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PS Form 10-900
(Expires 5/31/2012)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

OMB No. 10024-0018

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Hediger, Herman M. and Hanna, House
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number	8 Grand Avenue						N/A	**not for publication**	
city or town	Neillsville						N/A	**vicinity**	
state	Wisconsin	**code**	WI	**county**	Clark	**code**	019	**zip code**	54456

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _ nationally _ statewide X locally. (_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jim Draeger — 7/8/13

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date

State Historic Preservation Officer - Wisconsin

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _ meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria.
(_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Hediger, Herman M. and Hanna, House	Clark	Wisconsin
Name of Property	County and State	

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

✓ entered in the National Register.
___ See continuation sheet.
__ determined eligible for the National Register.
___ See continuation sheet.
__ determined not eligible for the National Register.
___ See continuation sheet.
__ removed from the National Register.
__ other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall — 8-27-13

for

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as as apply)

X private
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

X building(s)
district
structure
site
object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

contributing	noncontributing	
1	1	Buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
(Enter "N/A" if property not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
Domestic/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th & 20th Century Revivals
Other – Swiss Chalet

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	concrete
walls	stucco
	wood
roof	ceramic tile
other	stone

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

_ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

_ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

_ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

_ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

_ B removed from its original location.

_ C a birthplace or grave.

_ D a cemetery.

_ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

_ F a commemorative property.

_ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1949

Significant Dates

1949

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Architect: Hediger, Herman
Builders: Morgenthaler, John; Haefeli, Hans

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):
- _ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- _ previously listed in the National Register
- _ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- _ designated a National Historic landmark
- _ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- _ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:
- X State Historic Preservation Office
- _ Other State Agency
- _ Federal Agency
- _ Local government
- _ University
- Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	691007	4935641
2			
3			
4			

☐ See Continuation Sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Patricia Lacey				
organization				**date**	September 26, 2012
street & number	W5055 US HWY 10			**telephone**	715-743-4799
city or town	Neillsville	**state**	WI	**zip code**	54456

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title
organization **date**
street & number **telephone**
city or town **state** **zip code**

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Site Description

The Herman M. and Hanna Hediger House is located on the west side Grand Avenue within the corporate limits of the City of Neillsville in Clark County. The house is rectangular in form and is a full two stories in height with a third level attic in the gable end. The front gable design exhibits deep overhanging eaves both in the gable ends and on the side elevations. The primary east facing facade overlooks Grand Avenue. The house sits on a flat lot at the southern edge of a neighborhood of late 19th and early 20th century homes. A sidewalk passes in front of the house and a driveway enters the property from Grand Avenue, traveling along the south elevation of the house to an attached garage located at the rear of the building. Three large trees grow in the lawn around the house. A newer (non-contributing) two and one-half story saltbox shaped garage is located at the southwest corner of the property. The surrounding neighborhood was primarily residential at the time of construction in 1949; however, since the 1950s, it has transitioned to light commercial.

The Swiss Chalet was designed by Swiss born Herman M. Hediger after making three trips to Switzerland. Hediger studied the Swiss Chalet style and traditional Swiss building methods. Swiss builders John Morgenthaler, a cabinet maker, and Hans Haefeli, a mason, came from Switzerland to assist Hediger in the building's construction.[1]

Exterior Description

The building rests on a poured concrete foundation which rises 15" from ground level and has ten window openings. Steel beams 60'in length travel from the east wall of the house under the breezeway to the west wall of the garage. Herman Hediger had a wood working shop in the basement under the garage and he installed silo tiles between the steel beams to act as a noise barrier.

The double walls of the first floor are constructed with 4" X 6" concrete blocks that were made in Christie, Wisconsin. A 2" insulating air space is situated between the two walls. Upon completion, the exterior was covered with stucco applied by Swiss mason Hans Haefeli. Wood frame construction begins at the top of the first floor (end of the block construction) extending to the overhanging eave. The exterior walls of the second floor and the gable ends are clad with 2" X 6" log siding.

Five 6" X 6" timber beams 44' in length support the ten ton American made tile roof. The purlins extend to the outer edge of the eave of the gable end roof and are rounded at the end. Each purlin is supported by a rounded bracket which is slightly shorter than the purlin. The brackets were constructed using the same timber beams. They are also rounded at the end to match the end of the purlin.

[1] Newspaper clipping in collection of Hediger family. Milwaukee Journal, October [nd] 1949.

Rafters were placed over the purlins. The boxes created by the rafters and purlins (above the ceiling of the attic) were first lined with newspaper and then filled with cinders. Two layers of 1" X 4" boards were placed on top of the rafters. The eaves of the south and north side of the house have exposed rafter tails. The original copper gutter and downspout system remains.[2]

The primary front gable elevation faces east and displays a second floor balcony with a first floor gallery underneath. Both the balcony and the gallery (4' 4" deep by 36' 6" wide) extend the width of the front of the house. The gallery floor is concrete. A post and rail framework forms the support for vertical scroll-sawn balustrades indicative of the Swiss Chalet. The balustrades appear on all of the edges of both the balcony and gallery.

The first floor fenestration of the east facing elevation of the gallery consists of two French style casement window units which open inward. Each window unit is comprised of a casement window which is divided into three lights; two vertical panes are topped with a horizontal pane. The window units have concrete stepped sills and are shuttered. One window unit is centered on the elevation and the other window unit is to the north.

An arched opening, south of the centered window unit, provides access to the gallery and to the inset main entry door. A quarried stone pier constructed from Hatfield, Wisconsin cut stone supports the arch on the south edge and the wall of the house supports the arch on the north edge. Additional stone is randomly applied to the edge of the north wall of the arched entry. A stone address plaque which reads "346 S. GR. AV." is located at eye level on the east facing side of the pillar. (The City of Neillsville must have instituted an address change since the building was constructed).

The second floor joists are exposed under the balcony floor. The joists extend to the outer edge of the balcony and have rounded ends. The second floor fenestration consists of a centered recessed opening (4' 2" deep by 8" wide) which contains entry doors located on the south and the north walls of the opening. These doors provide access to the two east facing bedrooms. A casement window unit identical in design to the windows of the first floor of the east facing elevation is located to the north and to the south of the recessed opening. These window units are also shuttered.

A unit of smaller casement windows, identical in design to the windows on the first and second floor of the east facing elevation, is centered in the peak of the gabled end. A window box of log construction appears beneath the window pair.

[2] Many of the construction details referenced come from an interview with Herman Hediger, Jr. conducted on August 21, 2012. Herman helped his father with the construction of the home after school.

