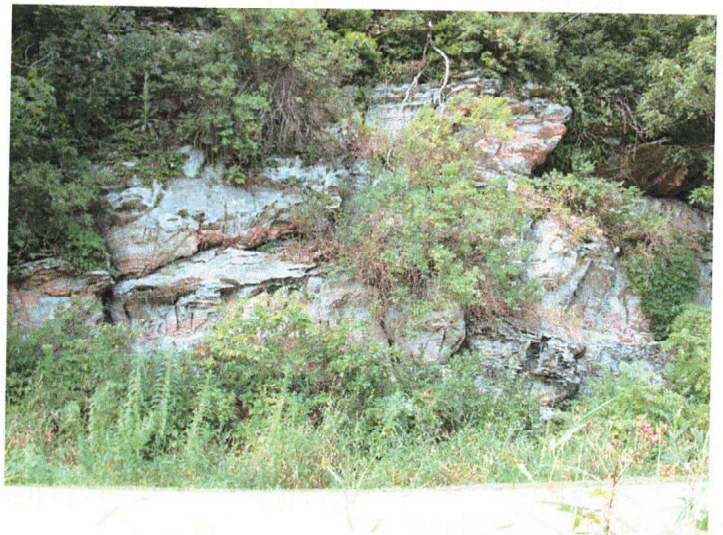
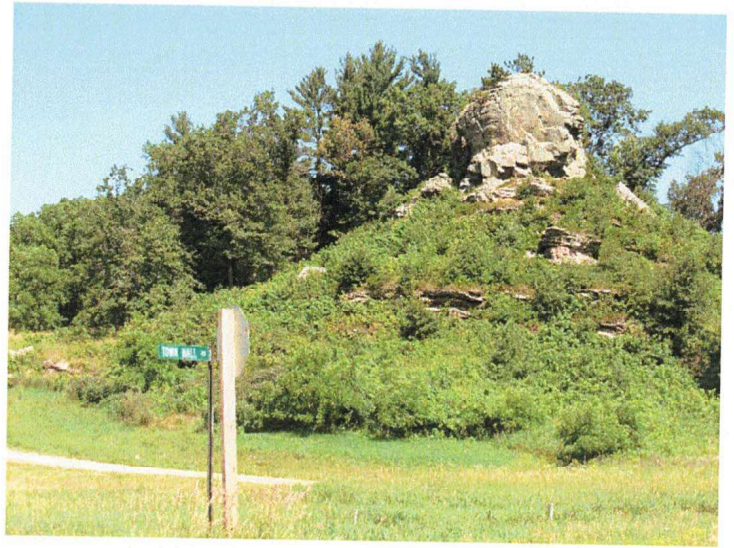


Highlights of Town Hall Road – Town of Springdale – Dane County

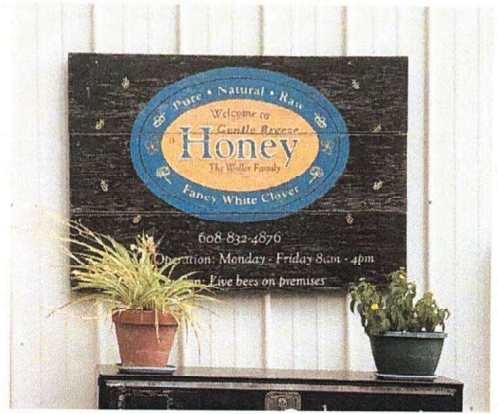
Beginning at the intersection of State Road 92 and Town Hall Road, we have Donald County Park, a Dane County Park of more than 800 acres, including Pops Knoll and Donald Rock. Donald County Park is named for the Donald family, whose ancestor, John Donald, was elected to Wisconsin's State Assembly, Senate, and Secretary of State in the early 1900s. John's daughter, Delma, donated 105 acres of land in 1993 to Dane County Parks, the nucleus of which is now known as Donald County Park.



