



Village of



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
N112 W17001 Mequon Road
P.O. Box 337
Germantown, WI 53022-0337

APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC DESIGNATION

PURSUANT TO SECTION 17.00 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE

PLEASE READ AND COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION CAREFULLY. ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE SIGNED AND DATED.

1. APPLICANT OR AGENT

Irene Blau

PHONE 262-251-6378

2. PROPERTY OWNER

Mr. & Mrs. Frank J. Blau, Jr.

PHONE 262-251-6378

3. PROPERTY ADDRESS

W148N12297 Pleasant View Drive

4. TAX KEY NUMBER

143990

5. PROPERTY HISTORY

HISTORIC NAME OF PROPERTY

Friedrich Groth Farm

DATE BUILT

~1860

ARCHITECT / BUILDER

Friedrich Groth & his family

SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION

Washington County Records

Verbal history from descendents of the Groth family

CHECK HERE IF THIS PROPERTY IS THREATENED WITH DEMOLITION OR DESTRUCTION.

6. PURPOSE OF APPLICATION

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE REASON FOR YOUR REQUEST

We have lived in this field and quarry stone farm house for over 50 years. During that time we have spent much time appropriately restoring the property and enjoying the long history which began with the original land tract sales of the Wisconsin territory in 1838.



RECEIVED

MAY 1 2019

VILLAGE OF GERMANTOWN
CLERK'S OFFICE

7. HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE OF PROPERTY

CHOOSE ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING.

- THIS PROPERTY ILLUSTRATES AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF GERMANTOWN'S HISTORY THROUGH ITS ETHNIC, AGRICULTURAL, INDUSTRIAL, ETC., HISTORY.
- THIS PROPERTY IS DIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH A PERSON WHO MADE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO GERMANTOWN'S HISTORY.
- THIS PROPERTY IS ARCHITECTURALLY OR ARTISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT.
-

EXPLAIN BRIEFLY AND INCLUDE SOURCES IF APPROPRIATE. ATTACH ADDITIONAL PAGES AS NECESSARY.

The Groth family arrived in America with the immigrants and Pastor that would establish the first Lutheran Church in Wisconsin, Trinity Lutheran in what would become known as Freistadt. The immigrants were a large enough group, with enough demand for adjacent land tracts, that they needed to settle this far north of Milwaukee. They came north on the Military Road and platted farms and a community on the north & south sides of what would become Freistadt Road.

8. DOCUMENTATION

PLEASE CHECK ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- RECENT PHOTOGRAPH (REQUIRED)
- BUILDING PLANS (IF AVAILABLE)
- HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH (IF AVAILABLE)
- ANY ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING INFORMATION.
- SIMPLE MAP OF THE PROPERTY (REQUIRED)
-

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE. ATTACH ADDITIONAL PAGES AS NECESSARY.

The farm house was restored in 1975 to its original style with second floor rooms added and the a new basement foundation was installed. An addition to the summer kitchen was added in 1980 with careful consideration to make it fit with the historic property.

9. ALTERATIONS / ADDITIONS TO PROPERTY

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE WITH DATES. ATTACH ADDITIONAL PAGES AND PHOTOGRAPHS AS NECESSARY.

The summer kitchen addition was carefully designed to protect the historic integrity of the original house. The sun room (west end) roof was extended west from the main house and a family room was added. The summer kitchen was also a western extension of the house. The summer kitchen expansion included room for a laundry and additional garage/storage space.

10. SIGNATURES

APPLICANT

James M. Blau 5/1/19

DATE

OWNER

Frank Blau

DATE

**Additional
Information
Taken from
Friedrich Groth House
Application for a
National Register of
Historic Places
designation.**

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 1

Friedrich Groth House, Germantown, Washington County.

Introduction:

The Friedrich Groth House is a one-and-one-half story, side-gabled cottage in a traditional vernacular form with slight Greek revival influences. The building, constructed in 1860, has load-bearing coursed limestone walls, a low fieldstone foundation, and a center entry with sidelights flanked with two bays on either side. Unoccupied and used only for storage for over fifty years, between 1890 and 1942, the house was altered during the course of its rehabilitation, and has been occupied as a home since that time. Although the 1942 alterations and two subsequent additions to the rear of the property have altered some aspects of the property's exterior appearance, the building retains sufficient integrity to effectively represent its history as a typical domestic building constructed by inhabitants of the Freistadt Prussian community during its period of adaptation to their Wisconsin settlement.

Physical Context:

The Groth property is located approximately 20 miles northwest of Milwaukee, in an area historically dominated by farms but increasingly becoming developed for suburban housing as a result of its proximity to primary auto corridors leading to Milwaukee. The terrain in the vicinity tends to rolling hills and second-growth timber; with swamps and marshes historically predominating in lower areas, although many of these have been drained. One such marsh lies approximately one-half mile north of the Groth house, creating a physical barrier between Freistadt and the similar unincorporated community of Kirchayn, located approximately one and one-half mile northwest of this marsh. As a result, this marsh served as the historic northern boundary of the settlement associated with the Freistadt community.

The community of Freistadt is centered around the historic Trinity Lutheran Church, located approximately one-half mile south and two and one-half miles east of the Groth house. The church is adjoined by two cemeteries and an elementary school; the church complex is adjoined to the north and east by a small collection of mid-to late nineteenth century commercial and residential buildings. The balance of the area historically associated with the Freistadt community consists of historic-era and non-historic residences along approximately ten miles of roads in an area of approximately seven square miles. The growth of the historic community was limited to this area by marshes approximately one mile east and one mile south of the church, as well as by the marsh to the north mentioned previously. Thus the Groth house lies within the historic boundaries of the community of Freistadt. The historic community of South Germantown, a later settlement developed around a railroad station, lies approximately one mile southwest of the Groth house.

The Groth house sits on a five acre parcel, a remnant of the 120-acre farm historically associated with the property. The parcel is adjoined to the west by undeveloped lands, to the east by the public road, and to the north by a narrow driveway and row of brush screening the property from a non-historic residence located immediately north of the house. The southern border of the property is marked by a branch of the Menominee River, a waterway which commences near the Groth property and flows approximately east-west across the parcel before turning south and ultimately east, emptying into Lake Michigan in downtown Milwaukee. The balance of the parcel between the river and the house consists of an open meadow, which is unimproved with the exception of modest landscape features.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 2 Friedrich Groth House, Germantown, Washington County.

General Features:

The house consists of two parts: the historic building, which constitutes the primary visual facade of the building, and two 1968 additions to the rear of the building, which include residential and garage space. Although the additions are sizable, they are distinct from the historic building in terms of materials and design; they are also clearly subordinate in design to the historic building and do not impact the appearance of the primary historic facade. As a result, the additions have little impact on the historic building's ability to represent its area of historic significance.

The historic building has undergone alterations to its primary and side facades, almost all of which date from 1942 and are the result of the building's rehabilitation as a residence after over fifty years of vacancy. As may be expected, the house's six-over-six double-hung windows are replacements of the original sash, which are likely to have been completely deteriorated as a result of the years of disuse. The sash match closely to the likely historic appearance of the windows. The building's low foundation is of fieldstone; the walls, which are unaltered, consist of load-bearing stone anchored in two locations by S-shaped wrought iron ties. The primary, south-facing facade and the east-facing facade, which adjoined the historic driveway, are constructed of roughly coursed limestone in heavy mortar beds; the west-facing facade consists of rough courses of limestone and fieldstone, the latter of which appears to primarily consist of dark granites which match those in the foundation. The corners of the building are anchored by larger and more precisely hewed limestone block quoins, and the bays of the south-facing and east-facing facades are surmounted by rectangular blocks of limestone arrayed in a slight arch, in a manner similar to soldiered bricks. All of the bays are original and have not been altered in size or use. The roof of the building consists of cedar shingles, and the roof lines are edged with a simple molded cornice. The gables also have simple molded returns. The features of each facade and of the rear additions are described in greater detail below.

Primary (south-facing) facade:

The building's historic primary facade is oriented to the south and extends perpendicular to the adjoining road, which was developed between 1859 and 1873 from the property's historic driveway. The south-facing orientation resulted from traditional building design norms held by the immigrant community, rather than from the location of the drive or other area access routes. The facade has five bays at the first floor,

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Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 3 Friedrich Groth House, Germantown, Washington County.

East-facing facade, historic building.

The east-facing facade of the historic building consists of two bays, with two evenly-spaced windows at both the first and second floors. All four windows consist of six-over-six double-hung sash, as described previously; the upper windows are the same width and approximately three-quarters the length of the lower floor windows, which are identical to those on the primary facade. There is no evidence of alteration to these openings; the second floor windows are nearly bisected by the plane of the gable returns. Centered above and between these two bays in the top of the gable is a single semicircular wood ventilator grille cut in a sunburst pattern; this feature is also original to the building. At the north corner of the facade at the first-floor level, one of the quoin blocks bears the legend: "A D / 1860." The cornice, gable returns, and stonework on this facade are identical to those described previously.

