



23 August 2018

Ms. Stacey Tushaus, P.E.
Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC
Lincoln Center II
2514 S. 102nd Street
West Allis, WI 53227

RE: Beaver Dam Industrial Park
Town of Trenton
Vicinity of Beaver Dam
Dodge County

Dear Ms. Tushaus,

This letter constitutes HRL's historic resources survey for the captioned project.

Executive Summary

Alliant Energy is planning an industrial park in the southern part of the Town of Trenton, north of the City of Beaver Dam. The area in general, and the project area in particular, has been farmed since the region was settled in the 1840s. There is some distance between farms and there is occasional evidence of single family housing development found. Many of the farms have changed over time and are not considered to be surveyable. Similarly are the single family houses, which appear to date to the 1960s and later, non-descript structures with no character to commend surveying. Of the properties noted, only two merited recognition. One is a school that dates to 1959 while the other is a house associated with a farmstead that dates to the 19th century. Neither is considered to be potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. It may be concluded, therefore, that there are no potentially significant historic-period resources that will be affected by this project.

Location

The project is situated in Sections 9, 10, 15 & 16 of T12N, R14E, all in the Town of Trenton (see Figures 1 & 2, Pages 9 & 10).

Project Objective

As noted previously, Alliant Energy is planning to develop an industrial park in the Town of

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Trenton, immediately north of the City of Beaver Dam. This report is intended to insure that the project is in compliance with Section 106 requirements regarding historic structures.

Area of Potential Effects (APE)

The APE includes that area that will be acquired for the industrial park. Given the nature of the project, and the impact it may have on the general vicinity, the APE was also determined to include those properties immediately across the various roads from, or adjacent to, the development site. (See Figures 1 & 2, Pages 9 & 10 for a delineation of the project area.)

Previously Surveyed Properties

There are no previously surveyed properties identified in the Wisconsin Historical Society database that are in or adjacent to the project area. Nor does the Dodge County Historical Society identify or designate locally significant properties.¹

Brief Historical Context

Dodge County settlement began in the late 1830s. While the county was formally established in December 1836, its first permanent settler arrived in the Fox Lake area in March 1838. The Waupun vicinity was the next settled starting in March 1839, followed by the territory around Beaver Dam in March 1841.²

The county claimed several municipalities, the north half of Watertown, the south three quarters of Waupun, Beaver Dam and Horicon among them. Unmistakable was the county's overwhelming agricultural character. It claimed 570,880 acres in total, 524,176 of which were in 1945 devoted to farming. The county was home to 4,913 farms occupying 505,660 acres in 1870. There were as many as 5,224 farms in 1890 and as few as 4,306 in 1945 though it was in that year the number of 524,176 agricultural acres was reached. Regarding livestock, cattle in the county grew from 29,289 in 1870 to 122,951 in 1945. Similarly did the number of swine grow from 12,940 in 1870 to 67,824 in 1945, though the high point was in 1910 when the county had 88,061 swine. Also in 1945 were 97,815 acres of the county devoted to the

¹ Kurt Sampson, Curator, Dodge County Historical Society, Telephone Conversation with John N. Vogel, 21 July 2018, Notes on File at Heritage Research, Menomonee Falls, WI.

² Homer Bishop Hubbell, *Dodge County Wisconsin: Past and Present*, Volume 1 (Chicago: S.J. Clark Publishing Company, 1913): 69-71.

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production of corn, 97,569 acres to oats and 91,894 acres to hay.³

Within Dodge County was the Town of Trenton, the settlement of which started in 1844. The town's agricultural character was evident with 34,501 acres subject to cultivation. Area farms were said in 1915 to be "well improved, [with] good roads and traffic communication and everything desirable in this, the twentieth century." The dominance of farms for the town in general, and the proposed project area in particular, is demonstrated by the plat maps found in Figures 3-7, Pages 11-15 and the historic aerial images found in Figures 8 & 9, Pages 16 & 17.⁴

Survey and Evaluation

Most properties in the APE were not considered to be surveyable due to age or significant integrity issues. But two were deemed to be surveyable and are discussed as follows:

Address	AHI #	NRHP Evaluation
N8853 CTH A	236732	Not Eligible
Township-Range-Section (Rural Properties Only)		
T12N R14E S15 NE NW		
Description		