The south facing elevation contains the recessed porch arched entry porch (6' deep by 7' 11" wide) at the east edge of the elevation. The porch is accessed by four concrete steps which are flanked by concrete piers. The concrete stairs and piers have been formed together. The floor of the porch is concrete. Red square tiles (6" by 6") forming a rectangle has been inset into the concrete in front of the arched entry door. The arched opening at the top of the stairs is supported on the east edge by the stone pillar and the wall of the house supports the west edge of the arch.

A casement window unit, identical in design to the windows of the east facing elevation only smaller in size, is placed on the north wall of the recessed porch. The window unit has a concrete stepped sill. An arched wood door enters the building from the west wall of the recessed entry porch. The door is massive in appearance and has four lower recessed panels and one large upper recessed panel. The upper panel contains a diamond shaped window. The same stone used in the porch pillar defines the arch over the door. Smaller square stones form the two-row arch and larger stones appear as the springers and keystone. Additional rectangular stones are randomly placed into the stucco around the door and at the west edge of the recessed porch. A wrought iron lantern is suspended from the ceiling of the porch.

The south facing first floor fenestration consists of a casement window unit, identical in design to the windows of the east facing elevation, west of the recessed porch. The window unit has a concrete sill. An identical casement window unit is placed at the west edge of the first floor. The window unit has a concrete sill and is flanked with shutters. The second floor has a single casement window unit, identical in design to the windows of the east facing elevation only smaller in size. The casement window unit is the only window opening on the second floor and it is west of the center of the second floor.

The west facing or rear elevation of the house has a flat roofed breezeway (8' wide by 25'8" deep) which joins the rear of the house with the east wall of the garage. The breezeway is roofed with asphalt shingles. The second floor of the west facing elevation has two casement window units identical in design to the windows of the east facing elevation. The casement window units are evenly spaced on the elevation and are shuttered. A small single casement window unit is centered between and at the same height as the larger west facing casement window units. The casement window unit is identical in design to the windows of the east facing elevation. A smaller casement window unit identical in design to the windows of the east facing elevation is centered in the peak of the gabled end.

The north facing elevation has three casement window units identical in design to the windows of the east facing elevation. One casement window unit is located at the east edge of the first floor and two adjacent casement window pairs are located at the west edge of the first floor. The three casement window units have concrete sills and are shuttered. The second floor has a single casement window

unit identical in design to the windows of the east facing elevation only smaller. The casement window unit is the only opening on the second floor and it appears west of the center.

The south facing breezeway has a centered entry door. A single light window is placed to the west of the door and a three-light projecting bay is to the east of the door. A narrow shed roof which is the width of the breezeway covers the entry. The north facing breezeway has a patio door. A large redwood deck extends from the original narrow north porch of the breezeway. The breezeway was originally enclosed; however, all of the openings have modern replacement doors and windows.

The attached front gable garage (20'3" wide by 26'7" deep) is rectangular and is one story. The south facing elevation contains similar gable end detailing as the main house. Three brackets, smaller than those of the main house, support the overhanging eave. An overhead double garage door provides access to the garage. A two-diamond motif decorates the garage door. The west facing elevation of the garage has an entry door located at the north edge and a centered window unit. The rear or north facing elevation of the garage has a single casement unit identical in design to the windows of the house.

The first floors of the house and the garage are covered in stucco that is painted white. The second floor of the house, the gabled ends of the house, and the gabled ends of the garage are clad with 2" X 6" log siding that is painted a reddish-brown. The shutters of the windows of the first floor are painted reddish-brown to contrast with the white stucco. The shutters of the windows of the second floor are painted white to contrast with the reddish-brown log siding. The balustrades of the east facing façade are painted reddish-brown as are the eaves and fascia boards. The basement walls and front entry stairs are painted reddish-brown. All of the windows are trimmed in white. The roofs of the house and the garage are covered with flat red roof tiles which were attached to the roof with copper nails. The original brick chimney is located on the upper portion of the north facing roof of the house.

Interior of the house

The interior of the house is appointed with many architectural features found in a traditional Swiss chalet. The living room contains a built in corner wall seating area complete with its original table. The bottom half of the walls of the living room are paneled in oak planking with the seams between the boards finished with batten strips. All of the ceilings of the first floor are beamed. The first floor is surfaced with 6" X 6" red tile. The same tile forms the baseboard throughout the first floor.

The first floor contains the living room, kitchen and dining room, a bedroom, bathroom, foyer and a central hall from which all rooms radiate. The interior doors are single paneled and all of the doors and windows have simple surrounds. The woodwork on the first floor is golden oak and retains its original finish.

The walls of the living room have oak paneling half way up the wall with the upper portion of the walls being plaster. The paneling is of a board and batten design. The northwest corner of the living room has a Swiss inspired built in corner-wall seat. The original table designed for the seating space remains with the house. At the time of construction a kachelofen, a Swiss style tile stove, was placed directly beneath the seating area in the basement. This meant in the cold months of the year this spot was known as the "hot seat". The stove has been removed. A tiny inset cupboard on the adjoining wall of the dining room was the raising area for bread. The first floor bedroom has a built in armoire on the north wall.

The focal feature of the house is the concrete spiral staircase. The stairway rises from the south wall of the first floor of the house curving to the east and rising to the second floor. The stair treads are red tile. A forged wrought iron balustrade parallels the curve of the staircase. Three twisted iron ropes are spaced equally beneath the handrail. Planters are inset into the south wall of the stairway under the window. The rims of the planters are edged with the same stone found on the exterior.

The second floor has four corner bedrooms that open onto a central hall. All of the floors on the second floor, including the recessed opening on the balcony, are terrazzo. Terrazzo is a composite material which consists of marble, quartz, granite or glass chips which is bound in a cemetitious mixture and poured into a form. After it is cured it is polished. Herman Jr. had to come home every day after school to help with that day's floor pouring.

The southeast and northeast corner bedrooms each have a door that accesses the balcony. The two doors first enter the recessed opening which opens onto the balcony. The balcony floor is planked. The northeast corner bedroom is the master bedroom and has a built in armoire on the south wall. The door and window surrounds on the second floor are the same as the first floor but are constructed of American Fir and they all retain their original finish.

Rear garage : Non-Contributing

The one and one-half story saltbox shaped garage was built in July of 1995 and is non-contributing to the nomination. The east facing main façade contains two single overhead garage doors. An entry door appears to the north of the garage doors. The north and south facing elevations have two evenly spaced one-over-one double hung windows on the first floor. In addition, a single one-over-one double hung window appears within the peak of the gabled ends of the second floor. The rear west facing fenestration has three evenly spaced one-over-one double hung windows on the first floor.

The garage is clad with white vinyl siding. The garage doors are also white. The trim around the windows and doors is painted reddish-brown. The roof is covered with reddish-brown asphalt shingles.