West-facing facade, historic building.

The west-facing facade of the historic building is identical in form, quoins and gable returns to the east-facing facade, but differs in some details. The facade consists of three windows of equal size, two at the first floor level and one centered between these two at the second floor, at a slightly higher level than those noted on the east-facing facade. There is no evidence of alteration to the window openings, and there is no evidence of a gable grille such as that described on the east-facing facade. As noted previously, there is some variation in the stone used on this wall, with limestone similar to that noted on the balance of the historic building used in the quoins and in the gable of the facade. A large portion of the lower section of this facade is constructed of limestone interspersed with fieldstone similar to that noted on the foundation level elsewhere. The foundation level at this facade is predominately obscured by the sloping grade and by a pair of cellar doors set into the ground directly below and slightly off-center to the south from the facade's gable.

Kitchen Ell, rear of historic building.

The house's kitchen ell is at present used in part as a hyphen between the historic building and the additions. The ell is constructed of a liberally-mortared combination of limestone and fieldstone similar to that described on the west-facing facade. This ell has two extant walls, the east-facing wall having collapsed unexpectedly during construction of the rear additions. The west-facing facade of the ell has a paired set fixed multi-light windows, which date from 1942, while the north-facing facade has no features and is visible as a portion of the north-facing facade of the building. Although this ell has undergone substantial alterations, these alterations are not visible from the primary facades and have little relative impact on the historic building's integrity.

Rear additions:

Unlike many non-historic additions, which often obscure, overwhelm or visually compete with the historic building, the rear additions to the Groth house were designed and constructed in a manner that differentiates the non-historic building from the historic building, subordinates the additions to the historically significant feature, and maintains as much of the historic materials as possible while endeavoring to visually complement the historic features. The additions are sheathed in board-and-batten siding; they also have a lower profile than and differing facade lines from the historic house's facades.

The eastern addition was constructed to provide additional living space, and extends from the driveway

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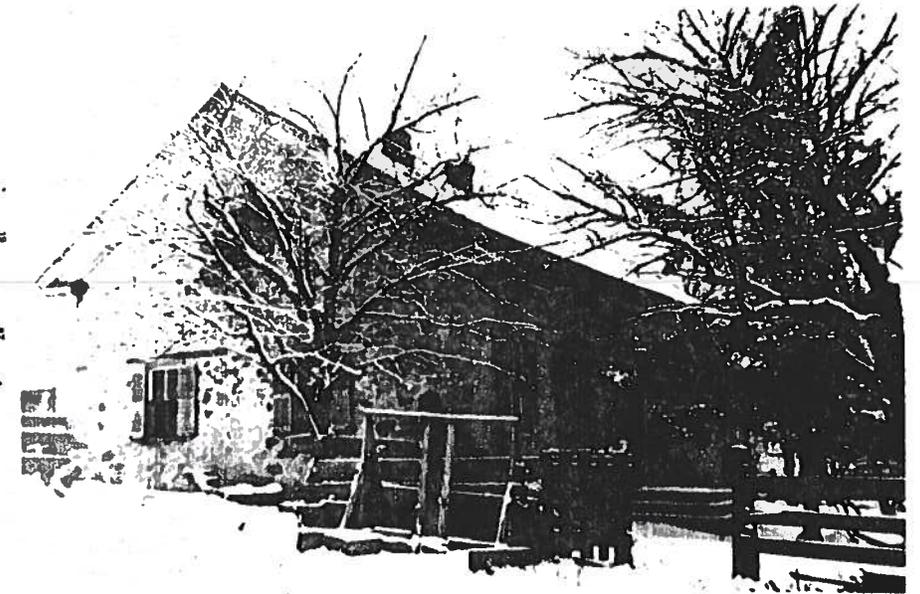
Section 7 Page 4 Friedrich Groth House, Germantown, Washington County.

and side yard to the former kitchen ell and from the rear facade of the main block of the historic building to a few feet beyond the plane of the rear of the kitchen ell. The east-facing facade of the addition, the mass of which is inset from the facade line of the historic building under an open porch, has plain square posts; a single door in a plain surround; a paired set of multi-light double-hung windows in a plain shared surround, and three singly-spaced board-and-batten gables on a cedar shingle roof. On the north-facing facade of the building, the north-facing facade of this residential addition, which has a gabled form and board-and-batten siding with three double-hung windows, adjoins the rear facade of the kitchen ell, described previously. On the west side of this kitchen ell is a similar addition, constructed as a garage and also having board-and-batten siding and square posts, with one pedestrian door and two overhead garage doors. The west-facing facade of this addition has no features with the exception of a plain wood door. The south-facing facade of this addition has two evenly-spaced double-hung multi-light windows and is stepped back near the facade's intersection with the historic building in order to maintain the integrity of the historic facade and the kitchen ell, which looks as a result onto a small courtyard area between the garage and the historic building. Although these additions are not historic, they are executed in a manner that minimally impacts the historic character of the building, and do not impair the historic building's ability to represent its historic significance.

Conclusion:

The Friedrich Groth House retains sufficient integrity in its character-defining features to clearly and appropriately represent its history and its area of historic significance. Of the alterations conducted on this building, the 1968 additions have been shown to have relatively little impact on the primary historic facades, being located and designed in a manner that is distinct from, complementary to and visually subordinate to the historic building. Of the alterations required in 1942 to make the building habitable after decades of disuse, most were done in a manner that minimally impacted the historic appearance of the property and did not alter the building's primary fenestration patterns, wall finishes or other details. Although the dormers on the south-facing facade do constitute a more substantial alteration of the building's primary facade, this alteration is considerably less notable than will be evidenced on other contemporary buildings discussed in section 8, below; these also do not substantially impair the Groth House's ability to effectively portray its historic significance. As a result, the Friedrich Groth house may be shown to have a sufficient level of integrity to be determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under National Register Criterion A, as discussed below.

Grandfather's Grotesque build
186



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 Friedrich Groth House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number N12297 Pleasant View Dr. _____ not for publication

city or town Germantown _____ vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Washington code 131 zip code 53022

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 _____meets _____does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____nationally _____statewide _____locally. (_____See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Friedrich Groth House
Name of Property

Washington / Wisconsin
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property within Property

(check as many boxes as apply)

private
 public-local
 public-state
 public-federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources

(Do not include listed resources within the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u> </u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u> </u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u> </u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is 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)

OTHER: double-pile cottage

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE:fieldstone
walls STONE:Limestone

roof wood
other _____

Narrative Description

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

Friedrich Groth House
Name of Property

Washington / Wisconsin
County and State

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.

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.)

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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: European

Period of Significance

1860- 1890

Significant Dates

1860, 1890

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Friedrich Groth House
Name of Property

Washington / Wisconsin
County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

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

Previous Documentation on File (NPS):

- 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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State Agency
 - Federal Agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately five acres, more or less

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

1. <u>116/</u> Zone	<u>141111810/</u> Easting	<u>14718719510/</u> Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
2. <u>111</u> Zone	<u>1111111</u> Easting	<u>11111111</u> Northing	4. <u>111</u> Zone	<u>1111111</u> Easting	<u>11111111</u> Northing

__ 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 Della G. Rucker
organization Rucker Historical Research
street & number P.O. Box 204
city or town Green Bay state WI

date January 19, 1998
telephone 920/432-7044
zip code 54305-0204

Friedrich Groth House
Name of Property

Washington / Wisconsin
County and State

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 Irene and Frank Blau

street & number N12297 Pleasant View Dr.

telephone 414/251-6378

city or town Germantown state WI zip code 53022

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.

Chriatian Groth

b. 28 May 1842

Chriatian purchased 40 acres of land on Saturday, 28 May 1842 identified as SESW in Section 12. The land patent number is 9532 while the BLM database index is WI2650_.479. He was issued the land patent on Thursday, 01 August 1844.

Frederick Groth

b. 15 September 1843

Frederick purchased 80 acres of land on Friday, 15 September 1843 identified as N1/2SW in Section 14. The land patent number is 12344 while the BLM database index is WI2710_.276. He was issued the land patent on Tuesday, 10 September 1844.

Frederick Groth

b. 15 September 1843

Frederick purchased 40 acres of land on Friday, 15 September 1843 identified as NWSE in Section 14. The land patent number is 12344 while the BLM database index is WI2710_.276. He was issued the land patent on Tuesday, 10 September 1844.

Friedrich Groth

b. 29 September 1843

Friedrich purchased 80 acres of land on Friday, 29 September 1843 identified as E1/2NE in Section 11. The land patent number is 12477 while the BLM database index is WI2710_.406. He was issued the land patent on Tuesday, 10 September 1844.

Joachim Groth

b. 25 November 1843

Joachim purchased 40 acres of land on Saturday, 25 November 1843 identified as SESE in Section 02. The land patent number is 13002 while the BLM database index is WI2720_.425. He was issued the land patent on Tuesday, 01 October 1844.