The Machkovech house faces east and is located on the west side of CTH A from which it is setback by about 1,150 feet. The two story cube house has a main block and a wing that projects to the west (see Figure 10, page 18). The primary block rises from a stone and mortar foundation, is sheathed with Running Bond brick and sheltered by a hipped roof. A wooden frieze beneath the eaves envelops the house. All historic-period windows are double-hung and have heavy concrete heads and more modest concrete sills. The historic front, shed roof porch has been replaced by one now enclosed and sheathed with modern, aluminum siding. The front door is to the far right (north) of the porch, to the left (south) of which is a three unit window – a larger picture window framed by smaller, two-pane windows. Centered above the porch on the second floor is a doorway flanked by single windows, all symmetrically placed. The north side of the house originally had three-symmetrically placed first and second floor windows, however the easternmost of the first floor windows has been infilled. The first floor on the south side of the house is notable for a projecting, three-sided, brick bay. To the right of the bay is a first floor window with one on the second floor immediately above. Another window is located on the second floor, immediately above the west end of the bay. The wing that extends to the west one-and-one-half stories and also claims a hipped roof. An additional enclosed, hipped roof, aluminum-sheathed porch is found in the modest ell created by the setback of the ell's south side.

³ *A Century of Wisconsin Agriculture, 1848-1948*, Bulletin 290 (Madison, WI: Wisconsin Crop & Livestock Reporting Service, 1948): 83-84, 87, 89, 91, 104, 105.

⁴ Hubbell, *Dodge County*, 429.

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Above the porch are two symmetrically placed, narrow windows. The west end of the projecting wing has two, symmetrically placed, first floor windows now infilled with glass block.

Additional structures on the farm include machine sheds/garages, a granary, a large Quonset hut sheathed with corrugated steel, what appears to be a post-World War II barn and a more recent Harvestore silo. All are in various states of disrepair and deterioration.

1890 and 1910 plat maps identify a house at the location of the subject structure. No such structure was noted on an 1873 map. The property ownership changed at least every ten or twenty years, if not more often. In 1890 it was owned by Joseph Meyerpeter and in 1910 it was held by Julius Kuehl. G.A. Bristol claimed the farm in 1920. Starting no later than 1930 and extending at least to 1955, if not beyond, the property was owned by Walter Machkovich. He was born in North Dakota in about 1895 to parents that had emigrated from Poland and was married to Elisabeth who was born of Wisconsin parents. Walter and Elisabeth had a daughter and two sons, all of whom were on the farm as late as 1940. It is unknown how long Walter worked the farm, or how long he owned it. He died in 1984 and is buried at St. Patrick's Cemetery in Beaver Dam.⁵

Statement of Significance

Information identified and evaluated for this farm fails to suggest any potential for National Register eligibility under either Criterion A or B. The property appears to have been at best a typical Town of Trenton farm, the ownership of which changed with some regularity – the Machkovichs arrival between 1920 and 1930 notwithstanding. It was the house itself, and the remaining sense of character that it offered with its Running Bond brick, hipped roof and window heads and sills, that justified recording the structure in the survey. That said, neither the house nor the farm offer anything to commend Register eligibility under Criterion C. **A DOE need not be completed.**

Address	AHI #	NRHP Evaluation
N8954 CTH W	236731	Not Eligible
Township-Range-Section (Rural Properties Only)		
T12N R14E S9 SE SE		
Description		

The Trenton School is a one-story, brick building that employed both a flat and gabled roof (see Figure 11, Page 18). Oriented on an east/west axis, the school is on the east side of and fronts on CTH

⁵ *Atlas of Dodge County, Wisconsin* (Madison, WI: Harrison & Warner, 1873): 75; *Plat Book of Dodge County, Wisconsin* (Minneapolis: C.M. Foote & Co., 1890): 10; *Plat Book of Dodge County, Wisconsin* (Des Moines, IA: Northwest Publishing Co., 1910): 64; *Plat Book of Dodge County, Wisconsin* (Rockford, IL: W.W. Hixson, ca. 1920): n.p.; *Plat Book of Dodge County, Wisconsin* (Rockford, IL: W.W. Hixson, ca. 1930): n.p.; *Plat Book: Dodge County, Wisconsin* (Rockford, IL: General Map Company, 1950): 47; *Plat Book and Farmers' Directory of Dodge County, Wisconsin* (Beaver Dam, WI: elite Book Co., ca. 1955): 34; U.S. Federal Census – Population (1910, 1920, 1930, 1940), Accessed at www.ancestry.com on 20 July 2018; "Find A Grave," Accessed at www.findagrave.com on 21 July 2018.