Both Donald Rock and the small outcrop to the north, adjacent to Town Hall Road, are exposures of the St. Peter Sandstone. This unit was deposited about 450 million years ago, during the Ordovician Period of geologic time. The sand was transported by winds blowing across an enormous dune field that covered southern Wisconsin. Where the sand is naturally cemented, it resists erosion and forms knobs and pillars in the modern landscape. These features are only preserved in the Driftless Area, where the surface was not overrun by glaciers during the Pleistocene Ice Ages. There is more info on Donald Rock and the Driftless Area on the displays in the Donald Park entrance, south across Highway 92 from the Rock.



Traveling north, the first buildings on the west side of the road, are the home of Gentle Breeze Honey which is sold at the Dane County Farmers Market on the Capitol Square and in grocery stores throughout southern Wisconsin.



Next, we see a barn that was built in the late 1850s by the first German settlers to Town Hall Road. Their home, on the opposite side of the road, was a log structure, that has been added onto by subsequent landowners.



Continuing north, is the historic Town Hall, built in 1915, by Anton Field. Anton Field was born October 7, 1857, in Bang, Southern Auburndale, Valdres, Norway and emigrated to America in 1883. On February 16, 1891, Anton married Inger Erickson and resided in Mount Horeb until October 1899 when they purchased the farm at this location. Anton was a stone mason and bricklayer. He built the Town Hall in 1915, on land he and Inger gifted to the Town, with stipulations. Quoting from the deed, "This is given for the purpose of being used for town hall purposes and if ever discontinued for that purpose, it shall revert back to the original owners. Said premises shall never be used for dancing in any form." The present Town Hall, built in 1980, is located directly behind this, on purchased land, that was also part of this farm.



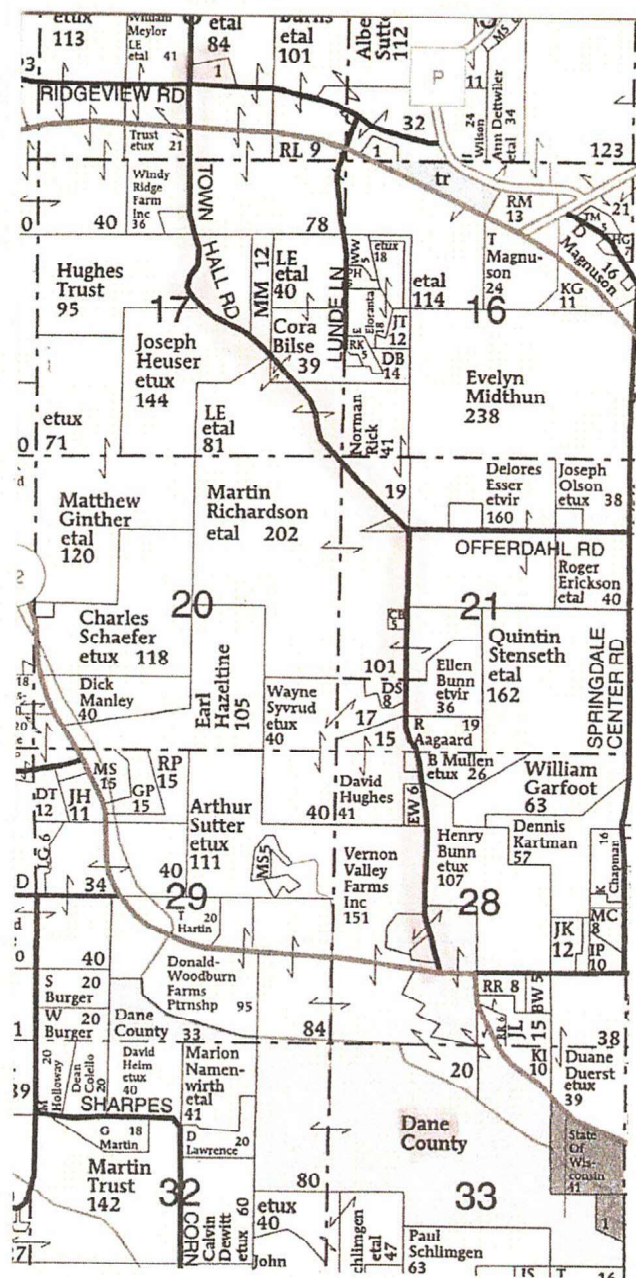
Looking to the northeast of the Town Hall is a Queen Ann style home on this farmstead, built in the late 1890s. Associated with the barn is a glazed clay, hollow-tile silo popular in the 1930s.