Joachim Groth

b. 01 March 1848

Joachim was issued a land patent on Wednesday, 01 March 1848 for 40 acres identified as SWSW in Section 01. The land patent number is 16554 while the BLM database index is WI2790_.462.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 1/92)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 1 F. Groth House, Germantown, Washington County.

Boundary Description:

The nominated property is defined as follows:

A five acre tract of land in the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 14, Town 9 North of Range 20 East, Commencing at a point on the west curb line of the north-south thoroughfare known as Pleasant View Road, said point lying 60 feet due east of the northeast corner of existing house addition, continuing south along said Pleasant View Road a distance of 100 feet; thence continuing 200 feet due west; thence continuing 120 feet due north, thence continuing 200 due east to intersection of said line with curb line of said Pleasant View Road, thence continuing south along said curb line 20 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Boundary Justification:

The above boundaries incorporate the entire parcel legally associated with the nominated property and incorporate the lands historically associated with the building's domestic functions. The boundaries exclude properties on all sides that were historically associated with the property but which are either substantially altered by new construction or remain unimproved and lack historic built resources.

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Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 1 Friedrich Groth House, Germantown, Washington County.

Introduction:

The Friedrich Groth House is located in the Town of Germantown in southeastern Washington County, but is historically associated with the unincorporated settlement of Freistadt, which is centered in the adjoining Town of Mequon in Ozaukee County. The Freistadt community, which predated the village of Germantown, was the earliest known German immigrant settlement in Wisconsin. The Groth House, built in 1860, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under National Register Criterion A as a representative of a typical family home in the community during the period of community establishment. During the Groth House's period of significance, spanning from 1860 to 1890, the Freistadt community underwent significant growth and technological advance, as families gained increased affluence through farming and commerce. Concurrent with these changes, however, members of the Freistadt community continued to perpetuate community practices and building traditions derived from vernacular Prussian models. As the residence of a typical Freistadt family, the Groth House exemplifies both the change and the continuance of community practices throughout the period of significance.

The Groth House is located in an area of intense development pressure as a result of its proximity to Milwaukee. Although houses like the Groth house dominated the community's landscape during the historic period, few remain, most having been replaced by late 19th and early- to mid-twentieth century styles in popular builder's styles. Those few that remain generally have comparable integrity to the Groth house, with most such buildings having undergone comparable additions, second-story gables, and other alterations. However, the alterations evident on the Groth house, as well as a few of its counterparts, do not impair the ability of the structure to represent its period of historic significance. As a result, the property may be seen to provide a good representation of properties associated with this aspect of the community's history, and to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as a good example of a typical domestic building from the period of establishment of the Freistadt community.

Historical Background: Freistadt Prussian Old Lutheran Community

The Freistadt community is commonly cited as one of the first distinct immigrant settlements established in Wisconsin. Arriving at the beginning of the nineteenth-century surge of immigration that was to define not only numerous individual communities, but the state of Wisconsin as a whole, the Freistadt settlers represented a new manner of settlement for the young territory of Wisconsin. Although some European emigrants had found their way to Wisconsin-area communities previously, such immigrants tended to arrive singly or in small groups and to assimilate into the communities in which they arrived. The Freistadt settlers, however, arrived in Wisconsin with clearly different intentions: having professedly left Prussia to ensure the integrity of their religious beliefs and avoid persecution or absorption by the state-sanctioned sect, the Freistadt settlers established themselves with the avowed intention of creating an ethnically and religiously distinct and inviolable community in a location that made such a community possible by virtue of providing a relatively blank slate. In the wooded area that would become Freistadt, this group of immigrants found a location where they could develop the community they desired and avoid both much of the strictures of government and much of the temptation of outside influences. As articulated in the Wisconsin thematic history Cultural Resources Management in Wisconsin, "[i]mmigration en masse, or the transplantation of entire congregations led by their pastors, characterized Old Lutheran immigration to Wisconsin and ultimately gave rise to a common pattern of tightly knit and contiguously

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Section 8

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Friedrich Groth House, Germantown, Washington County.

settled communities."¹

However, the land on which they settled had been defined, demarcated, and made available to them in a manner that dictated fundamentally different means of development than that to which they had been accustomed. New owners of sections and quarter-sections, the Freistadt settlers soon found themselves with plots of forty or more acres, a geographic arrangement that not only enforced an unfamiliar level of separation from one's neighbors, but that permitted one to eventually farm for profit, rather than merely for survival. Larger plots and innovations in farming practices and technology allowed the Freistadt Old Lutheran farmer to grow cash crops which were sold outside the settlement; the development of regional roads and the increasing influence of the railroads following construction of the Milwaukee and La Crosse Railway in 1855 gradually overcame much of the physical and social isolation that defined Freistadt as an ethnically distinct and religiously homogeneous community. It is during this period of transition that the extant Groth House was constructed, and its construction and design exemplifies the intermingling of new affluence and old traditions that defined this period of Freistadt development.

Freistadt's initial settlers consisted of a group of about 20 families, emigrants from the Pomeranian region of Prussia who belonged to a sect known as the Old Lutheran Church. Their emigration had been precipitated by their refusal to adopt variances in theology and liturgical practice which were espoused by the King Friedrich Wilhelm III, who had determined that Prussia should have a state religion in 1817. Groups having practices that disagreed with the new edicts were pressured to concede; as may be expected, a few groups insisted that their beliefs were correct and struggled to maintain them in the face of official pressure. Although the state-sanctioned theology and liturgy would be recognized by modern observers as belonging to the Lutheran tradition, Old Lutheran beliefs differed from the state church on a variety of catechismal points. Pressures upon the Old Lutherans grew between 1831 and 1838, and included the arrest and imprisonment of pastors and teachers, as well as economic and employment sanctions against those participating in Old Lutheran practices.

In 1839, a group of 400 Prussian Old Lutherans departed from Hamburg and journeyed to New York. The emigration effort was managed by two pastors and a lay leader who was also the group's sole nobleman; funds were pooled and passages arranged for the entire group as a whole in order to bring along all those who were believed to be sincere in their desire to emigrate. Although economic hardships were certainly among the motivators for many emigrants, since profession of the Old Lutheran faith and prosecution for its practice had caused considerable loss of money and property, the leaders of the initial emigration insisted on proof of faith and practice according to Old Lutheran tenets, in a stated effort to ensure that those joining the emigrants would foster the growth of the religion and were not merely seeking economic advantage. Additionally, only those who could prove commitment to the entirety of the body of Old Lutheran belief and practice would be accepted to join the group.² This selection process, and the administration of the emigrants as a unit, resulted in a tightly knit and highly homogeneous emigrant group, characteristics which significantly influenced the subsequent form of the Freistadt community.

After arriving in Buffalo, New York, the group underwent one of its first divisions. The group's rules of

¹ "Germans" Barbara Wyatt, Ed. Cultural Resources Management in Wisconsin Volume 1 [Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin] 1986, p. 2-3.

² By The grace of God: v.2 [Freistadt, Wisc.; Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church]1964, p. 18.

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passage required support for the poor only to such a location as they could find work for themselves;³ by the time the group reached Buffalo many of the emigrants had exhausted their savings and were required to find work in order to save enough money to continue the journey. Although efforts had been made to ensure the passage of even those Old Lutherans who could not have afforded to make the trip independently, such persons had been expected to make their own way once the group had reached the United States. By October 1839 approximately one-half of the Prussian emigrants, a total of 40 families, arrived in Milwaukee. The leadership of the groups quickly determined the location of the nearest land available for the federal government price of \$1.25 per acre; surveying and purchasing of the original tract in Town 9, Washington County, was done quickly in order to allow the men to construct crude housing before moving their families to the location.⁴ As had been the case in Buffalo, approximately one-half chose to stay in Milwaukee, while the other half established themselves in the rural location. The characteristics of this split do not appear to have been conclusively analyzed; it is likely, however, that those who proceeded to the wilderness predominately consisted of those families who had left Prussia with the most wealth, and, rather than having their resources exhausted by the journey, had sufficient funds left by the time they reached Milwaukee to pay for a portion of the land being purchased for the settlement.

The Freistadt group purchased 1200 acres, and drew lots to distribute the parcels.⁵ By Christmas 1839, most of the initial Freistadt-bound families were able to move to new settlement, where their initial survival was assisted by a scattering of Euro-American individuals living in the vicinity. In 1840 the settlement built a log schoolhouse, which would also serve as a church, on a 40-acre parcel at the center of the settlement area; this parcel had been paid for with a self-imposed tax on their purchases and had been set aside for such a use. A parsonage was built in 1841, but a pastor did not arrive to serve the Wisconsin Old Lutherans until late that year.