W. The school is comprised of three general parts, an entrance/office area, classrooms and a gymnasium. The school's entrance is recessed and located between the classroom and gymnasium areas. It consists of two framed, glass doors flanked by full length sidelights. To the left (north) the lower two-thirds of the wall claims shingle-like sheathing above which is a continuous band of six windows. To the right (south) is the brick endwall of the gym. This area is sheltered by a projecting flat roof that extends south across three-quarters of the gym's west endwall. The posts supporting the projection are likely comprised of paired and decoratively placed 2 x 8 boards. The gymnasium to the left (south) is discernable by its gabled roof. It is illuminated by a continuous series of 12 window units immediately below the eave, as well as a single light on the south side of the west endwall. The classroom component of the building is located to the north of and behind the entrance/office area and appears to have consisted of rooms differentiated on the exterior by heavy brick columns. It is uncertain if the classroom areas between the columns originally had more window glass than today for all that is presently extant are two tall, but narrow, windows per bay.

Additional facilities, including temporary classrooms, are located immediately east of and behind the original complex.

The Trenton School opened in 1959 at a cost of \$165,000. The school included the principal's office, kitchen, gymnasium and five classrooms although all eight grades were taught. The new entity evolved from the state mandate to consolidate small, rural schools. Accordingly did the Trenton School replace five others. Following consolidation the state sought to have schools affiliate with a high school in order to promote a sense of educational continuity. Therefore did the Trenton School align with the high school in Beaver Dam. It opened in 1962 as a component of the Beaver Dam School District. Despite the loss of grades 7 and 8 to a new junior high school, attendance at the school increased in the 1970s and 80 with a growing number of subdivisions in the north part of the Beaver Dam area. It was then that the temporary classrooms were set up to the east of the original building. With a decreasing farm population in the 1990s, attendance at the school began to fall and culminated with the 2012 decision by the school board to close it. The facility was subsequently acquired by the Harmony Baptist Church which placed the small steeple on the gabled roof of the old gymnasium.⁶

Statement of Significance

The Trenton School embodies an event experienced by rural schools across the state of Wisconsin in the 1950s – the consolidation and closure of many small, rural schools. But that fact alone does not make the school eligible for the Register under Criterion A. Nor was any evidence found to substantiate eligibility under Criterion B. As for Criterion C, the school is a modest, unadorned and generally vernacular example of a late 1950s/early 1960s elementary school with generally good integrity. As such, it was considered to be surveyable. But it fails to reach the threshold necessary to be considered for Register eligibility. **It does not merit the completion of a DOE.**

⁶ David Laatsch, "Trenton School Soon to be a Memory," (Beaver Dam) *Daily Citizen*, 08 April 2013.

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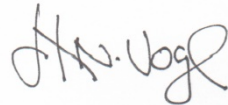
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Conclusion

Based on the survey and analysis work completed, the results of which are presented herein, it may be concluded that no historically significant buildings will be affected by the proposed development.

We are pleased to provide you with this report. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.N. Vogel", is centered on the page. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. John N. Vogel

attachments

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Wisconsin Aerial Image Collection. Image #AX-6R-86, 28 June 1956. On file at the Geography Map Library, Science Hall, University of Wisconsin, Madison.

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Wisconsin Historic Aerial Image Finder. Image #AX-11A-82, 07 November 1940. Viewed at <http://maps.sco.wisc.edu/WHAIFinder/#> on 21 July 2018.

Figure 1: This image, prepared by Foth Infrastructure & Environment LLC, pictures the boundaries of the proposed development.