There are currently two storage sheds in the yard. These are not included in the count because of their size and temporary nature.

Alterations

The Herman M. and Hanna Hediger House is marked by a high degree of historic integrity and has experienced only minor alterations over time. The only visible change to the building's exterior involves the south and north facing fenestration of the breezeway. The second owner of the house made the breezeway into living space. The original south facing windows were replaced. A patio door was set in the north wall of the breezeway to provide access to the deck area. A stone fireplace was added inside the breezeway. A brick chimney venting the fireplace rises from the east facing roof of the garage. The balance of the exterior of the house retains complete originality of windows, doors, surface materials and workmanship.

The interior of the house also retains an amazing amount of original materials and workmanship. The kitchen has been updated over time. The remaining interior retains all of its original woodwork with its original finish. The original floors remain: first floor 6" X 6" red tile on floor surfaces and baseboards and second floor terrazzo floors. The ceiling beams of the first floor and the built-ins (corner wall seat, built in armoires in first floor bedroom and master second floor bedroom) all remain. The property is in excellent and well maintained condition

Significance

The Herman M. and Hanna Hediger House is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for local significance under Criterion C for architecture. The period of significance corresponds to the date of construction – 1949. It is an excellent example of a European inspired Swiss Chalet which was commonly found in the outlying agricultural and cattle raising lands of the Alps in the countries of Switzerland, Germany, Austria, France, Italy and Monaco.

In 2002, the City of Neillsville received a grant from the National Park Service to conduct an intensive survey of the city in order to determine what buildings and districts were considered to be potentially eligible for the National Register.[3] In 2012, the city again received a grant from the National Park Service, this time to prepare National Register nominations based on the results of the 2003-2004 survey. Therefore, this nomination along with two other individual nominations was instructed to be prepared by the Neillsville Historic Preservation Commission with the support of the City of Neillsville.

Swiss Chalet Architecture

There are three separate but related types of chalets, indigenous to different areas of Switzerland: the high mountains, the low plains, and the upper valleys. The first type, the mountain chalet or mazot was built of entirely roughly squared, interlocking logs, similar to the American log cabin. Large stones were placed on the gently sloping roof of the chalet to prevent lifting by the strong winds of the valleys and slopes of the mountain. Often the structure was woven around growing trees to prevent the house from being swept down the mountain in an avalanche. This type of chalet provided protection for both the shepherds and their animals.

The low plains and upper valley chalets were designed with either logs or timber-framed with wall spans of wood or plaster. The walls of both were protected from the elements by wide lower overhanging eaves and deep projecting gable ends which were supported by large decorative or knee brace brackets. Balconies and galleries, jetty projections and window hoods provided additional protection from the elements. The chalet was often raised above the ground with a masonry basement. The lowland form had a more steeply pitched roof which allowed the rain, more prevalent in this location, to run off more quickly. The upper valley roof was fairly flat in order to retain a layer of snow for insulation. The overall form of all three styles is compact and withdrawn under a single dominating roof with a powerful front gable end supported on structural brackets.[4]

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[3] Rebecca Bernstein, Neillsville Architectural Survey 2003-2004 (Wisconsin Historical Society, 2004) pages 63, 68.
[4] Bruno Giberti, "The Chalet as Archetype: The Bungalow, the Picturesque Tradition and Vernacular Form", Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Review, Volume 3, Issue 1, Fall October 1, 1991, pages 54-64.

Architect A. J. Downing introduced the Swiss Chalet to America in his 1850 stylebook The Architecture of Country House. The two Swiss designs presented were a Swiss style cottage and a farmhouse in the Swiss manner.[5] As early as 1820, Americans were aware of the Swiss Chalet form, but they infrequently used the style before the Civil War. After the war, architect Leopold Eidlitz designed a chalet for Colford Jones in Newport, Rhode Island. As the various elite areas of the New Jersey coast began to develop, the chalet style seemed appropriate for the vacation atmosphere.

Pavilions in the chalet form became popular at the international expositions of the Centennial International Exhibition in Philadelphia 1876, the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago 1893, and the Geneva National Exhibition in Switzerland 1896. The most authentic display of Swiss architecture was erected for the Geneva National Exhibition where several various Swiss Chalet designs were displayed.[6]

In the early 1880s, the railroad was slicing its way through the northern states of Montana and Utah. The two million acres of what would become Glacier National Park was being explored by miners, trappers and hunters, such as George Bird Grinnell. They recognized the areas unique scenic beauty. The lines of the Great Northern Railroad were completed through the northern counties of Montana in 1893. This included the area of Glacier National Park, established by President Taft on May 11, 1910. The president of the Great Northern Railroad, Louis Hill, intended to create a travel destination to the newly established park. Louis Hill's marketing strategy was to promote the Park as the "American Alps" and the only logical form of architecture befitting the theme of the new park was the Swiss chalet. Louis Hill's theory was to encourage visitors to abandon the luxury of palatal hotels to experience the American Alps in a more rustic fashion. Between 1910 and 1915, the Great Northern Railway constructed two hotels and a series of backcountry chalets only accessible on horseback or by foot. These buildings remain as one of the largest collections of Swiss Chalet structures in the nation. Many Glacier Hotel, Two Medicine Chalet complex, Granite Park Chalet complex and the Sperry Chalet have all been listed in the National Register of Historic Places.[7]

A resurgence in interest in the style occurred during the early 20th century. Design books, such as The Swiss Chalet Book, (1913) by William S. B. Dana and Architectural Styles for Country Houses (1912) by Henry Saylor, spurred new interest in the Swiss Chalet. Henry Hodgman Saylor described the Swiss Chalet as rugged, honest, picturesque and simple in his book Architectural Styles for Country

[5] Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses (Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1997), page 231.
[6] Bruno Giberti, "The Chalet as Archetype: The Bungalow, the Picturesque Tradition and Vernacular Form", Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Review, Volume 3, Issue 1, Fall, October 1, 1991, pages 54-64.
[7] Architecture in the Parks, A National Historic Landmark Theme Study, Great Northern Railway Buildings, pages 1-9, http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/harrison/harrison8.htm, accessed September 2012.