Due to the limited number of ordained ministers in the Old Lutheran faith, as well as the dispersal of the Old Lutheran immigration across two states and a territory,⁶ no pastor was available in the first two years to serve the Wisconsin emigrants. As a result of this extended isolation from church leadership, lay leaders of the Freistadt and Milwaukee communities, which functioned as a single parish began administering the sacraments themselves, including the conduct of marriages and baptisms and the presentation of communion. This raised consternation among the clergy working in New York and elsewhere, and written attempts were made to truncate the practices, which went unheeded because, as a later writer described it, "the settlers felt that they had a genuine emergency on their hands, and that as Christians they had a right to the sacraments."⁷ The pastor who eventually arrived in Wisconsin in 1841 further castigated the membership and insisted that all who did not admit the error of the practice were excommunicated from the church. This controversy was the first of at least three such conflicts between various portions of the Milwaukee and Freistadt congregations and the clergy serving them; the initial pastor and his successor insisted upon exerting extensive control over the conduct of the religion and of members' personal practices, and in each circumstance the dissenting portion of the group broke with the majority con-

³ *ibid.*

⁴ Freistadt and the Lutheran Immigration [Mequon, Wisc.: Freistadt Historical Society], 1989, p. 6.

⁵ By The grace of God: v.2 *op cit.*, p. 24

⁶ An additional group of Old Lutherans from Silesia, who were not associated with the Prussian groups but emigrated at the same time, established themselves in Illinois at the same time as the group established in Wisconsin.

⁷ Freistadt and the Lutheran Immigration, *op cit.*, p. 7.

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gregation and formed their own churches.

Although as many as three church groups operated within the Freistadt settlement at some point during the 1840s and 1850s, by 1868 all of the factions had been reconciled and merged under the aegis of the Missouri Synod of the Lutheran Church, which one of the dissenting groups had joined in 1846. Although these controversies had some impact on the physical arrangement of the church parcel, as portions of it passed in ownership between the factions and two separate cemeteries were established, the divisiveness appears to have had little impact on either the structure or the functioning of the larger Freistadt community. The divisions were instigated and carried out by members of the Freistadt Old Lutheran community; there is no evidence of the introduction of other ethnic groups as a result of these upheavals. Although the groups regarded their differences as serious, the conflicts had little known impact on the farming or commercial practices of the community, which continued to function as a distinct ethnic community and which pursued social ties primarily with similar communities as they developed. Similarly, this divisiveness had little if any impact of the choice or means of development of land in the community, as members of the various factions were drawn from all parts of the community and continued to meet on or near the church parcel.

Despite the considerable community attention given to the disputes, the community grew and prospered steadily. Within two years of the arrival of the initial settlers, Prussia relaxed its emigration policies and allowed massive numbers of Prussians, Old Lutheran and otherwise, to journey to Wisconsin. Between 1839 and 1843, approximately 3,000 Old Lutherans emigrated to Wisconsin, settling throughout the Milwaukee region.⁸ For Old Lutheran immigrants able to afford land purchases after emigration, the Freistadt community became the primary destination. During the late summer and autumn of 1843, Pastor Krause of the Freistadt church recorded 330 families arriving at Freistadt, while another 425 Old Lutheran families were reported arriving in Milwaukee.⁹ Considering that the village of Milwaukee at this time was estimated to consist of 1800 individuals, and that the surrounding area was estimated as having 5900 people, the relative magnitude of this emigration is difficult to underestimate.¹⁰ The Freistadt-bound portion of the influx more than exhausted the available land adjacent to the the original settlement area, which was limited to the north, east and south by a series of marshes. Many of these settlers established themselves beyond the northern marsh, and, as one of the immigrant groups was accompanied by a pastor, a second Old Lutheran Congregation was established at Kirchayn, approximately four miles northwest of Freistadt. Although considerable interaction took place between the two settlements, since many of the Kirchayn settlers were relative of those established earlier in Freistadt, the two communities remained distinct as a result of the physical barriers and focus of each communities' activities on its respective church.

Community agricultural economy during period of historic significance

During the balance of the 1840s and 1850s, the Freistadt settlers were primarily occupied with the tasks of clearing land and subsistence farming. The region in which the Freistadt community was

⁸ "Lutheran." Barbara Wyatt, Ed. Cultural Resources Management in Wisconsin, Volume 3. [Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin] 1986, 13-4.

⁹ Roy A. Suefflow, Trans., The Chronicle of Rev. L.F.E. Krause, Trinity Lutheran Church, Freistadt [private publication], 1945, n.p.

¹⁰ By the Grace of God, op cit., p. 30.

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developed consisted primarily of heavily-wooded terrain interspersed with marshes such as those that defined the limits of the Freistadt development. Both woods and marshes, although not generally considered as desirable as the already-occupied prairie land surrounding Milwaukee, provided significant advantages for the settlers, including public land in the marshes on which to graze animals and cut hay, and timber for building and fuel on their own parcels. Clearing such land, however, was a difficult and time-consuming task, completed with human and animal labor. As a result, improvement of most farms proceeded very slowly, with the resulting lack of cleared land forcing most families to concentrate on subsistence farming and commodities for local barter rather than on growing cash crops and participating in regional trade. This pattern was by no means unique to the Freistadt settlers; rural settlers of most ethnic and cultural groups faced the same initial challenges.

As land was cleared, however, Freistadt residents were able to gradually add wheat to their cultivation, which introduced both a cash-crop economy and a greater interaction with businesses outside of Freistadt. The reasons for the growth of wheat production in Freistadt during this era are similar to those of other wheat-producing regions of the era: wheat was commercially in demand outside of the community; wheat grew well on the farms' newly-broken soil; and wheat required little capital investment and little attention from the farm family during most of the year, which allowed families to concentrate on continued subsistence and local commodity farming and clearing of additional land, while their cash crop, to a great extent, took care of itself. During the 1850s, mechanical implements suited to the cultivation of wheat also began to be developed, and tools such as steel plows allowed farmers to greatly improve their efficiency at a relatively small cost. By 1849, the southeastern corner of the state, including Freistadt, contained 38 percent of the state's wheat acreage,¹¹ and by 1860 the Midwest wheat producing belt was considered to center on southeastern Wisconsin.¹² Although wheat production in the region would fall steadily after the Civil War, a significant portion of the community's farmland would be occupied by this crop into the 1870s.

The impact of cash crops on the development of the Freistadt community is difficult to underestimate. The availability and pursuit of cash crops created a certain level of prosperity among the immigrants, and by the late 1850s and 1860s this relative affluence led to a significant building boom, as residents became able to replace their initial primitive housing with buildings that were both more comfortable and which, from their cultural perspective, felt and looked more like proper houses than the earlier buildings constructed under duress. Additionally, participation in wheat and other cash crop economies appears to have provided for a greater level of interaction with surrounding German but non-Old Lutheran communities, which represented the dominant population group in both Ozaukee and Washington counties by 1850. No grist mill is known to have been established in Freistadt, and as late as 1881 the community had only one general store and two blacksmith and wagon shops.¹³ As a result of the limited resources available in the immediate vicinity, the sale of wheat or other, later crops, or the purchase of goods not available at the local store, required the farmer to travel to mills and stores at the new railroad depot community of South Germantown, or to similar establishments in Cedarburg or Milwaukee.

¹¹ "Wheat." Barbara Wyatt, Ed. Cultural Resources Management in Wisconsin. Volume 2 [Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin] 1986, 2-5.

¹² John G. Gregory, Ed. Southeastern Wisconsin: Old Milwaukee County [Chicago: S. J. Clarke Co.], 1932, p. 1160.

¹³ History of Washington and Ozaukee Counties [Chicago: Western Historical Society] 1881, p. 524.

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Since their immigration to Freistadt, most of the Old Lutheran settlers had been to a great extent cut off from outside influences, both due to distance and travel difficulty and due to their necessary concentration on establishing their physical survival as well as the form and structure of their cultural and religious communities; as their farms became established and farmers began to pursue sources of cash income, this isolation began to dissolve.

Wheat production became gradually less important in Freistadt following the Civil War. Unlike some portions of Wisconsin, where repeated drastic crop failures resulted in widespread economic upheaval, farmers of the Freistadt community appear to have been spared such turmoil, for reasons that appear to include a continued reliance on sustenance crops despite the successes of the 1850s, and a level of diversification in cash crops from an early date. During the decline in crop prices following the inflation of the Civil War era, Freistadt farmers began to pursue a wider range of crops, as well as livestock husbandry. Like many other portions of southeastern Wisconsin, Freistadt's wheat fields were supplemented with oats and barley. These crops benefited from the introduction of horse-driven threshing machines in the 1870s, which was succeeded by the steam-driven threshing machine in the years surrounding 1890.¹⁴ As in other rural Wisconsin farming communities, a few privately-owned threshing machines were generally used by numerous farmers, who would share labor to help each other harvest the crops using this equipment. By the turn of the century, innovations in silage and the growth of the cheese manufacturing industry led many Freistadt area farmers to invest in dairy production. In 1997, a few dairy farms are still extant in the vicinity of Freistadt, although the area's proximity to the Milwaukee metropolitan area has to a great extent resulted in its evolution from a farming to a suburban residential environment.