Spaanem Pioneer Farm – Thore Thoreson Spaanem, with his wife Turi and son Sven, came to America from Telemark, Norway in 1846, settling on this land in Springdale Section 17. The farm, originally extending to both sides of Town Hall Road, was entered at the U.S. Land Office to Thore Thoreson Spaanem in 1848-1849. The first Springdale Lutheran Church service was held on this farm, on the west side of Town Hall Road, on March 27, 1850, under a large oak tree. Thore S. Spaanem, son of Sven, and his wife, Betsie Ann Dahl, were deeded the land on November 22, 1907. Thore S. Spaanem was the Town Chairman when the Springdale Town Hall was built in 1915. Betsie Ann Dahl Spaanem passed away in 1934. In 1939, the barn burned down. In 1957, Thore died at the age of 95.

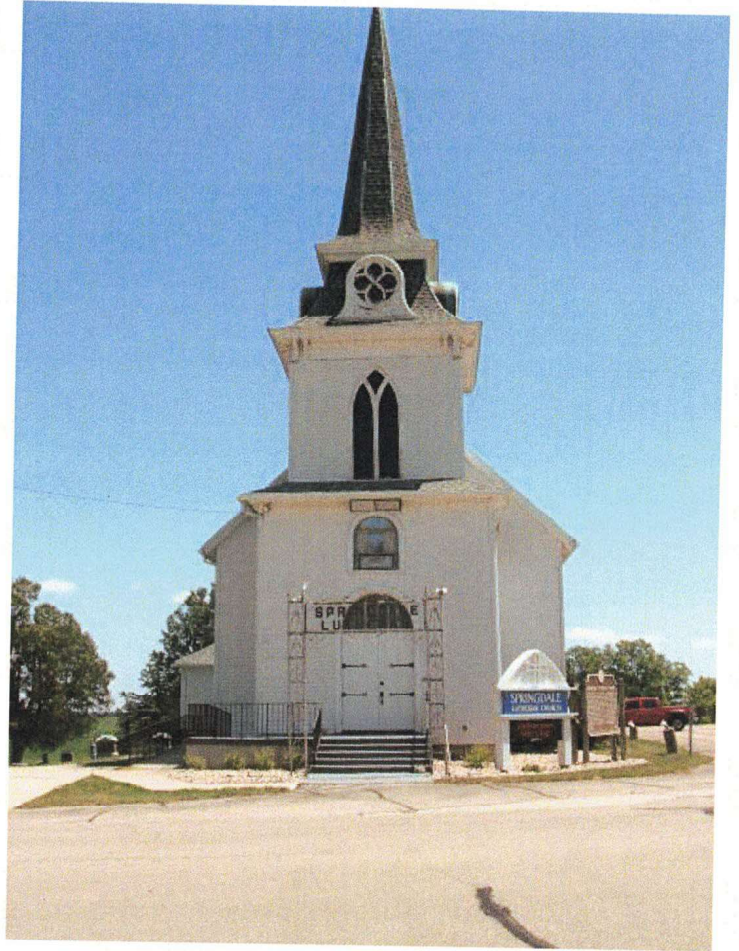


The Springdale Lutheran Church stands on the Military Ridge, which stands high because it is underlain by a thick sequence of carbonate rocks (Sinnipee Group) which resists erosion. The rocks are gently inclined to the south. Town Hall Road runs down this slope from Ridgeview Road (US Highway 18/151 overpass) south to the intersection of State Highway 92 and Donald Park (located in Sections 28 and 33). The carbonate rocks are susceptible to sinkhole and cave development, so one can believe the sinkhole story below. The top of Military Ridge, the edge of the thick carbonate layer, extends for many miles in an E-W direction toward the Lead/Zinc mining district. It forms a natural route that was used by Native Americans, then by the Army, then the railroad, and the US highway, and now the bike trail. Town Hall Road extends from this historic ridge crest all the way to Donald Rock, in the St Peter sandstone below the carbonate layer.



