

INTRODUCTION

A community, no matter how simple or complex it may be, is a monument to the men and women who made it. They have left their marks through their architecture and through their acts. Our sense of perspective and understanding of current problems is based on this monument. The potential of preserving that sense of perspective has been acknowledged by the United States Congress with several Historic Preservation Acts. The 1966 National Historic Preservation Act substantially broadened the pre-existing National Register of Historic Places to include sites of local and state significance, and established a grant-in-aid program for sites on the Register. As a result, several states have undertaken statewide surveys.

In 1977 the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Act was passed and the State Historical Society continued their survey, recording sites which may be eligible for nomination to the National Register. Nomination can occur in any of four categories: sites, objects, structures or districts. The elements which make a place eligible for nomination are as follows:

- Historical Significance-National, Local
- Architectural Significance
- Work of a Master
- Method of Construction
- Relatedness of Parts

Sites which may be eligible for the National Register are provided a degree of protection in connection with federally funded activities. For example, the Department of Housing and Urban Development requires an environmental review to be made for all HUD funded Community Development Block Grant projects. The scope of the review includes an assessment of the project on any historic properties which may be impacted.

The Appleton Department of Planning and Development received a community list from the State Historical Society in November of 1977, and conducted a Historical Building Survey Inventory based on it and historical research. The objectives were to identify, inventory, and document the historically and architecturally significant places in order to preserve and protect significant aspects of local heritage.

The survey was carried out in several steps. The first step included a background review of Appleton's history and of early architectural styles. Next, the objectives were determined and the survey developed. This included drawing up a survey format and a study map. Third step was conducting the survey which included a written description, photographic documentation, and historical research. Fourth, the recorded buildings were categorized. Three main categories were developed; historic, architectural, and natural features. The products of the survey are a detailed list of historic places, and a comprehensive map.