Cultural continuity during period of historic significance

As has been indicated, much of the cultural character, as well as the cultural longevity of the Freistadt community, results from the central role of the church in community life. Even when the members of the community attended different churches, the close similarities between congregations resulted in a highly cohesive cultural experience. In a governmentally self-reliant unincorporated community, the church provided a kind of *de facto* government, during the late nineteenth century, as members taxed themselves in order to provide for the church, pastor and school, the bases of the community's cultural and social life. This self-commitment, the first version of which was passed in 1842, initially required each member to contribute one dollar per year toward the pastor's salary, and to contribute specified amounts of various foodstuffs toward the pastor's upkeep.¹⁵ This method of support, in lieu of most church's voluntary collections, continued as the church's primary source of funding into the 1930s.

In a community of such religious and ethnic homogeneity, most major community events revolved around traditional observances of religious events. As in most homogeneous ethnic communities, such events as weddings, funerals and baptisms received considerable social attention and were surrounded by detailed traditional observances, including songs, special foods, dances and other cultural markers that were expected at such events. Major holidays such as Christmas and Easter included church rituals and household traditions, and a highlight of the summer in Freistadt in the late nineteenth century was a Mission Festival held jointly by Trinity Lutheran of Freistadt and David's Star Lutheran Church of Kirchayn.

¹⁴ By the Grace of God, *op cit.*, 35.

¹⁵ August Suefflow, History of Trinity Lutheran Congregation, 1839-1954. [Theinsville, Wisc.: The Church] 1954, p. 9-10.

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This event was highlighted by two Sundays during which members of one congregation would visit the other for services.

Language, of course, provided one of the strongest cultural identifiers for the Freistadt community, which appears to have continued the use of German in formal and informal contexts for several decades beyond that of non-Old Lutheran communities. During the Groth House's period of historic significance, all church services and all church-related events were conducted in German, also the language used for the church's records throughout the nineteenth century. The first regular English language service was not implemented until 1937, and as late as 1954 at least one service each Sunday was conducted entirely in German. In light of the fact that little immigration to the community occurred after 1850, this longevity of use reflects the day-to-day prevalence of the language among the generations born in the United States. The Freistadt community ungraded school also persisted in the use of German, even in the face of state law stating that all public school classes must be held in English. The Freistadt school, in fact, appears to have functioned during the Groth House's period of historic significance as a parochial school in the morning and a public school in the afternoon. Morning classes, which included religion and arithmetic, were conducted in High German, while afternoon classes were conducted in English.¹⁶ This blending of religious and public education, while technically illegal under state law, was supported and expected by the Freistadt community, for whom parochial and academic education had traditionally been conducted in concert in Prussia., and for whom education in English was considered to a great extent unnecessary due to the cohesion of the community and the overwhelming preponderance of German speakers in the surrounding area. As a county superintendent during the period averred in response to complaints that public schools were frequently being taught in German, exclusively German communities such as Freistadt "can and will establish and maintain private schools unless a proper course is taken," adding that the large-scale removal of German students from the public schools would impair their ability to eventually learn English.¹⁷ School events, which, as in most rural communities, were also community events, with such activities as a summer picnic being celebrated with recitations and singing by the students and games for adults and children.¹⁸

With the exception of pastors and teachers, who were almost universally looked to as the community's leaders, members of the Freistadt community do not appear to have adopted the commonly-perceived American emphasis on excelling beyond one's neighbors. Although some farmers clearly did better materially than others, no ostentatious physical displays of wealth are known to have been constructed in the Freistadt vicinity. Even the more comfortable houses, such as those described below, appear relatively modest by the standards of contemporary construction in other area communities. Personal self-promotion also appears to have been frowned upon; the only known vanity biography for the region during this period, which was published in 1881, lists only one person with a Freistadt address: the postmaster and owner of the community's sole store.¹⁹ Similarity, accounts of the history of the community give little attention to any individuals other than the succession of pastors and teachers, who are portrayed as providing the primary leadership in both religious and social circles. As a result, a proportionately very small number of individuals appear to have been considered as worthy of special attention; success at

¹⁶ By the Grace of God, *op cit.*, 69.

¹⁷ Southeastern Wisconsin: Old Milwaukee County. *op cit.*, p. 1242.

¹⁸ *ibid.*, p. 70.

¹⁹ History of Washington and Ozaukee Counties, *op cit.*, p. 756.

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farming, the occupation of the great majority of Freistadt residents, does not appear to have been cause for public display of wealth or self-promotion. It is likely that this social modesty springs from the emphasis placed in the community on the moral values of modesty, frugality, and humility.

Although Freistadt area farmers tended at an early date to appropriate American methods of housing animals in separate, segregated buildings, adopting the basement barn in turn at approximately the same time as the introduction of dairying, house building methods remained a relative cultural constant through much of the late nineteenth century. As mentioned previously, the relative affluence established through cash crop farming resulted in the re-siding or, more frequently, replacement of most of the original log or half-timber homes with larger and more substantial houses. Starting in the mid-to late 1850s, stone houses began to be built in the Freistadt vicinity, as masons began to work in the area and as limestone quarries were developed in Rockland and South Germantown and in numerous locations in western Ozaukee County. The resulting buildings generally had load-bearing stone walls of roughly ashlar blocks, with larger, more carefully finished blocks as quoins and with fieldstones taken from the fields associated with the house used in the foundation.

Although many of these houses employed vernacular versions of stylistic details common to Wisconsin during that period, such as entries with sidelights and modest cornice returns on gables, most of the Freistadt houses of this era continued to reflect the inhabitants' cultural and ethnic expectations as to what form a house should take and how it should function. Most houses, for example, were built with primary facades facing south, regardless of the location of the adjoining road or driveway. Most employed side-gabled forms; as expectations were still relatively modest, many houses stood one-and one-half stories, with the attic space lighted and ventilated only by small windows in the gable ends. Most houses had symmetrical bays, the most common arrangement appearing to have been the five-bay primary facade with central entry. Few appear to have had porches initially, although many had porches added at a later date. The primary floor of the house was generally divided by a central, usually unheated, hallway into equal or near-equal spaces, which, since most houses were single-pile and relatively small, might function variously as parlor, living space, or bedroom for the eldest family members. The attic space received little, if any, subdivision into rooms, and served as storage or as sleeping quarters for children. The kitchen was frequently housed in an ell extending from the rear of the house. Stone houses in this mold were most popular in the later 1850s through the 1860s, while balloon-frame versions of the same form began to appear in the vicinity in the early 1870s.²⁰

By the end of the nineteenth century, however, the growing affluence of the community and the growing familiarity with fashions in outside communities led to the replacement of a significant proportion of these first-generation houses with balloon-frame builder's Italianate and Queen Anne structures. Such houses, taller and having more rooms and windows than the older houses, offered some practical advantages, avoiding the perpetual dark and dankness often claimed to characterize the stone buildings. In some cases, the old house was incorporated as an ell attached to the new house, while in other cases, particularly where log or balloon-frame side-gabled structures were involved, the former house might become the new chicken coop or pig shed.

Throughout the second half of the 1800s, the community of Freistadt underwent significant growth in its affluence and economy while simultaneously striving to maintain the community's homogeneity and its

²⁰ Freistadt and the Lutheran Immigration, *op cit.*, p. 109.

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cultural and religious characteristics. The period was marked by the continuance of a large portion of the practices, ranging from music and education to language and building forms, that provided self-definition to the initial settlers based on their lives and heritage in Pomerania. Although a certain level of assimilation did take place, particularly with regard to the adoption of American commercial farming methods, the material benefits reaped from this aspect of experience appears to have played a significant role in the community's ability to maintain its physical homogeneity and its cultural and religious institutions and practices. Although physical and cultural aspects of the community's character would fade during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the cultural persistence of the Freistadt community outlasted that of many ethnic enclaves and resulted in a series of unique cultural and physical aspects that exist in the Freistadt community to date.

Friedrich Groth House:

Friedrich Groth emigrated from Tribsow, Prussia in 1843 with his wife, Dorotea Dobberphul and their daughter. Groth and his family arrived with one of the large groups of emigrants in that year which was noted in the records of Rev. Krause, as cited previously; on September 15 he purchased a tract of 120 acres in section 14, Town of Germantown.²¹ This tract was among the last government parcels associated with Freistadt; many of the Groth's fellow travelers found the nearest available government land north of the swamp just beyond the Groth property, where they established the unincorporated community of Kirchayn. Groth appears to have arrived with a relative level of prosperity, as most of his counterparts purchased 40 or 80 acre tracts, although larger tracts were not uncommon.²² Groth built his family's initial house on the westernmost 40-acre parcel, near the Menominee River as it ran through the parcel.²³ This house is reputed to have been a log structure. A low-profile community member like most of his neighbors, Groth was among the dissidents who left the initial church in 1846 and formed a congregation under the Missouri Synod which, as the result of a court case, took possession of the existing church building and split the church's 40 acres with the Buffalo Synod group they had left.²⁴ Groth also signed a letter from this congregation calling a pastor in 1847.²⁵

Groth appears to have prospered during the 1840s, and pursued the previously-cited combination of subsistence crops with potentially saleable commodities and wheat to the extent possible on his cleared acres to date. By 1850, 28-year-old Friedrich had improved 30 of his 120 acres, and had two horses along with two oxen.²⁶ The ownership of horses at this early date appears to have been somewhat unusual, as farmers in the region were reputed to have relied on oxen for farm work and transportation longer than farmers elsewhere in the region.²⁷ Groth also had four milk cows, four sheep, and 12 swine, and was credited with 200 pounds of butter, 30 bushels of potatoes, 50 bushels of oats, 10 bushels of beans and 20 bushels of wheat, among other commodities. By the time of the next census, Groth had cleared an additional 20 acres and increased his farm's output. In 1860, Groth had eight cows and fifteen sheep, one of the highest numbers of sheep in the vicinity, as well as 50 bushels of wheat, 150 bushels of oats, 20

²¹ History of Washington and Ozaukee Counties, op cit., .p. 466.