Houses (1912).[8] The Swiss Chalet style was mainly applied to residential houses, although as we have discussed previously the Swiss Chalet style is found throughout Glacier National Park.[9]

Characteristically, the Swiss Chalet is typically two-and-a-half stories high supporting a square or rectangular plan and is bold and striking in outline. William S. B. Dana was intrigued by the rugged yet honest simplistic nature of the Swiss Chalet. He noted the chalet should rest on a stone foundation and all or part of the main story wall should be masonry.[10] The Swiss Chalet exhibits a front-gable low pitched roof with a deep projecting eave which is supported by heavy decorative brackets. A bracket is always located in the peak of the gable end. Most examples have second floor balconies which extend the width of the front of the structure. In many cases a first floor gallery rests under the balcony, also extending the width of the front of the structure. The balcony and the gallery integrate the outdoors as part of the living space and both have patterned railings usually consisting of flat scroll-sawn balustrades. The windows are usually casement which open inward and are muntined into several lights. Often times these windows are seen in pairs and provide plenty of light into interior spaces. Practically all windows which appear on the Swiss Chalet are shuttered. The roof is covered with slate or dark tiles.[11]

The interiors often have a rustic finish. The ground floor ceilings are often beamed. The walls may support simply designed paneling or wainscoting. The floors are often parquet or covered with red square tiles. The very traditional homes have a Swiss corner wall seat and table unit as well as a free-standing tile stove which rested on legs and sat in the middle of the room. Known as the kachelofen, it was capable of retaining heat for six to twelve hours after the fire went out. Entry doors and interior cabinetry have forged hinges and latches.

The Swiss Chalet style has influenced other forms of American architecture. Although originating in California, the American Craftsman Bungalow (1905-1930) stylistically exhibits the influence and characteristics of the Swiss Chalet style. The basic bungalow maintains a sheltering low-pitched front or side gabled roof with exposed rafters and decorative under-gable bracketing.[12]

The Hediger house was built in 1949 long after the early 20th century revival of Swiss Chalet architecture. Herman Hediger was a native of Reinach, Switzerland. He was born in 1903 and

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[8] Henry Hodgman Saylor, Architectural Styles for Country Houses (McBride, Nast & Company, New York, 1912), page 37.
[9] Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation, Swiss Chalet Revival, www.dahp.wa.gov/styles/swiss-chalet, pages 1-3, accessed September 2012.
[10] William S. B. Dana, Swiss Chalet Book, (William T. Comstock Co., New York, 1913), page 28.
[11] William S. B. Dana, Swiss Chalet Book, pages 28-78.
[12] Barbara Wyatt, Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin: Volume 2 (Historic Preservation Division of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, June 1986), page 2-26.

immigrated to Clark County, Wisconsin at the age of 22. After years of hard work in the cheese industry, he finally had enough resources to build a new home. His fond memories of the architecture of his homeland led him to build an authentic Swiss Chalet. In this way, Hediger's chalet differs from the earlier American versions. Rather than choosing the style to evoke an association or to create a picturesque statement, its intent was to recreate the indigenous architecture of his homeland. Perhaps the most notable example of this Swiss ethnic statement was the home of Edwin Barlow in the Swiss settled community of New Glarus in Green County. Edwin Barlow, originator of the Wilhelm Tell drama in New Glarus, commissioned the "Chalet of the Golden Fleece." Swiss born architect Jacob Rieder designed the house, a copy of a Swiss Bernese mountain chalet, and it was completed in 1937.

History of Neillsville

Neillsville is located in southern Clark County and is situated at the junction of O'Neill Creek and the Black River. Clark County was created from territory taken from Jackson County through legislation approved on July 6, 1853.[13] The Black River runs north to south, within the county, dividing the county into two nearly equal parts. In the mid 1800s, abundant pine forests lined the Black River. The Black River became the perfect highway on which to float the harvested logs to the mills of Onalaska and La Crosse.

James and Henry O'Neill cut the first road into Clark County. Starting in Black River Falls, in Jackson County, they traveled by oxen drawn wagons arriving to what would become Neillsville in 1845. A cabin and sawmill were built and the harvest of the pine forests began.[14] Over the next forty years, logging concerns would cut 8,000,000,000 board feet from Clark County. The pine was valued at $12.00 per thousand feet producing a harvest valued at $100,000,000.[15]

James O'Neill cleared fifty acres of timber in the area of the junction of O'Neill Creek and the Black River by 1850. He made the decision in April of 1855 to appropriate four acres of that land for the first village in Clark County, which was then named in his honor. He instructed surveyor Allan Boardman to plat the village into lots.[16] Neillsville was designated the county seat in November of 1854 after a tumultuous election. The City of Neillsville was duly incorporated on March 28, 1882.[17]

The pine forests continued to attract logging concerns and the community expanded in size in support of that industry. The arrival of Chicago, St. Paul, Minnesota & Omaha Railroad in 1887 signaled a

[13] A. T. Andreas, History of Northern Wisconsin (Western Historical Co., 1881), page 230.
[14] Franklyn Curtiss Wedge, History of Clark County Wisconsin, (H. C. Cooper, Jr. & Co., Chicago, 1918), page 37.
[15] Franklyn Curtiss Wedge, History of Clark County Wisconsin, page 117.
[16] Franklyn Curtiss Wedge, History of Clark County Wisconsin, page 628.
[17] Franklyn Curtiss Wedge, History of Clark County Wisconsin, page 631.

guaranteed economic and population boom. In 1860, the population in the village of Neillsville was fewer than 250 people. By the turn of the century, the population grew to 2,104 and by 1950 the population was 2,663.[18]

A commercial district developed along Hewett Street (State Highway 73), Neillsville's main artery. Several substantial two-story brick structures were built from 1872 to 1895 in Neillsville's commercial downtown district. The buildings from the alley south of 5th Street (both sides of the street) to 6th Street were listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1999.

By the turn of the century, logging in southern Clark County was coming to an end. Fortunately, the prospect of owning land brought many potential farmers to the area surrounding Neillsville to purchase the cut-over land. Farms began to produce crops, meat and dairy products. Over the ensuing decades, the area would thrive on milk production. Companies such as the Neillsville Milk Products Cooperative, American Stores Dairy Company, Oatman Condensed Milk Company, Clark County Butter Company and the Neillsville Dairy produced butter, cheese, roller-dried milk, buttermilk powder, and evaporated milk.

Since the milk was hauled in the early years by wagon, it was not feasible to haul to a company which involved a lengthy drive or the milk would spoil. Small privately owned cheese making factories sprang up every few miles. Some of the small local cheese companies and their cheese products were: Bartel Factory – American Cheese; Clark County Central Cheese Factory – Cheddar Cheese; Dells Dam – American Cheese; York Center – Cheddar and American Cheese; East Pleasant Ridge Dairy – Swiss and Cheddar Cheese; Christie Cheese Factory, Globe Cheese Factory and Day Corners Factory. The Star Factory is still operating today as Lynn Dairy in Lynn, Wisconsin.[19]

The Neillsville milk plants coupled with the many small cheese factories guaranteed a market for all of the milk the area dairy farmers could produce. Milk was a way of life for the small farmer in the Neillsville area for more than fifty years.[20] Refrigeration allowed milk to be hauled greater distances and larger companies were forming, such as the John Wethrich Creamery Company (1904) in Greenwood, Wisconsin (sixteen miles north of Neillsville).[21]

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[18] Clark County Press, July 1, 1982, "Keepsake Centennial Edition", page 2.
[19] Cheese Factories & Dairies of Clark County Wisconsin, www.usgennet.org/usa/wi/county/clark/facts/cheese_factories.htm, pages 1-12, accessed September 2012.
[20] Clark County Press, July 1, 1982, "Keepsake Centennial Edition", page 36.
[21] Now known as Grassland Dairy, it is said to be the largest independent butter manufacturer in the United States.