Word has passed through the years that a large sink hole exists somewhere in the vicinity of the Town Hall that once swallowed a Ford tractor.

Springdale Lutheran Church – The first church building was erected in 1861, on a hill, following Norwegian tradition. A 25 foot steeple was added 1877, and remains today. The present larger church, built in 1895, and retains the original steeple. When the present Springdale Lutheran church was built, Andrew Grinde drove a team of horses to Milwaukee and brought back a 1,000 pound, Meneely bell, cast in Troy New York, and it remains there today. The stained glass windows are memorials to the pioneers whose descendants still worship there.



At the bottom of the valley, looking south to north, is the Military Ridge State Trail. This was formerly the roadbed for the Chicago and North Western Railroad route from Madison to Lancaster. It was completed in 1881 and abandoned/ceased operation August 20, 1982. On January 25, 1983, the Natural Resources Board approved the purchase of the railroad right-of-way between Madison and Fennimore for the creation of a recreational trail.



On the west side of the road at 3003, is a Circa 1886 Colonial Style home that today, still retains its original shape.

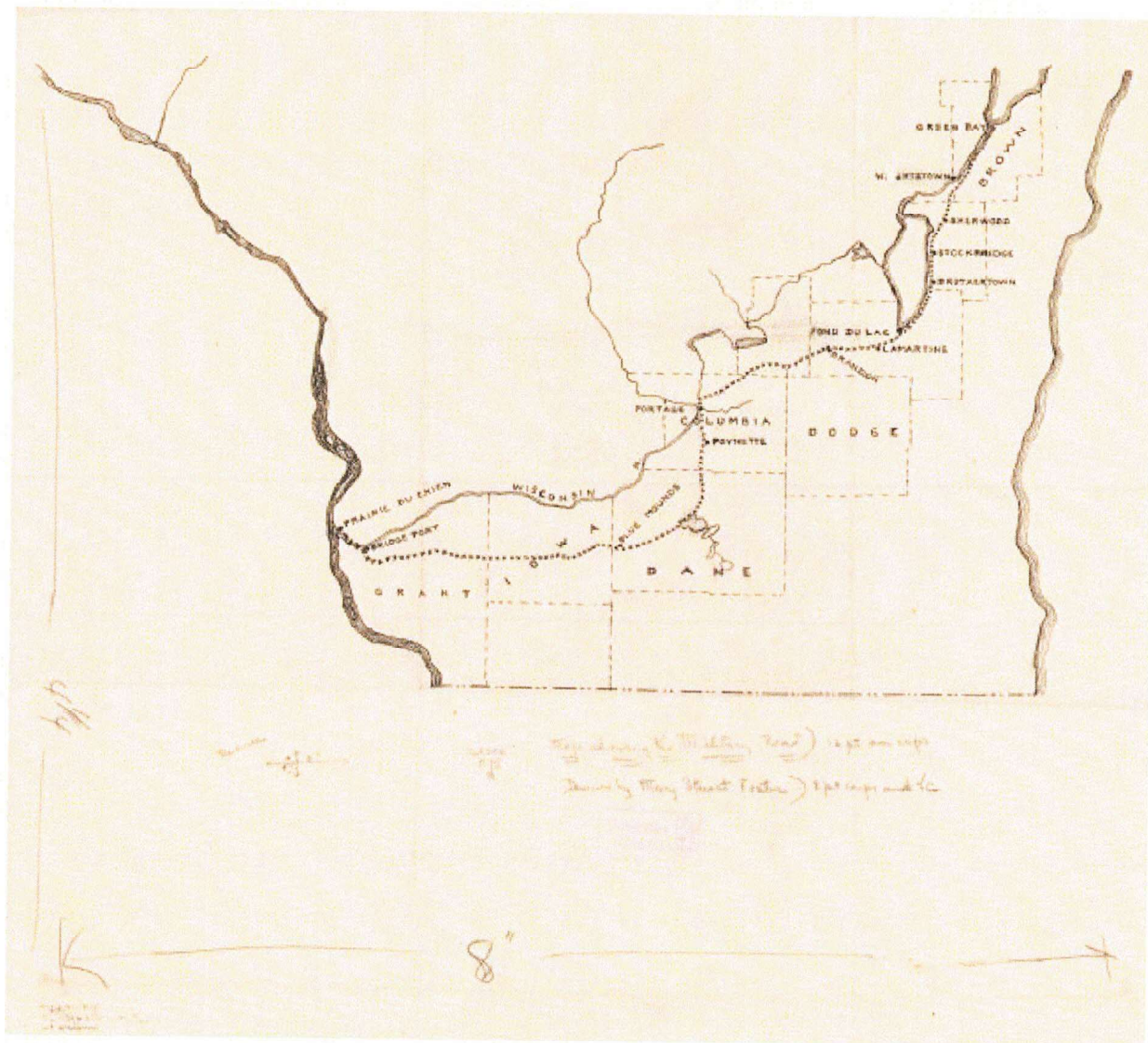


Early Autumn Farms,
located at the northeast
corner of Town Hall Road
and County Highway S
(Military Road). The
original house was built in
the 1840's. The current
house was built in 1909
and was added to the
National Register of
Historic Places In 1994.



The northern end of Town Hall Road joins up with County Road S, which would have been Military Road built by the U. S. Army in 1835-36. Military Road went from Fort Howard in Green Bay, to Fort Winnebago in Portage, to Fort Blue Mounds and then to Fort Crawford in Prairie du Chien.

Map Showing the Military Road



Biological and Geological Interests Along Town Hall Road

A drive north on Town Hall Road provides an opportunity to experience the varied geological and biological elements of the Driftless Area, as well as view some of the earliest Norwegian farmsteads in western Dane County.