Survey Map:

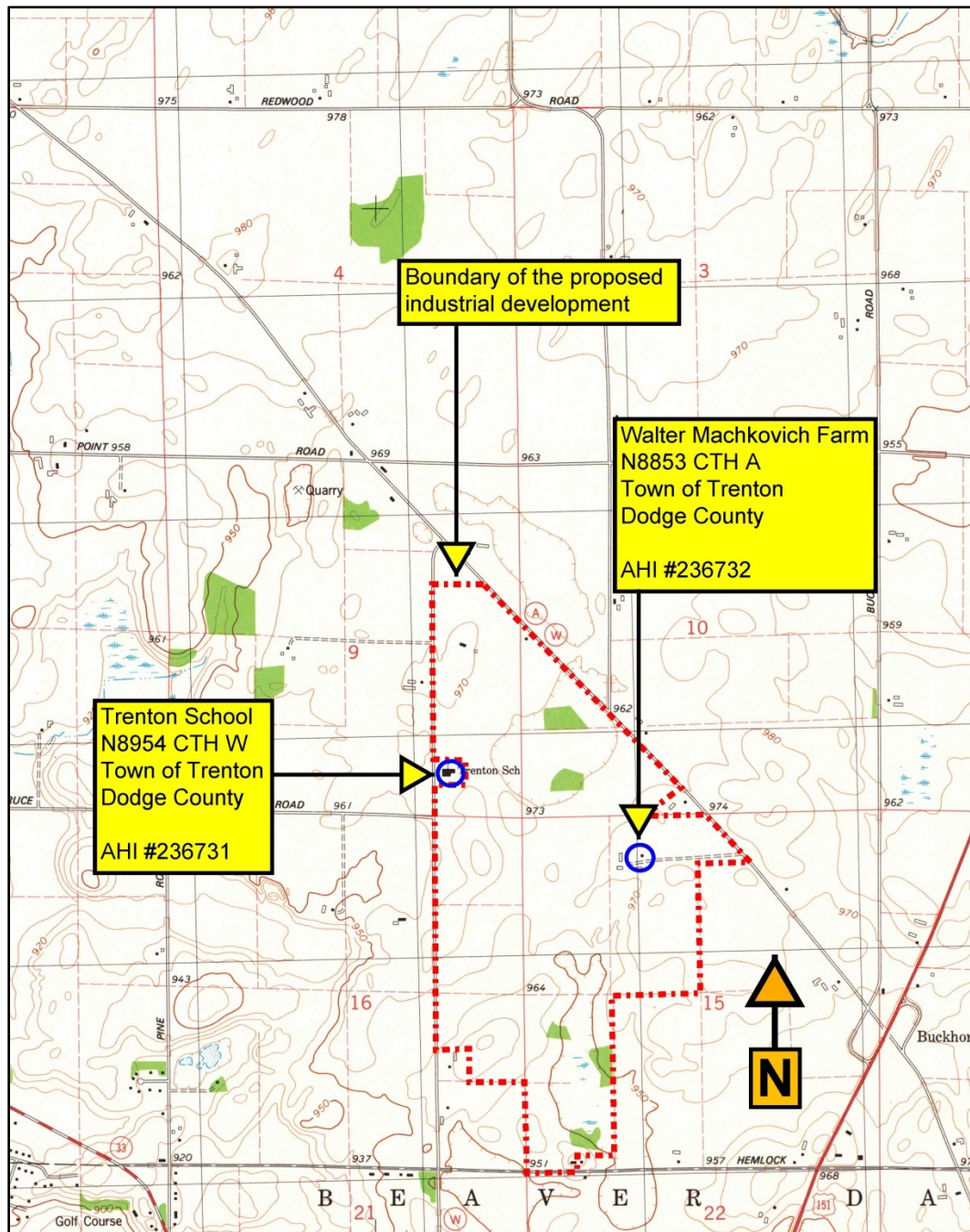


Figure 2: The properties surveyed, as well as the project boundaries, are shown on this map. Note that all properties immediately adjacent to, but not in, the boundaries were also included in the survey. U.S. Geological Survey, *Buckhorn Corner Quadrangle* [map], 1980, 1:24000, 7.5 Minute Series (Reston, VA: United States Department of the Interior, USGS, 1980).

