?storyid=/templatedata/ag/story/data/barnagain\\_statewide.xml&catref=ag9020&page=2](http://www.agriculture.com/ag/story.jhtml?storyid=/templatedata/ag/story/data/barnagain_statewide.xml&catref=ag9020&page=2)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.co.jefferson.wi.us/jc/public/jchome.php?page\\_id=1168](http://www.co.jefferson.wi.us/jc/public/jchome.php?page_id=1168)