The dramatic landscape typical of the Driftless Area—elevated ridges, steep-sided valleys, unique rock features, and winding streams through forested valleys—can be fully experienced on a drive along the 4.8-mile-long Town Hall Road. Hiking along the Military Ridge State Trail or at Donald County Park, both accessible from Town Hall Road, allow a more immersive experience of the wide variety of habitats present at the eastern edge of the Driftless region. While each of these elements is typical of the Driftless, to experience them all along one rural access road less than five miles long is unique. Along the road, from south to north, one encounters the following:

Donald County Park

Located at the intersection of State Road 92 and Town Hall Road, Donald County Park encompasses more than 800 acres of Driftless Area landscape. The park is named for the Donald family, whose ancestor, John S. Donald, was elected to Wisconsin's State Assembly, Senate, and Secretary of State in the early 1900s. John's daughter, Delma Donald Woodburn, donated 105 acres of land in 1993 to Dane County Parks, the nucleus of which is now Donald County Park. The park provides public access to a wide range of environments typical of Wisconsin's Driftless Area, including oak woods, pine groves, restored prairies, wetlands, several trout streams, intriguing rock outcrops, and the spring known as Big Spring, the third largest spring in Wisconsin according to the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey. Mount Vernon Creek in Donald Park has been designated a Class 1 Trout Stream, as well as an Outstanding Resource Water under the state's anti-degradation rules, a rating saved only for the best quality streams in Wisconsin.

Donald Rock

Donald Rock and the small outcrop to the north, both on the west side of Town Hall Road, are exposures of erosion-resistant St. Peter Sandstone that became isolated as the softer sandstone around them eroded. This rock was deposited about 450 million years ago, during the Ordovician Period of geologic time. The sand was originally transported by winds blowing across an enormous dune field that covered southern Wisconsin. Where the sand is naturally cemented, it resists erosion and forms knobs and pillars in the modern landscape. These features are only preserved in the Driftless Area, where the land surface was not overrun by glaciers during the Pleistocene ice ages. This distinctive rock feature was an important landmark to

native cultures, especially the Ho-Chunk, who visited the valley in pre-European settlement times. Also known locally as McCord Rock or Preacher's Cap, it has continued to be a landmark for area residents for generations.

