

Houses that Moved

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

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

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

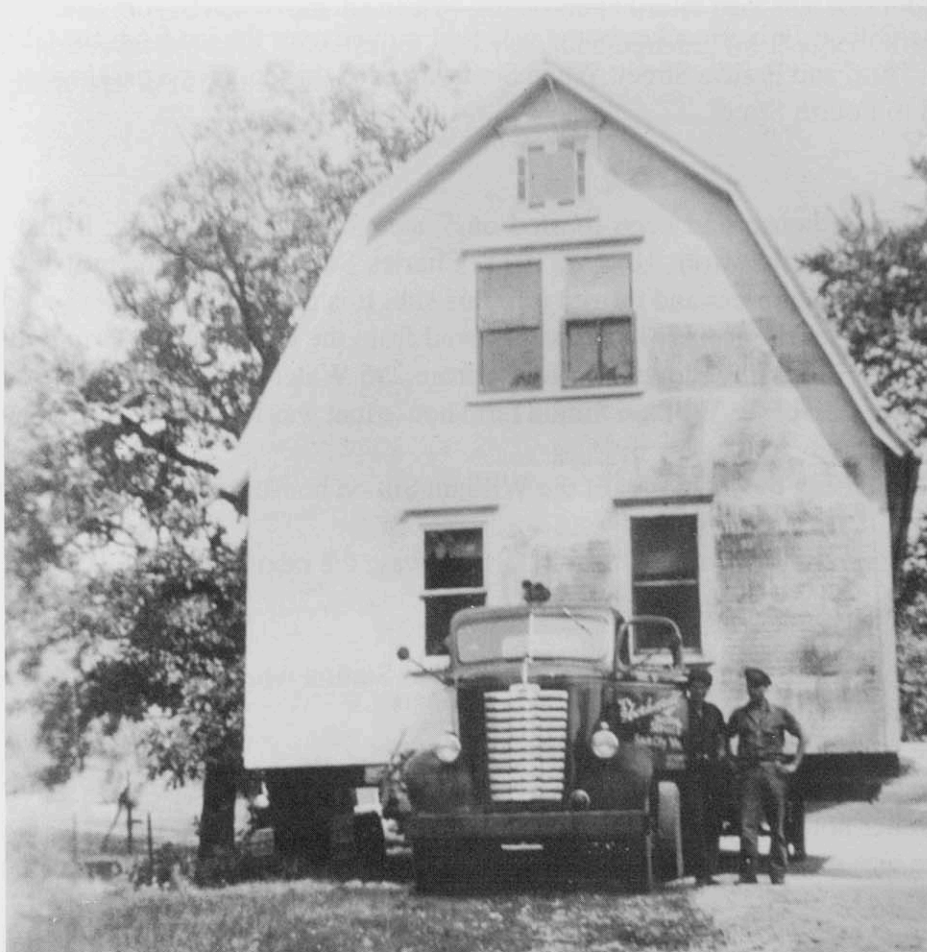
When the Badger Ordnance Works came into being the Eberhart Trucking Company found themselves moving homes and out buildings.



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



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



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