1873 Plat Map:

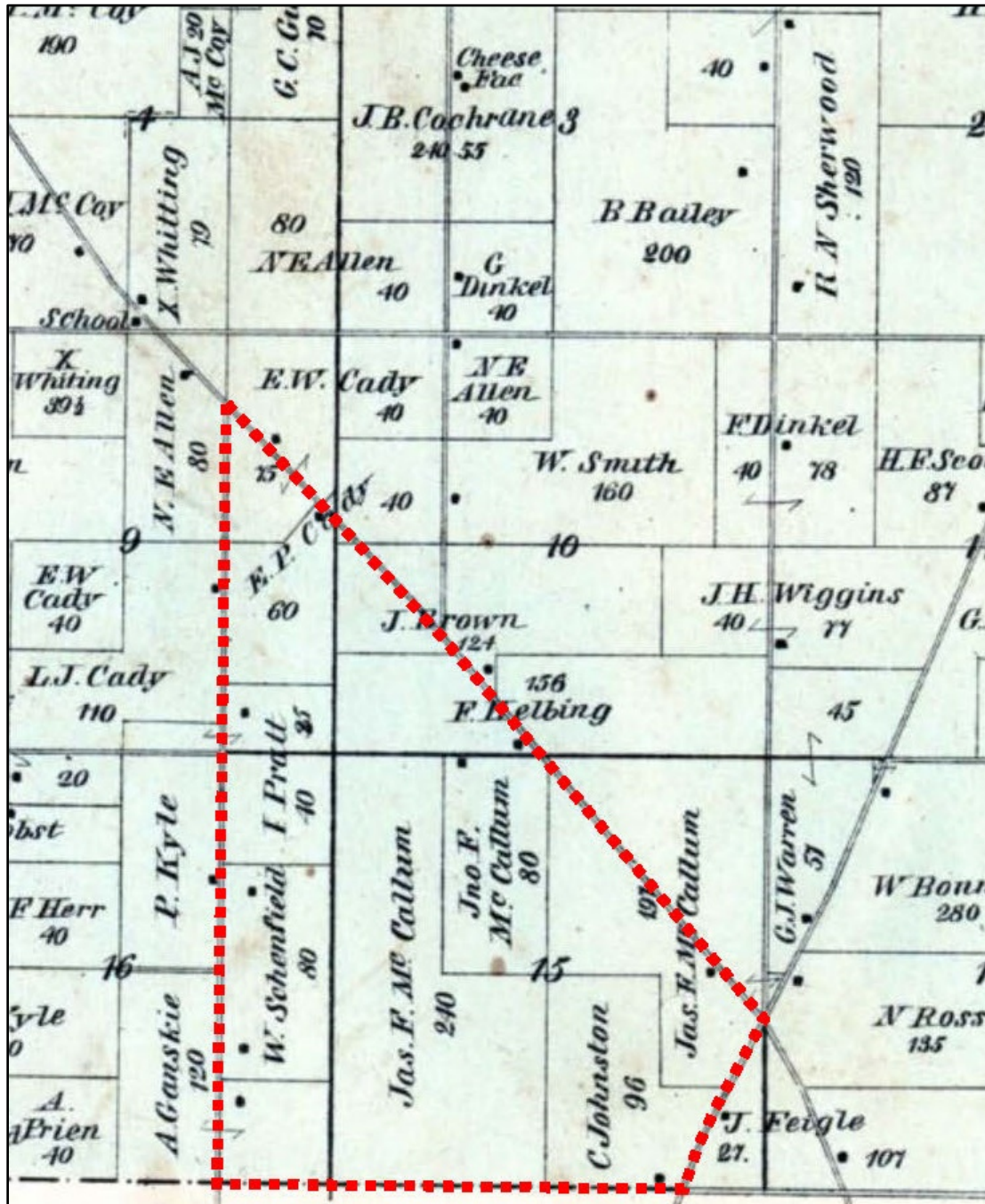


Figure 3: The early agricultural character of the general project area in the Town of Trenton is clearly illustrated by this 1873 plat map (*Atlas of Dodge County, Wisconsin* [1873]: 75).

Figure 4: The agricultural character of the general vicinity remained in 1890, though some farm ownership had changed (*Plat Book of Dodge County, Wisconsin* [1890]: 10).