²² *ibid.*

²³ Plat Book, Washington County [West Bend, Wisconsin: West Bend News] , 1859.

²⁴ Freistadt and the Lutheran Immigration, op cit., p. 9.

²⁵ History of Trinity Lutheran Congregation, 1839-1954, op cit., p. 15.

²⁶ "Agricultural Schedule." 1850 Federal Census, Washington County, Town of Germantown.

²⁷ Southeastern Wisconsin: Old Milwaukee County op cit., p. 1235.

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pounds of wool, 20 bushels of beans, fifty bushels of potatoes, and 150 pounds of butter.²⁸ The increase in production between the two years emphasized cash crops and potentially saleable commodities, while the removal of swine from the farm's production may indicate an increased reliance on purchased food. However, some of this growth in production is likely to result from the fact that the Groth household's needs had expanded dramatically during this time; five children had been born since the previous census.²⁹

As a probable result of the family's income growth and increasing number of children, a new house was built in 1860, on the opposite side of the driveway leading into the parcel.³⁰ Like most of the houses constructed in Freistadt during this era, it represented a substantial improvement in living conditions over the log structure, although it was by no means an ostentatious display. Relatively early for a stone house in the vicinity,³¹ the house is oriented perpendicular to the driveway and with its primary facade facing south, overlooking a small meadow leading to the river. The one-and-one half story side-gabled house has limestone walls two feet thick, with five evenly-spaced bays and a central entry with side-lights. The gable ends have modest returns, and one of the few pieces of ornamentation on the building is a small half-round ventilating grille in a gable. The limestone is likely to have been quarried in South Germantown or another nearby community, while the fieldstone foundation is likely to represent several years' collection of rocks heaved in the Groth fields. Excluding the kitchen ell, the house had only two rooms at the first floor, with an undivided attic. The final result resembled homes constructed across Freistadt during this era: substantially constructed, modest in size and ornamentation, and resembling to a great extent the homes in which the Groths and their neighbors are likely to have spent their youths in Prussia.

By 1870, the Groth farm had almost half of its acreage cleared. The number of cows and sheep and their respective products had declined slightly, and swine had again been added to the production, most likely in response to the high food prices of the Civil War era. The largest crop, however, was spring wheat, with 235 bushels listed.³² Although the farm continued to pursue some crops, such as beans, that were likely to have been consumed by the family, it appears that cash crops were demanding an increasing proportion of the farm's resources. By 1873, the Groth driveway had been extended north as a road leading to farms north of the Groths. Friedrich Groth died in a farming accident in 1885; following the probate process the farm passed to the youngest Groth son, Henry. By 1892, Henry had added a 19-acre field to the west end of the parcel, and had named the property Spring Brook Farm, a practice also adopted by a few of the larger farms in the vicinity.³³ All of these named farms have English names. At approximately the same time, Henry had a new balloon frame house in a builder's Queen Anne style built just north of the original log building site. The 1860 house was subsequently abandoned. The farm remain in the Groth family until 1942, when it was purchased and rehabilitated for use after fifty years of neglect. An addition incorporating the kitchen ell was added in 1968.

As shown, the Friedrich Groth family represents to a great extent a typical pattern of religious experi

²⁸ "Agricultural Schedule." 1860 Federal Census, Washington County, Town of Germantown.

²⁹ Household #84, Census Schedule, 1860 Federal Census, Washington County, Town of Germantown.

³⁰ Date inscribed on stone at first-floor level, northeast corner of building.

³¹ *Freistadt and the Lutheran Immigration*, *op cit.*, p. 109.

³² "Agricultural Schedule." 1870 Federal Census, Washington County, Town of Germantown.

³³ *Plat Map of Washington and Outagamie Counties* [Minneapolis: Charles M. Foote, Publisher]1892.

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ence, family agricultural life, and building habits found among the residents of the Freistadt community during the Groth House's period of historic significance. Although not exceptional in wealth, taste, or achievement, the family's evolution as outlined mirrored much of the development of the Freistadt community, which unfolded during the mid-to-late 19th century with a similar lack of ostentation. The house constructed for this family represents a significant portion of this social experience; as the center of both family social and cultural life and as the headquarters of household production, houses such as the Groth House fostered not only the community's achievement but also its social, religious and cultural homogeneity and continuity over time. No small part of that continuance is exemplified in the structure itself, which represented to a great extent a transplantation of a cultural ideal of appropriate domestic structure to a new context. As late as 1881, a visitor to Freistadt cited buildings such as the Groth House as an element of the physical and cultural landscape distinguishing the community from its surroundings: "the county at large presenting the appearance of one vast chain of gardens, with good, substantial frame and stone houses."³⁴

Context:

As previously discussed, pressures against Freistadt area houses of the Groth House's vintage commenced in the late 1800s and have continued to the present. Although the first generation appears to have considered these houses a significant improvement over their initial privations, the second generation tended to view these houses as lacking desirable amenities. A significant number of historic residential sites in the Freistadt vicinity are occupied by generically American domestic building forms of the late nineteenth century; these buildings include modest Italianate and Queen Anne houses constructed in the vertically-oriented styles of the period. These buildings not only employ methods and forms having no relation to the community's ethnic and cultural heritage, but they also feature the characteristic machine-made ornaments, such as sawn gingerbread trim, brackets and novelty shingles, that were made outside the community, either at a local mill, or, more likely, at a distant factory. In some cases, a house comparable to the Groth House appears to have been incorporated as a rear or side ell attached to a more recent front-gabled block. Such architectural forms reflect the increasing cultural and economic integration of the Freistadt area; although such buildings may be significant in their own right, they represent a significantly different stage of the development of the community than those buildings comparable in form and age to the Groth House.

Domestic buildings which represent the same period of construction and building form to the Groth House were built most commonly in stone; they were also executed in half-timber, over which siding was affixed, and balloon frame construction. With few exceptions, the extant domestic buildings in the Freistadt vicinity which are comparable in age and form to the Groth House have also undergone comparable alterations. The following information, while not exhaustive, is based on three windshield surveys of the area. Frequently-found alterations are listed below:

• **Windows.** Most of the observed examples comparable to the Groth House have modern casement or one-over-one double-hung sash, rather than the six-over-six light double-hung sash that one may expect in rural buildings of this era. Most of the windows appear to be post-World War II replacements. Window openings in stone houses tend to be unaltered, due to the difficulty of doing so in a load-bearing stone wall; a few of the frame or half-timbered houses have non-historic picture windows.

³⁴ History of Washington and Ozaukee Counties, op cit., .p. 524

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•**Dormers.** No one- or one-and-one-half story house was found in the Freistadt vicinity that did not have non-historic dormers along its primary side-gabled facades. As discussed above, the attics of such houses were frequently used for storage or children's sleeping areas, and the lack of light, ventilation and head room appears to have seriously impaired the use of this space. Dormers range from small, gabled single-window openings, to shed dormers having two or more windows, to the dormer on the Kressin House, W188 N11881 Maple Road, Town of Jackson, Washington County. This frame gablet rises from the center of the primary facade to the height of the gable ridge; it is sided with wood shakes and inset with two non-historic windows. The rare two story variants of this building form appear to have been generally spared dormers as a result of the eyebrow windows found on these facades.

•**Porches.** The traditional building form, and the manner in which historic photographs of the community indicate it having been constructed, did not include verandas or porches of any type. With the exception of the Groth and Kressin houses, most of the examples of this building form in the vicinity currently have porches, most of which are clearly of a later provenance. Such porches are full-length and single or two-bay length, may be open or enclosed, and are constructed of materials or in a style that indicates a later addition.

•**Orientation.** Although a south-facing primary facade is indicated in most of the pertinent literature as a characteristic of houses constructed in Freistadt during this era, and as such represents a significant cultural identifier and continuance, some of the buildings which bear the general characteristics of the form are oriented with the side-gable facades facing east and west. It is not readily apparent if this feature of some properties results from the buildings' original construction or from their having been moved to their current location.