Herman M. Hediger

Herman M. Hediger was born in Reinach, Switzerland[22] on March 22, 1903.[23] When Herman was eighteen years of age, his family received a letter from a former neighbor who wrote of the wonderful opportunities that existed in Clark County, Wisconsin. Herman convinced his father to allow him to sail to this land of great prosperity. With $16 in his pocket and speaking only Swiss, Herman set sail for America in 1921.[24]

Herman had a job waiting for him when he arrived in Neillsville. Walter Zbinden, whose wife had written the letter to the Hediger family, operated a cheese factory at the corner of Grand Avenue and Seventh Street in Neillsville. For his labor, Herman earned a salary of $30 per month plus room and board. Within a short period of time, cheese prices drastically dropped from 26 ½ cents per pound to 12 ½ cents per pound and Zbinden had to let Herman go. Feeling a certain responsibility for Herman's welfare, Zbinden arranged for Herman to work at the Cannonville Cheese Factory. As soon as milk prices rose again, Zbinden brought Herman back to work for him. It was at this time that the Zbinden Cheese Factory began to make Swiss cheese. Herman had experience in making Swiss cheese in Switzerland so Zbinden raised Herman's salary to $60 per month.

Wanting to operate his own enterprise, Herman rented the old Christie Cheese Factory. His savings of $375 plus a loan of $750 from the Neillsville Bank provided the funds to rent the building and equipment. Being in a rural area, the factory did not have electricity. Herman cut curds with a hand-operated curd mill. Through hard work and discovering a Chicago market willing to pay one cent more for his cheese, Herman met expenses. A back injury forced Herman to quit the factory and he sought treatment back in Switzerland. When he returned to America he worked for a short period of time for the Zbinden Cheese Factory and then he purchased the Christie Cheese Factory.

On March 16, 1928,[25] Herman married Hanna Harder (12-12-1895 to 7-31-1993)[26] whom he had known when he lived in Switzerland. Hanna was born in Wadenswil, Switzerland and came to America on the S.S Columbus on April 8, 1926.[27] Hanna was working as a governess in New York when she came to visit her brother Henry, a Christie area farmer. Hanna remained in America and got a job working in Herman's cheese factory. One morning after they finished their work, they drove to Winona, Minnesota and were married. Herman and Hanna arrived home late in the day to finish the

[22] Ancestry.com, New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957, accessed September 2012.
[23] Ancestry.com, Social Security Death Index, accessed September 2012.
[24] Ancestry.com, 1930 United States Census, accessed September 2012.
[25] Clark County Press, July 13, 1972, Herman Hediger obituary.
[26] Ancestry.com, Social Security Death Index.
[27] Ancestry.com, New York Passenger lists, 1820-1957.

batch of cheese that was started in the morning. The Hedigers had three daughters: Hanna, Margaret and Rose, and three sons Herman Jr., Kurt and Fritz.[28]

The condenser in Neillsville was purchased by American Management group and they re-opened the plant as the American Stores Dairy Company. American Stores Dairy Company wanted to consolidate the surrounding area rural cheese makers and remove the local competition. They offered to buy out both the Zbinden and Hediger operations and both accepted their offers.

In 1929, with the monies from the sale of his cheese factory, Herman purchased a farm on the southwest side of Christie. The market crashed in December and the value of his farm dropped drastically. Herman then entered into a five year milk hauling contract with American Management. As soon as that contract was fulfilled, Herman went back into the cheese business building a modest factory on his farm property. His business started with eight patrons and 1,200 pounds of milk. Herman charged 2 ¾ cents per pound for making the cheese and also he received one-half of the profits from the sale of the remaining whey cream. The volume of cheese production grew to 56,000 pounds per day by 1957. Herman remained in the business of making cheese until the early 1960s.[29]

Herman and Hanna's hearts remained in Switzerland. Herman painted a scene of his native Reinach nestled in the Swiss Alps on the side of the bulk milk holding tank which they could see from their living room of their house in Christie. When the time came Herman and Hanna wanted a house in Neillsville and they remembered the homes of Switzerland. The Swiss Chalet was their architectural style of choice. Herman took three trips to Switzerland to study the Swiss Chalet and Swiss building methods. Herman drew the blueprints for the house and he hired two Swiss builders to come to America and assist him with the construction. John Morgenthaler was a skilled cabinet maker from canton of Bern and Hans Haefeli was a skilled mason from canton of Aragua.[30]

A permit for construction was acquired on June 8, 1948.[31] The house was completed sufficiently in the fall of 1949 for the family to move into the basement while the second floor bedroom area was completed.[32]

According to Herman's son Herman Jr., the house was built for a cost of only $15,000 but it was assessed for much more. Within seven years of completion, Herman experienced financial difficulty

[28] Clark County Press, July 13, 1972, Herman Hediger obituary.
[29] Clark County Press, June 25, 1997, "Good Old Days" column, page 32.
[30] Milwaukee Journal, October 1949.
[31] Clark County Press, "Keepsake Centennial Edition", July 1, 1982, page 55.
[32] Clark County Press, October 13, 1949.

and fell behind on his property taxes. The house was sold to Ray Tesmer in May of 1957, along with several additional lots located to the west of the property for $15,000.

In his later years, Herman drove long haul semi rigs to the east coast. He suffered a heart attack in the fall of 1971 while driving a truck[33] and died some months later in his home in Christie on July 9, 1972.[34]

Architectural Significance

The Herman M. and Hanna Hediger House is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C for Architecture. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Swiss Chalet style. Swiss builders Morgenthaler and Haefeli who were brought to this country by Hediger assured that the construction of the house would be done in authentic Swiss style. This is the only house of this architectural style in Neillsville. A true Swiss Chalet is also a rare form of architecture in Wisconsin. The Chalet of the Golden Fleece in New Glarus is Wisconsin's most authentic representative example. As with the Chalet of the Golden Fleece, the Hediger House was meant as an ethnic architectural statement, rather than the application of an architectural vocabulary to produce a picturesque effect.