Springs and Sinkholes

The Driftless Area is known to have numerous springs, of which there are many all along Town Hall Road; the name "Springdale" is said to refer to the many springs that were encountered by early area settlers. Sinkholes can also be found in the Driftless Area and are associated with the numerous springs and the underground water flowage. Word has been passed through the years that a large sinkhole exists somewhere in the vicinity of the Town Hall, that once swallowed a Ford tractor. Because the carbonate rocks in this area are susceptible to sinkhole and cave development, the sinkhole story is credible.

Fryes Feeder

This creek meanders along Town Hall Road from the Spaanem Homestead (2521 Town Hall Road) just south of US Highway 18/151, through Springdale Valley, and feeds into Mount Vernon Creek in Donald County Park at the south end of the road. Frye Feeder is a classic Driftless Area spring tributary, characterized by a narrow channel with overhanging vegetation, cold water, rocky substrates, and higher gradient. It meanders frequently with deep water found only in the numerous bends. Public access is at Donald Park. Fryes Feeder has been classified as a Class 2 Trout Stream by the DNR, a "Priority Stream" as part of the Streambank Easement Program, and an Exceptional Resources Water under the state's anti-degradation rules in NR102 and NR 207 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

Vista from Springdale Lutheran Church

The view to the south from the ridge on which the Springdale Lutheran Church is located provides a sweeping vista of the eastern edge of the Driftless Area. In this area, the elevated hills are cut by forested valleys through which the streams of the Upper Sugar River Watershed drain southward. The nearby bridge overpass over US Highway 18/151 provides an even better vista. The valley directly south and east is Frye Feeder valley, also known as Springdale Valley, and is the valley through which Town Hall Road extends. The valley immediately to the west is Deer Creek valley. Both drainages feed into Mount Vernon Creek near the southern end of Town Hall Road.

Schlapbach Creek

From the Springdale Lutheran Church vista (Ridgeview Road), Town Hall Road descends into a steep valley through which flows Schlapbach Creek. This creek rises from a spring at the edge

of the Village of Mount Horeb and crosses Town Hall Road 0.7 mile south of the Military Ridge; in this area it flows parallel to the Military Ridge State Trail. Schlapbach Creek has been classified as a Class 1 Trout Stream by Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources (DNR); Class 1 Trout Streams are high-quality waters that have sufficient natural reproduction to sustain populations of wild trout. Schlapbach Creek has also been designated a "Priority Stream" by Dane County Parks as part of the Streambank Easement Program, an Exceptional Resources Water under the state's anti-degradation rules in NR102 and NR 207 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, and was describe in the Village of Mount Horeb's recently adopted 2022 Comprehensive Plan as a "pristine natural resource."

Military Ridge

The north end of Town Hall Road ends on the natural landmark known as Military Ridge; this geological feature stands high because it is underlain by a thick sequence of carbonate rocks (Sinnipee Group) that resists erosion. The rocks are gently inclined to the south; Town Hall Road runs down this slope from US Highway 18/151 south to Highway 92. The carbonate rocks are susceptible to sinkhole and cave development. The top of Military Ridge, the edge of the thick carbonate layer, extends for many miles in an E-W direction toward the lead/zinc mining district in southwest Wisconsin. The ridge forms a natural route that was used by Native Americans, then in succession by the U. S. Army before statehood, the railroad, the US highway system, and now the Military Ridge bike trail. Geologically, Town Hall Road extends from this historic ridge crest all the way south to the St Peter sandstone of Donald Rock below the carbonate layer.

County Road S

This actually originated as Military Road. It was built by the U. S. Army in the 1830s. It connected Fort Howard in Green Bay, to Fort Winnebago in Portage, to Fort Blue Mounds and then to Fort Crawford in Prairie du Chien.

Cultural Interests Along Town Hall Road

“As you drive through the little valley, you see these fine farms which have come down from generation to generation from the early pioneers.”