•**Loss of Agricultural outbuildings.** With only one exception, the Freistadt area buildings comparable to the Groth house have all lost their historic farm buildings. The sole noted example was located at 11915 Farmdale Road, and was associated with a four-bay asymmetrical house with modern replacement one-over-one windows and a non-historic attached enclosed porch that covered one-half of the primary facade. Although some of this farm's buildings date from the era of the house's construction, most of the farm structures appear to date from the early twentieth century. As discussed previously, suburbanization pressures on the Freistadt vicinity during the last 30 years has resulted in the removal of most farm buildings and the subdivision of many of the vicinity's former fields.

As a result, although some houses representing the historic period exemplified by the Groth House do exist in the Freistadt community, all of the known comparable examples have been altered to a similar or greater extent than the Groth house. Those known buildings having a comparable level of integrity to the Groth house are cited and described below.

•12521 Granville Road. This two story brick house may or may not represent the Freistadt community of the Groth House's period; its historic entrance was in a gable end facing north or south. The building has three bays along the east-facing wall; all appear to be replacements.

•12950 Highland Road. This one-story house, which may be frame or half-timber covered with clapboard siding, has replacement one-over-one windows, a shed dormer and a three-bay porch dating from the early twentieth century.

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- 11011 Granville Road. Originally a one-story house, this building also has two non-historic dormers, replacement windows and an attached one-bay porch with a bell curve shed roof.
- 12595 Pleasant View Road. Located immediately north of the Groth house, this building's primary facade faces east, the windows appear to be replacements, and the primary facade has been altered to include an uncharacteristic stepped-out central entry bay surmounted by a gabled dormer.
- 13051 Donges Bay Road/ This two-story stone building has poorly-tuckpointed stone block walls and has four irregular bays across its primary facade, in which the entry is off-set. All of the historic windows have been replaced inappropriately, and a non-historic wood patio and an exterior stairway have been appended to the building's front and side walls.

The most comparable house in the Freistadt vicinity appears to be the Kressin House, located at W188 N11881 Maple Road, Town of Jackson, Washington County, which was built in 1855. A double-pile one and one-half story house, is somewhat deeper and taller to the ridge than most of the similar houses observed. This building also has six-over six double-hung windows that appear to date from the early twentieth century, as well as casement non-historic multi-light windows in the gablet dormer. This dormer, as discussed above, is of the same height and width as the gable ends, and is sided in wood shakes, thus dominating the visual profile of the primary facade. The building also has decorative gable end windows, sidelights, and transom light, the only building noted in the vicinity to do so, and has a timber beam over the entry inscribed in German with the name of the first owner, the date of construction, and the tradesmen responsible for the construction. Although this is a relatively intact building, and is the most comparable known structure with regard to the Groth house, this building represents two significantly different aspects of the Freistadt area heritage. First, the Kressin House is located across the historic marsh from the Groth House, and is associated with the historic community of Kirchayn in Washington County. As discussed previously, Kirchayn was a separate and distinct community from Freistadt, although the two shared a similar heritage. Second, the Kressin house represents a level of ornamentation and detailing found on no other house of this era in the vicinity. It appears likely that Kressin, unlike many of his counterparts, intentionally sought a house that would represent his wealth and status. As previously discussed, such displays of wealth conflicted with the Old Lutheran tradition of modesty, humility and frugality, with the result that no other known house in the Freistadt vicinity included such ornamentation.

As a result, the Groth House may be seen to provide a good representation of its historic context in terms of its extant context. Almost all of the houses in the Freistadt vicinity representing a similar time period and cultural and ethnic experience evidence alterations similar to or more extensive than the Groth House, particularly with regard to the culturally-defining primary facade. The Kressin House, potentially the one house in the vicinity with closely comparable integrity, also evidences substantial alterations and represents both a different community and a significantly different cultural experience than the Groth House, which remains closer to the Old Lutheran cultural and religious tradition. The Groth House, therefore, is seen to provide one of the best representations in the vicinity of a typical Freistadt home of its era, and retains a relatively significant proportion of the characteristics that make it a good representative of properties associated with the building's representative aspects of the Freistadt heritage.

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Section 8 Page 14 Friedrich Groth House, Germantown, Washington County.

Conclusion:

The Groth House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under National Register Criterion A as a good representative of a typical first-generation house constructed in the ethnically, religiously and culturally distinct community of Freistadt. Both the building's history and its physical appearance exemplify much of the history of the Freistadt community during the community's period of transition and solidification during the mid-to-late nineteenth century. The building exemplifies the economic improvement of the era, as well the commonly-held culturally-and religiously-derived principles and beliefs regarding proper house design, living requirements and practices, and display of material wealth. The Groth house's level of integrity is similar to or better than most houses of comparable age and cultural heritage in the vicinity, those alterations having taken place to the Groth house being of a sufficiently limited scope to allow the Groth House to retain the essential physical features that enable it to convey its historic identity.

Archeological Potential:

As portions of the property have been occupied by Euro-American settlers since 1843, there is some potential for archeological materials to be extant, particularly in the vicinity of the house and the site of the initial log structure. There is no known evidence of prehistoric or historic period Native American occupation of the site, however the foregoing statement does not preclude that possibility.

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Section 7 Page 1 Friedrich Groth House, Germantown, Washington County.

Introduction:

The Friedrich Groth House is a one-and-one-half story, side-gabled cottage in a traditional vernacular form with slight Greek revival influences. The building, constructed in 1860, has load-bearing coursed limestone walls, a low fieldstone foundation, and a center entry with sidelights flanked with two bays on either side. Unoccupied and used only for storage for over fifty years, between 1890 and 1942, the house was altered during the course of its rehabilitation, and has been occupied as a home since that time. Although the 1942 alterations and two subsequent additions to the rear of the property have altered some aspects of the property's exterior appearance, the building retains sufficient integrity to effectively represent its history as a typical domestic building constructed by inhabitants of the Freistadt Prussian community during its period of adaptation to their Wisconsin settlement.

Physical Context:

The Groth property is located approximately 20 miles northwest of Milwaukee, in an area historically dominated by farms but increasingly becoming developed for suburban housing as a result of its proximity to primary auto corridors leading to Milwaukee. The terrain in the vicinity tends to rolling hills and second-growth timber; with swamps and marshes historically predominating in lower areas, although many of these have been drained. One such marsh lies approximately one-half mile north of the Groth house, creating a physical barrier between Freistadt and the similar unincorporated community of Kirchayn, located approximately one and one-half mile northwest of this marsh. As a result, this marsh served as the historic northern boundary of the settlement associated with the Freistadt community.

The community of Freistadt is centered around the historic Trinity Lutheran Church, located approximately one-half mile south and two and one-half miles east of the Groth house. The church is adjoined by two cemeteries and an elementary school; the church complex is adjoined to the north and east by a small collection of mid-to late nineteenth century commercial and residential buildings. The balance of the area historically associated with the Freistadt community consists of historic-era and non-historic residences along approximately ten miles of roads in an area of approximately seven square miles. The growth of the historic community was limited to this area by marshes approximately one mile east and one mile south of the church, as well as by the marsh to the north mentioned previously. Thus the Groth house lies within the historic boundaries of the community of Freistadt. The historic community of South Germantown, a later settlement developed around a railroad station, lies approximately one mile southwest of the Groth house.

The Groth house sits on a five acre parcel, a remnant of the 120-acre farm historically associated with the property. The parcel is adjoined to the west by undeveloped lands, to the east by the public road, and to the north by a narrow driveway and row of brush screening the property from a non-historic residence located immediately north of the house. The southern border of the property is marked by a branch of the Menominee River, a waterway which commences near the Groth property and flows approximately east-west across the parcel before turning south and ultimately east, emptying into Lake Michigan in downtown Milwaukee. The balance of the parcel between the river and the house consists of an open meadow, which is unimproved with the exception of modest landscape features.

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Section 7 Page 2 Friedrich Groth House, Germantown, Washington County.

General Features:

The house consists of two parts: the historic building, which constitutes the primary visual facade of the building, and two 1968 additions to the rear of the building, which include residential and garage space. Although the additions are sizable, they are distinct from the historic building in terms of materials and design; they are also clearly subordinate in design to the historic building and do not impact the appearance of the primary historic facade. As a result, the additions have little impact on the historic building's ability to represent its area of historic significance.

The historic building has undergone alterations to its primary and side facades, almost all of which date from 1942 and are the result of the building's rehabilitation as a residence after over fifty years of vacancy. As may be expected, the house's six-over-six double-hung windows are replacements of the original sash, which are likely to have been completely deteriorated as a result of the years of disuse. The sash match closely to the likely historic appearance of the windows. The building's low foundation is of fieldstone; the walls, which are unaltered, consist of load-bearing stone anchored in two locations by S-shaped wrought iron ties. The primary, south-facing facade and the east-facing facade, which adjoined the historic driveway, are constructed of roughly coursed limestone in heavy mortar beds; the west-facing facade consists of rough courses of limestone and fieldstone, the latter of which appears to primarily consist of dark granites which match those in the foundation. The corners of the building are anchored by larger and more precisely hewed limestone block quoins, and the bays of the south-facing and east-facing facades are surmounted by rectangular blocks of limestone arrayed in a slight arch, in a manner similar to soldiered bricks. All of the bays are original and have not been altered in size or use. The roof of the building consists of cedar shingles, and the roof lines are edged with a simple molded cornice. The gables also have simple molded returns. The features of each facade and of the rear additions are described in greater detail below.