1910 Plat Map:

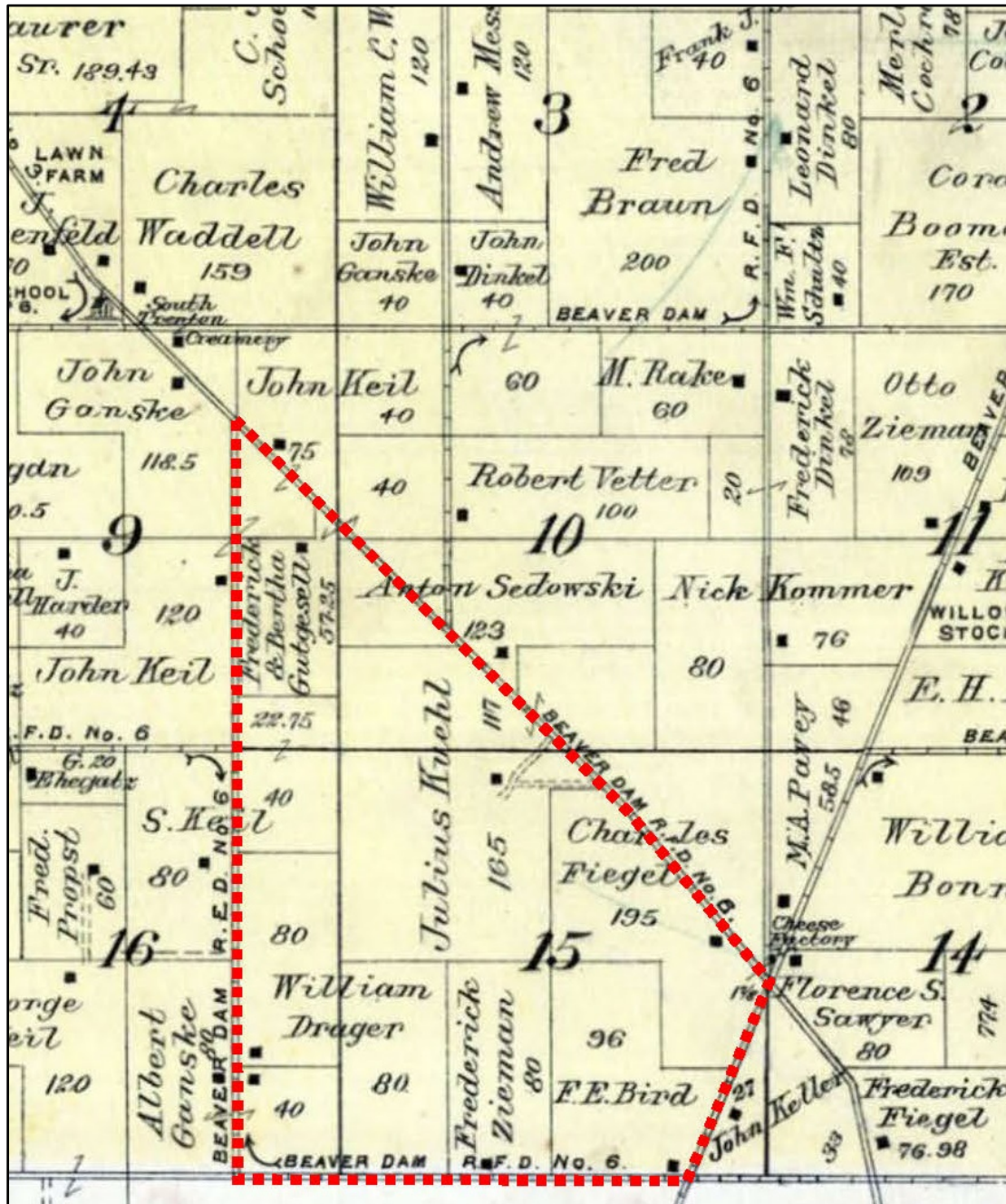


Figure 5: Ownership names continue to change but the agricultural dominance remains in the proposed general development area in 1910 (Plat Book of Dodge County, Wisconsin [1910]: 64).