The Herman M. and Hanna Hediger House exhibits a high degree of architectural integrity maintaining all of its defining features, as well as displaying the integrity of materials and workmanship. The picturesque appearance of the house disguises its use of materials of substance such as concrete block, concrete and steel. The Hediger House exhibits distinguishing features associated with the Swiss Chalet style of architecture. The two and one-half story house retains its defining features such as wide gable and side eaves, exposed purlins supported by decorative brackets, exposed rafter tails, full width balcony and gallery with scroll-sawn balustrades, red tile roof, double cinder walls with air space, divided casement windows, original wall surfaces of stucco and half-sawn logs, interior tile floors, beamed ceilings, and built in corner seat.

The nominated property continues to convey the historic nature of the Swiss Chalet as well as the original character and essence of the Swiss Chalet style of architecture. The Herman M. and Hanna Hediger House retains its location, design, setting and significant architectural features.

[33] Clark County Press, July 13, 1972, Herman Hediger obituary.
[34] Ancestry.com, Social Security Death Index.

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Clark County Press, June 25, 1997, "Good Old Days" column, page 32.

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Personal Recollections

Interview with Herman Hediger, Jr. taken on August 21, 2012.

Verbal Boundary Description:
15-24N-2W
COM 111.5' N OF SE COR OF LOT 135 HEWETTS ADD OF OUTLOTS TH W 177.5' S8' W 30 N 114 E 42.5 N 16 E165' S122' TO POB HEWETTS ADD OF OUTLOTS CITY OF NEILLSVILLE

Boundary Justification:

The boundary corresponds with the current legal parcel for the house.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property:	**Hediger, Herman M. and Hanna, House**
City or Vicinity:	**Neillsville**
County:	**Clark County**
Name of Photographer:	**Patricia Lacey**
Date of Photographs:	**September 2012**
Location of Original Digital Files:	**W 5055 US HWY 10 Neillsville, WI 54456**
Number of Photographs:	**13**

Photo #1 of 13
South facing façade, camera facing northwest.

The information for the following photographs is the same as the above, except as noted.

Photo #2 of 13
East facing façade, camera facing west.

Photo #3 of 13
North facing façade, camera facing southwest.

Photo #4 of 13
Rear west facing facades, house and garage, camera facing southeast.

Photo #5 of 13
South facing breezeway entrance, camera facing north.

Photo #6 of 13
Entry porch, camera facing northwest.

Photo #7 of 13
Main entry door, camera facing southeast.

Photo #8 of 13
Main staircase, camera facing south.

Photo #9 of 13
Main staircase, camera facing southeast.

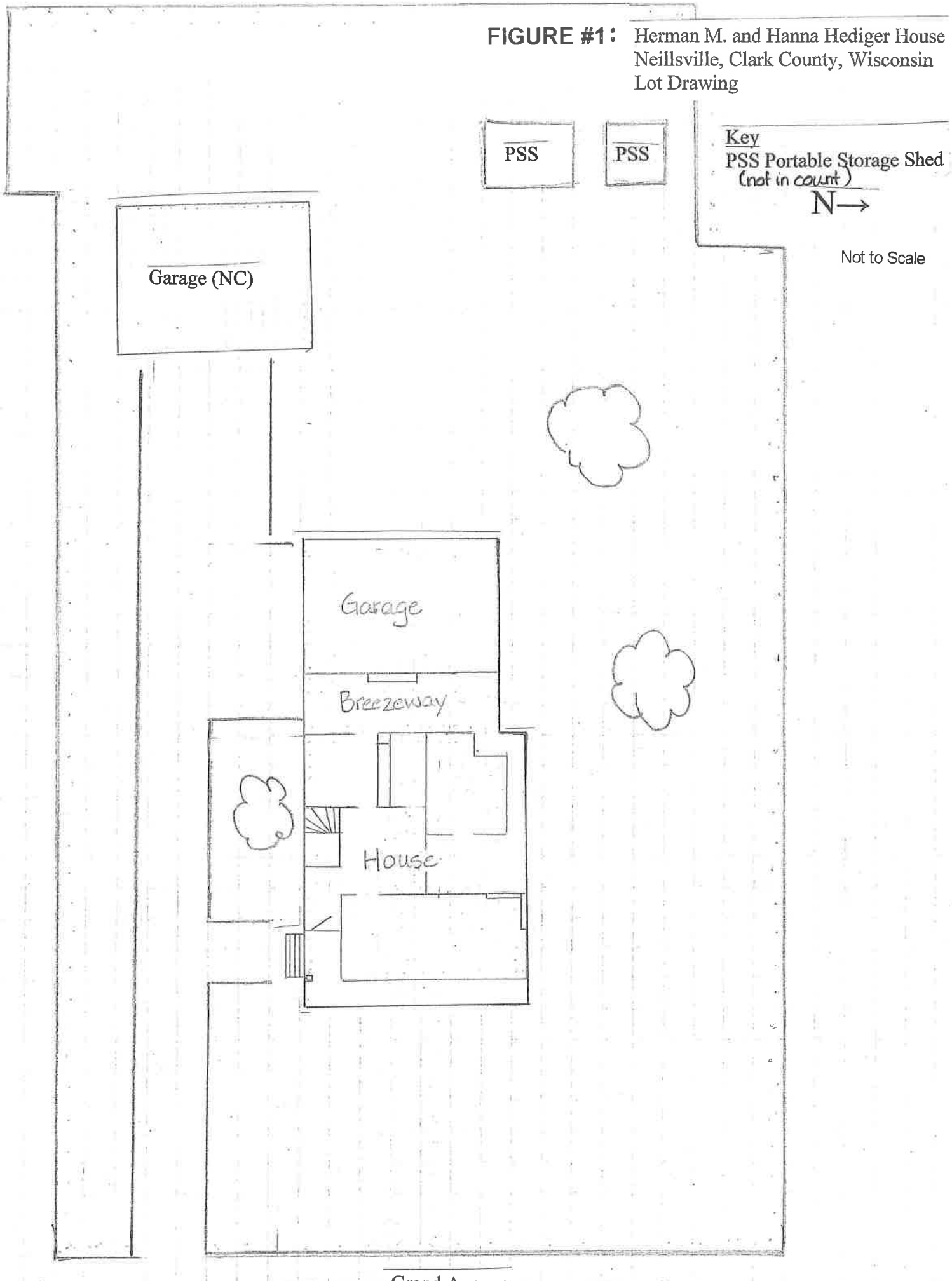
Photo #10 of 13
Built in corner seat with original table, camera facing northwest.

Photo #11 of 13
Built in, first floor bedroom, camera facing west.

Photo #12 of 13
Built in, second floor bedroom, camera facing southwest.