Primary (south-facing) facade:

The building's historic primary facade is oriented to the south and extends perpendicular to the adjoining road, which was developed between 1859 and 1873 from the property's historic driveway. The south-facing orientation resulted from traditional building design norms held by the immigrant community, rather than from the location of the drive or other area access routes. The facade has five bays at the first floor,

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East-facing facade, historic building.

The east-facing facade of the historic building consists of two bays, with two evenly-spaced windows at both the first and second floors. All four windows consist of six-over-six double-hung sash, as described previously; the upper windows are the same width and approximately three-quarters the length of the lower floor windows, which are identical to those on the primary facade. There is no evidence of alteration to these openings; the second floor windows are nearly bisected by the plane of the gable returns. Centered above and between these two bays in the top of the gable is a single semicircular wood ventilator grille cut in a sunburst pattern; this feature is also original to the building. At the north corner of the facade at the first-floor level, one of the quoin blocks bears the legend: "A D / 1860." The cornice, gable returns, and stonework on this facade are identical to those described previously.

West-facing facade, historic building.

The west-facing facade of the historic building is identical in form, quoins and gable returns to the east-facing facade, but differs in some details. The facade consists of three windows of equal size, two at the first floor level and one centered between these two at the second floor, at a slightly higher level than those noted on the east-facing facade. There is no evidence of alteration to the window openings, and there is no evidence of a gable grille such as that described on the east-facing facade. As noted previously, there is some variation in the stone used on this wall, with limestone similar to that noted on the balance of the historic building used in the quoins and in the gable of the facade. A large portion of the lower section of this facade is constructed of limestone interspersed with fieldstone similar to that noted on the foundation level elsewhere. The foundation level at this facade is predominately obscured by the sloping grade and by a pair of cellar doors set into the ground directly below and slightly off-center to the south from the facade's gable.

Kitchen Ell, rear of historic building.

The house's kitchen ell is at present used in part as a hyphen between the historic building and the additions. The ell is constructed of a liberally-mortared combination of limestone and fieldstone similar to that described on the west-facing facade. This ell has two extant walls, the east-facing wall having collapsed unexpectedly during construction of the rear additions. The west-facing facade of the ell has a paired set fixed multi-light windows, which date from 1942, while the north-facing facade has no features and is visible as a portion of the north-facing facade of the building. Although this ell has undergone substantial alterations, these alterations are not visible from the primary facades and have little relative impact on the historic building's integrity.

Rear additions:

Unlike many non-historic additions, which often obscure, overwhelm or visually compete with the historic building, the rear additions to the Groth house were designed and constructed in a manner that differentiates the non-historic building from the historic building, subordinates the additions to the historically significant feature, and maintains as much of the historic materials as possible while endeavoring to visually complement the historic features. The additions are sheathed in board-and-batten siding; they also have a lower profile than and differing facade lines from the historic house's facades.

The eastern addition was constructed to provide additional living space, and extends from the driveway

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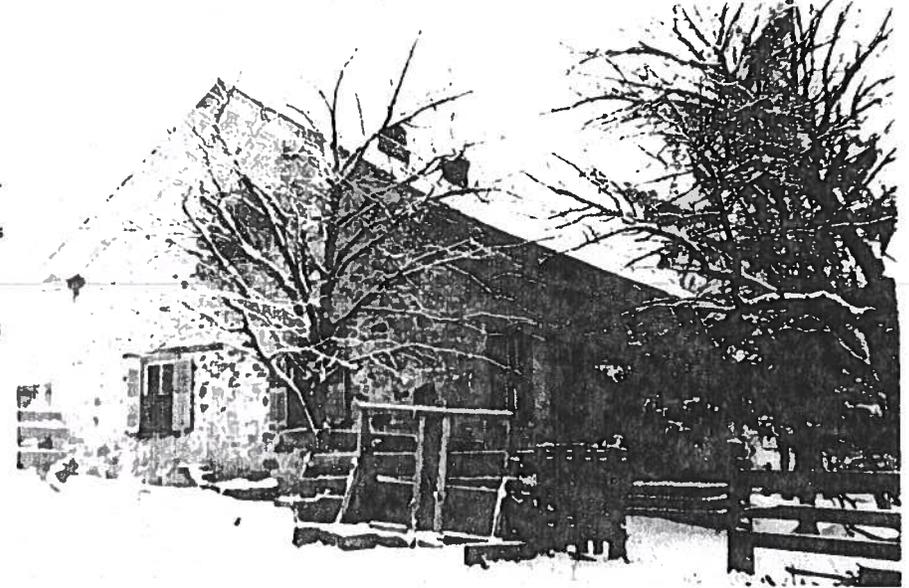
Section 7 Page 4 Friedrich Groth House, Germantown, Washington County.

and side yard to the former kitchen ell and from the rear facade of the main block of the historic building to a few feet beyond the plane of the rear of the kitchen ell. The east-facing facade of the addition, the mass of which is inset from the facade line of the historic building under an open porch, has plain square posts; a single door in a plain surround; a paired set of multi-light double-hung windows in a plain shared surround, and three singly-spaced board-and-batten gables on a cedar shingle roof. On the north-facing facade of the building, the north-facing facade of this residential addition, which has a gabled form and board-and-batten siding with three double-hung windows, adjoins the rear facade of the kitchen ell, described previously. On the west side of this kitchen ell is a similar addition, constructed as a garage and also having board-and-batten siding and square posts, with one pedestrian door and two overhead garage doors. The west-facing facade of this addition has no features with the exception of a plain wood door. The south-facing facade of this addition has two evenly-spaced double-hung multi-light windows and is stepped back near the facade's intersection with the historic building in order to maintain the integrity of the historic facade and the kitchen ell, which looks as a result onto a small courtyard area between the garage and the historic building. Although these additions are not historic, they are executed in a manner that minimally impacts the historic character of the building, and do not impair the historic building's ability to represent its historic significance.

Conclusion:

The Friedrich Groth House retains sufficient integrity in its character-defining features to clearly and appropriately represent its history and its area of historic significance. Of the alterations conducted on this building, the 1968 additions have been shown to have relatively little impact on the primary historic facades, being located and designed in a manner that is distinct from, complementary to and visually subordinate to the historic building. Of the alterations required in 1942 to make the building habitable after decades of disuse, most were done in a manner that minimally impacted the historic appearance of the property and did not alter the building's primary fenestration patterns, wall finishes or other details. Although the dormers on the south-facing facade do constitute a more substantial alteration of the building's primary facade, this alteration is considerably less notable than will be evidenced on other contemporary buildings discussed in section 8, below; these also do not substantially impair the Groth House's ability to effectively portray its historic significance. As a result, the Friedrich Groth house may be shown to have a sufficient level of integrity to be determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under National Register Criterion A, as discussed below.

Wiederich Bros build
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Chriatian Groth

b. 28 May 1842

Chriatian purchased 40 acres of land on Saturday, 28 May 1842 identified as SESW in Section 12. The land patent number is 9532 while the BLM database index is WI2650_.479. He was issued the land patent on Thursday, 01 August 1844.

Frederick Groth

b. 15 September 1843

Frederick purchased 80 acres of land on Friday, 15 September 1843 identified as N1/2SW in Section 14. The land patent number is 12344 while the BLM database index is WI2710_.276. He was issued the land patent on Tuesday, 10 September 1844.

Frederick Groth

b. 15 September 1843

Frederick purchased 40 acres of land on Friday, 15 September 1843 identified as NWSE in Section 14. The land patent number is 12344 while the BLM database index is WI2710_.276. He was issued the land patent on Tuesday, 10 September 1844.

Friedrich Groth

b. 29 September 1843

Friedrich purchased 80 acres of land on Friday, 29 September 1843 identified as E1/2NE in Section 11. The land patent number is 12477 while the BLM database index is WI2710_.406. He was issued the land patent on Tuesday, 10 September 1844.

Joachim Groth

b. 25 November 1843

Joachim purchased 40 acres of land on Saturday, 25 November 1843 identified as SESE in Section 02. The land patent number is 13002 while the BLM database index is WI2720_.425. He was issued the land patent on Tuesday, 01 October 1844.

Joachim Groth

b. 01 March 1848

Joachim was issued a land patent on Wednesday, 01 March 1848 for 40 acres identified as SWSW in Section 01. The land patent number is 16554 while the BLM database index is WI2790_.462.

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Section 9 Page 1 F. Groth House, Germantown, Washington County.

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