1930 Plat Map:

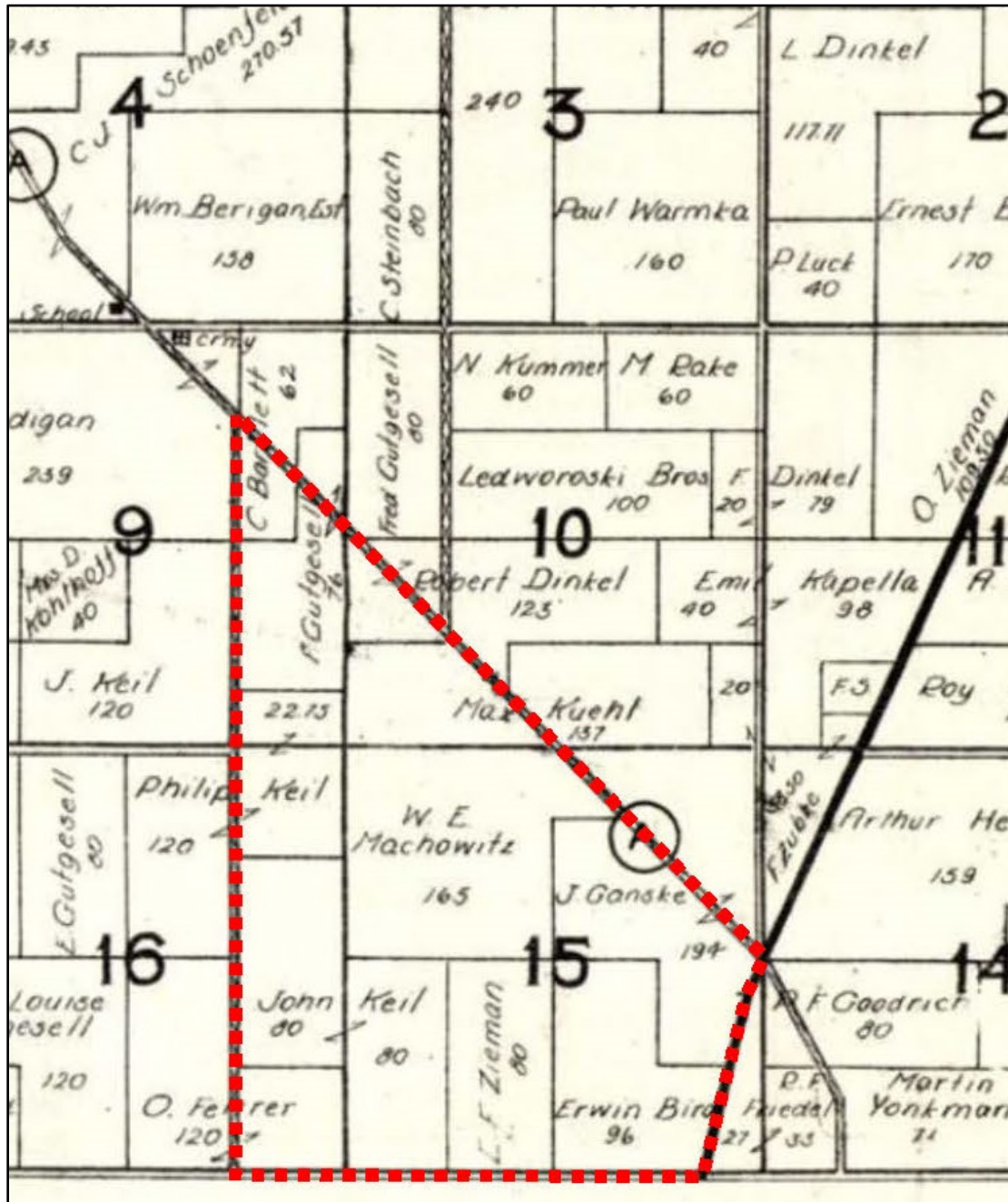


Figure 6: Agriculture continues to dominate this part of the Town of Trenton in ca. 1930 (Plat Book of Dodge County, Wisconsin [1930]: n.p.).