Photo #13 of 13
Non-contributing garage, camera facing west.

FIGURE #1: Herman M. and Hanna Hediger House
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin
Lot Drawing



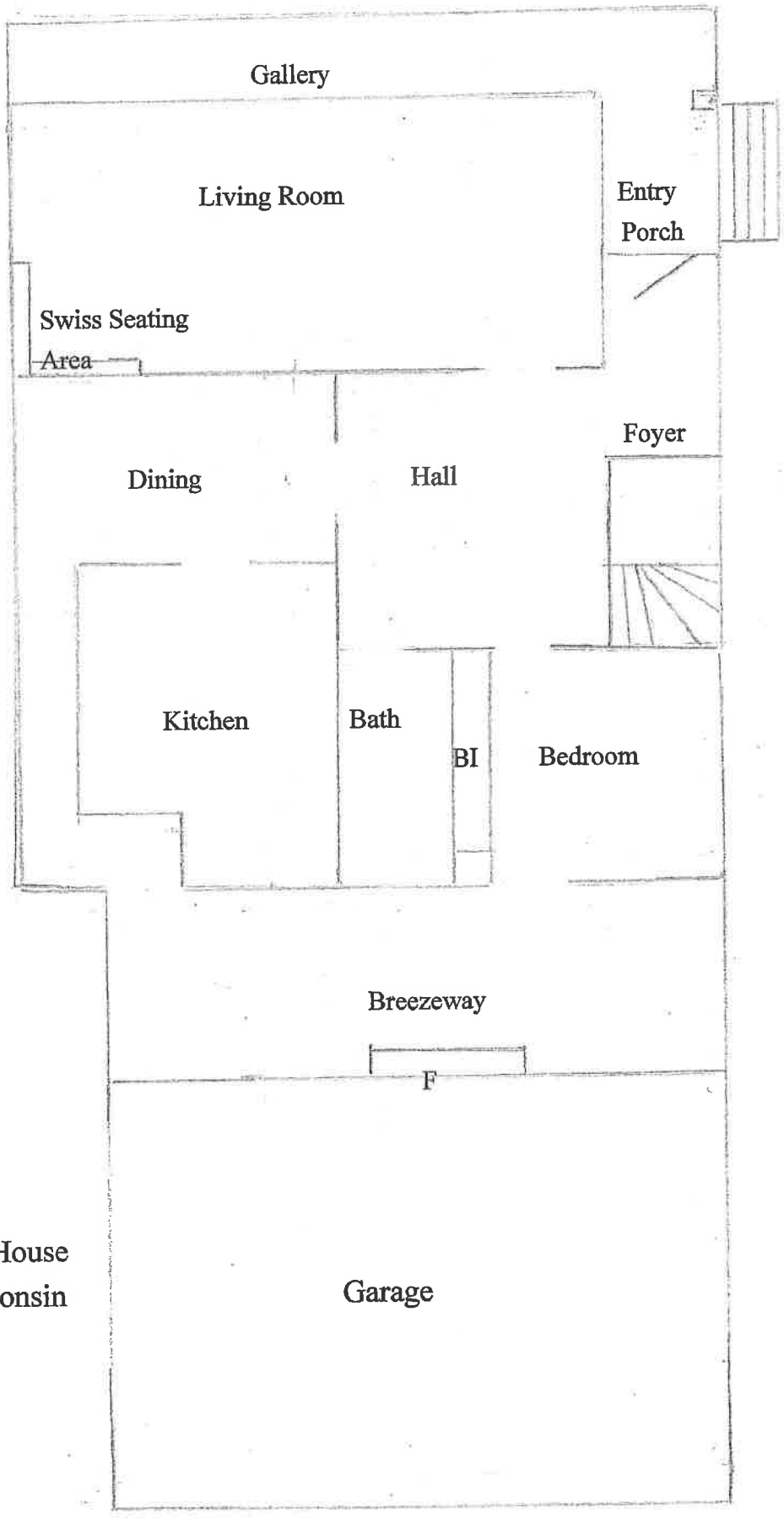


FIGURE #2:

Herman M. and Hanna Hediger House
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin
First Floor

Key
BI Built in Closet
F Fireplace

N

Not to Scale

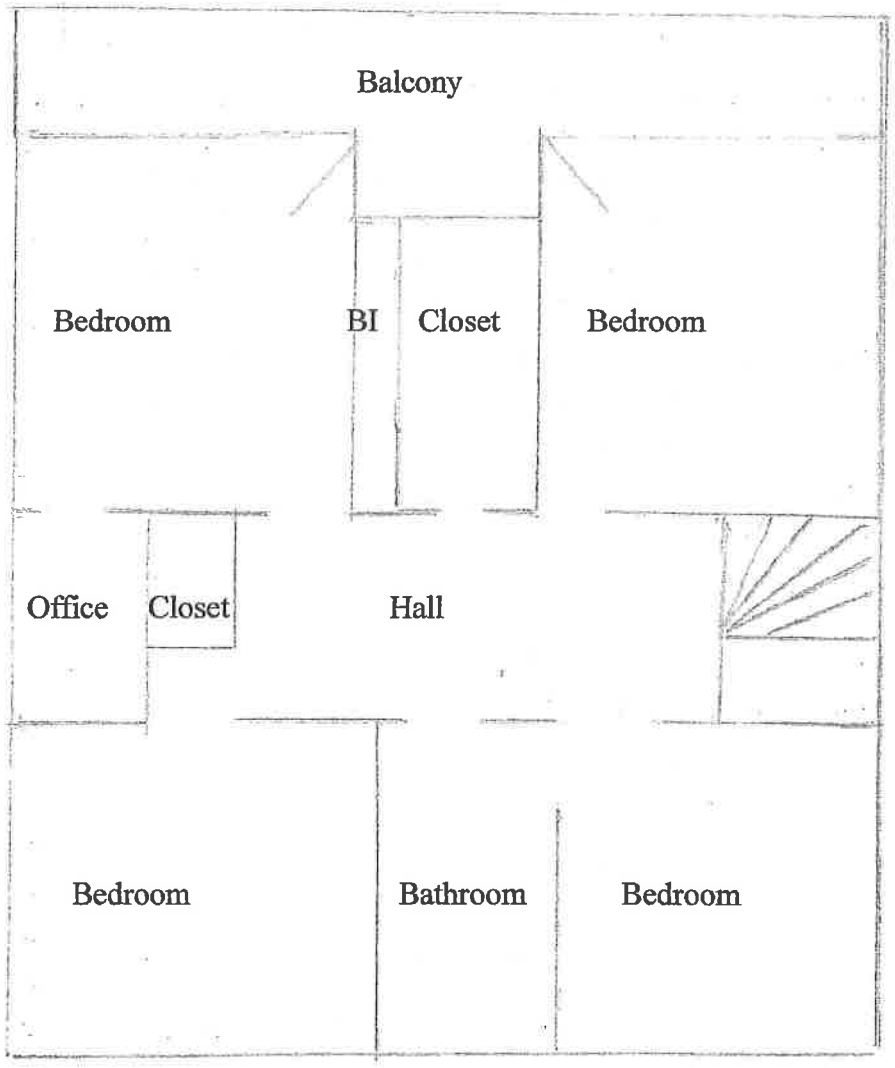
FIGURE #3 :

Herman M. and Hanna Hediger House
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin
Second Floor

Key
BI Built in Closet

N

Not to Scale



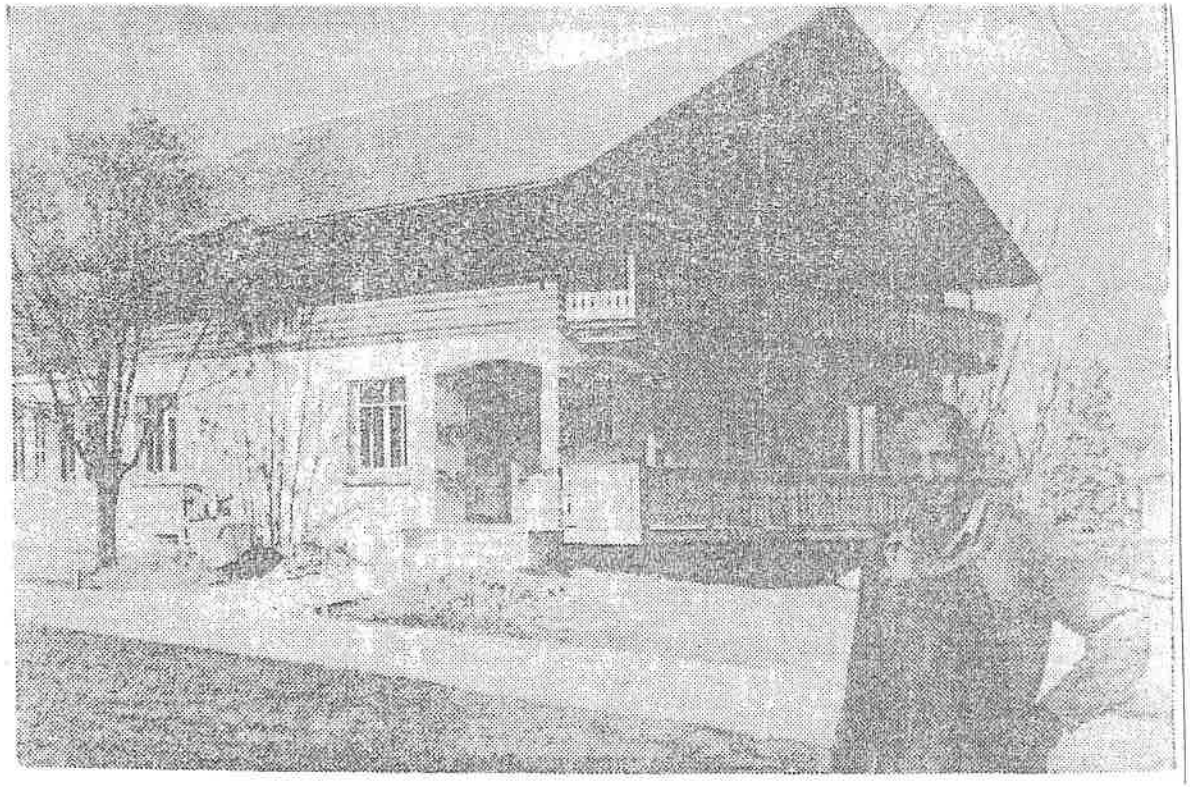


FIGURE 4: Herman M. and Hanna Hediger House
Neillsville, Clark County, Wisconsin
Photo circa fall of 1949
Herman M. Hediger pictured

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY

NEILLSVILLE QUADRANGLE
WISCONSIN–CLARK CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SE/4 NEILLSVILLE 15' QUADRANGLE

2873 II NW (WILLARD)
2873 II NE (LOYAL WEST)
2873 III NW (LOYAL EAST)
(HATFIELD) 2872 I NW
(HATFIELD NE) 2872 I NE
(GRANTON) 2973 III SW
(CITY POINT, NW) 2972 IV NW
(COLUMBIA) 2873 II SW

GREENWOOD 11 MI.
CHRISTIE 1.9 MI.
1.5 MI. TO HY. K
MERRILLAN 15 MI.
27 MI. TO INTERSTATE 94
SHORTVILLE 2.3 MI.
WISCONSIN RAPIDS 43 MI.
OSSEO 31 MI.
15 MI. TO U.S. 12
GRANTON 4 MI.
MARSHFIELD 19 MI.

90°37'30" 44°37'30" 90°30' 44°30' 32'30"
1 860 000 FEET
280 000 FEET
250 000 FEET
1 840 000 FEET
R 2 W R 1 W

W E S T O N
Y O R K
P I N E V A L L E Y
G R A N T
L E V I S
W A S H B U R N

Neillsville
Neillsville Mounds
Gravel Pit
Sandpit
Quarry
Quarries
Radio Tower (WCCN)
St Marys Cem
Cemetery
Park
Sewage Disposal
St John Sch
PO
Courthouse
WT
Golf Course
Fair
Fairground
Radio Tower
Trailer Park
Neillsville Municipal Airport
BM 995
BM 1063

Black River
Mound Creek
Spooner Creek
O'Neill Creek
Cowley Creek
Panther Cr
Middle Br
North Branch
Jack Creek
Cunningham Creek
C & N W
CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN South

Hediger, HERMAN M. and HANNA, House
NEILLSVILLE, CLARK County, WISCONSIN

UTM Coordinates:
Z E N
15 691007 4935641

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey in cooperation with the Wisconsin Division of Highways and Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1976. Field checked 1977. Map edited 1979

Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Wisconsin coordinate system, central zone (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 15
1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 6 meters north and 11 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

MN GN 1°43' 31 MILS 2° 36 MILS
UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24 000
1 MILE
1000 FEET
1 KILOMETER
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND WISCONSIN GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY, MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

WISCONSIN
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route U. S. Route State Route

NEILLSVILLE, WIS.
SE/4 NEILLSVILLE 15' QUADRANGLE
N4430–W9030/7.5
1979
DMA 2873 II SE–SERIES V861

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1980

38
S. GR. AV.