1950 Plat Map:

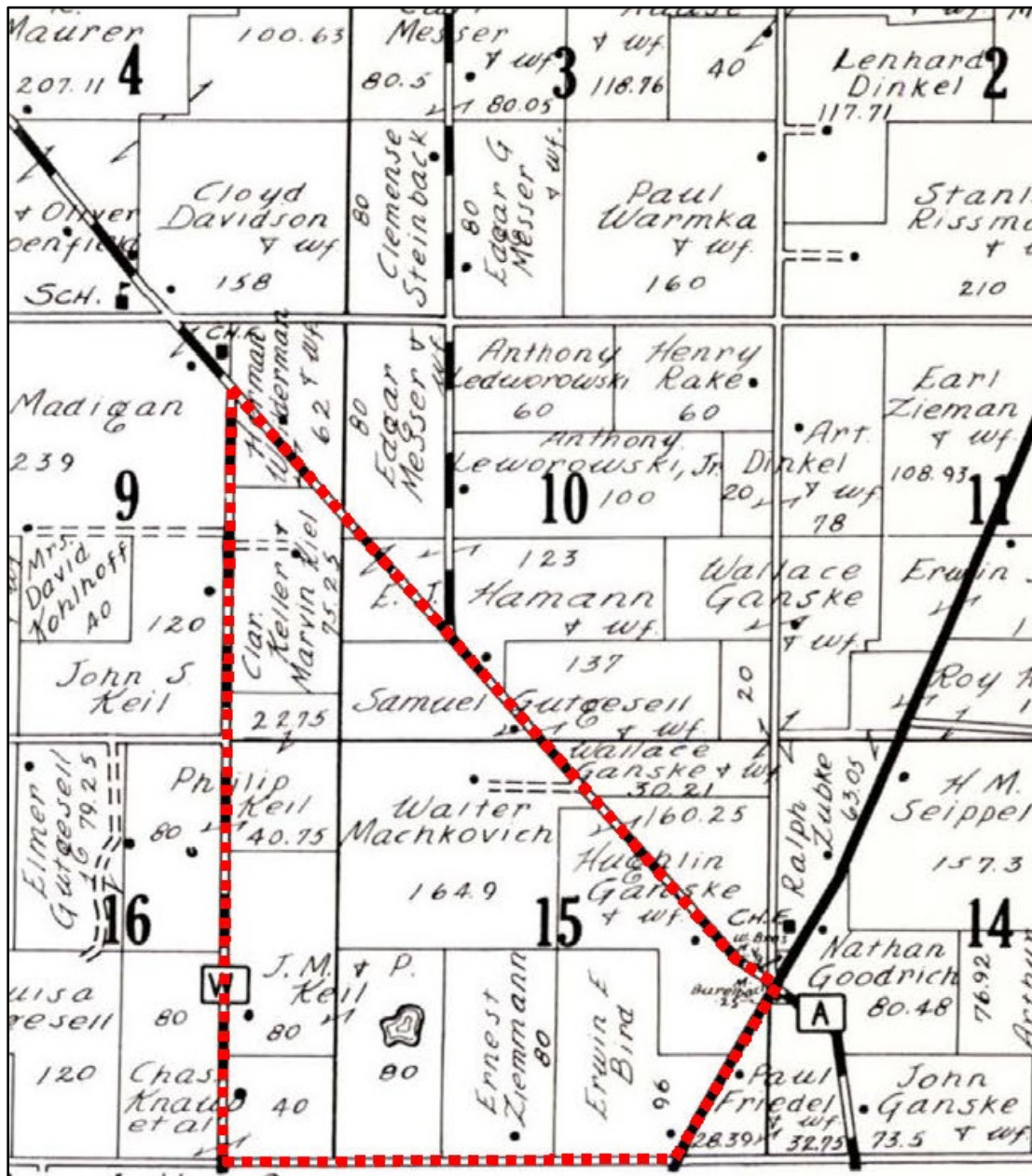


Figure 7: By 1950, Walter Machkovich had had his farm in the NW ¼ of Section 15 for at least twenty years (Plat Book: Dodge County, Wisconsin [1950]: 47).

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1940 Aerial Image:



Figure 8: Agriculture dominates the vicinity in this 1940 photograph (Wisconsin Aerial Image Finder, Image #AX-11A-82, 07 November 1940, Viewed at <http://maps.sco.wisc.edu/WHAIFinder/#> on 21 July 2018).

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1956 Aerial Image:



Figure 9: The agricultural character of the general project still area dominates the vicinity in this 1956 photograph (Wisconsin Aerial Photography, Image AX-6R-86, 28 June 1956, On file at the Geography Map Library, Science Hall, University of Wisconsin, Madison).

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Survey Photos:



Figure 10: AHI #236732, Machkovich Farmhouse. N8853 CTH A, Town of Trenton.



Figure 11: AHI #236731, Trenton School. N8954 CTH W, Town of Trenton.