Amelia Irene Johnson Pope

Centennial History, Township of Springdale, Dane County, Wisconsin
1848-1948

Background:

Thore Thoreson & Turi Sveinsdatter Spaanem were the first European settlers of the Springdale Valley in 1846. Their family was among a Norwegian immigrant colony from Tinn, Telemark, who had first come to Muskego in 1839. Due to the prevalence of malaria and mosquitoes in the Muskego area, the group decided to go west in search of higher elevation. They had heard of the Blue Mounds and their new chosen home sites were selected for their proximity to pure, natural springs. The Spaanem family settled in Section 17 along what would become Town Hall Road. There were some Native American still present in the valley at the time. Local lore states that Town Hall Road follows an old Native American trail that extended from the ridge, south through the valley, to the spring north of Mount Vernon, today known as Big Spring. The importance of this trail, and the valley through which it extends, is evidenced by a group of Native American mounds that once existed along the road near the present Springdale Town Hall.

The Spaanems soon established permanence here and this family's presence in this valley served as a starter point for a much larger Norwegian settlement to develop. Thore Spaanem wrote an article about the advantages in America that was published in a newspaper in Norway, encouraging others to come to the area. The first Norwegian church service in western Dane County was conducted on the Spaanem farm, underneath a large oak tree, in 1850. This led to the organization of the Springdale Lutheran congregation that became an epicenter for the developing Norwegian Blue Mounds Settlement.

The historic Norwegian Blue Mounds Settlement was somewhere between the eleventh and sixteenth settlement of Norwegians in the United States. Much of the land in this part of the Driftless was considered undesirable to the American-born population as it was not flat and did not look to be easily “improved” with agriculture. There were no large deposits of mineable resources discovered within its boundaries, unlike earlier settled hills at Mineral Point and Wiota, so it was settled later and more sparsely than land to the west and east, leaving government land for the Norwegian immigrants to purchase in the 1840s and 1850s.

The settlement eventually encompassed an area of over 250 square miles reaching from Black Earth in the north, to Blanchardville and just outside New Glarus in the south, and to Barneveld in the west. At its peak, which did not happen until the 1880s, there were 6,000 Norwegians living here (to put this in perspective, the nearest city at the time was Madison with a population

of 10,324). By 1900, there were 12 separate Norwegian Lutheran congregations within the Blue Mounds Settlement. Each one was small enough that all of its members would have known each other, but the expanse of the entire settlement was so large that those in the south were unlikely to know those in the north. Of the entirety of the Blue Mounds Settlement, most of the settlers were from Valdres and Sogn, but there were also many from Telemark, Hallingdal, Numedal, Hadeland, and other areas of Norway. Those from specific areas initially settled together in clusters. In 1900, 75% of Mount Horeb's population was of Norwegian descent. The Blue Mounds Settlement was one of the starter points for further westward migration of Norwegians in America.

Between the 1840s and the early 1870s, a total of 14 homesteads were established along the road that would become Town Hall Road. Of these homesteads, 12 were settled by Norwegian immigrants and all were founding members of the Springdale Lutheran Church. Most of these farms are still present and visible from Town Hall Road. The nucleus of this early Norwegian community, the Springdale Lutheran Church, is located halfway along Town Hall Road at the top of a ridge providing a lovely vista of the Springdale Valley below. The legacy of this settlement that began along Town Hall Road can be seen in the culture of the greater Mount Horeb area today with the Trollway theme of Mount Horeb and the Vikings being the school mascots of both Mount Horeb and Blanchardville.

The cultural sites of interest along Town Hall Road, including the home sites of the earliest Norwegian immigrants, are listed below, from south to north:

Patrick Dunn Homestead (2090 Town Hall Road)

Patrick Dunn, his wife Mary and their two children emigrated from Ireland in the 1850s. Patrick, and then his son, Patrick Dunn Jr., owned the property through the early 1900s. By 1911, Carl Bieri owned the property; Carl was a Swiss bell maker and made many cow bells for Springdale farmers. By the 1940s, Herman Frye and his wife Doris farmed the property. The meandering stream through Springdale Valley, Fries Feeder, is named after the family.

Krause Homestead (2165 Town Hall Rd)

In 1855, Karl Krause, his wife Wilhelmina, and their children emigrated from Prussia, arriving in New York in June of that year. A month later he had purchased property in Springdale along Town Hall Road. They were the first German immigrant family to settle along the road. Carl died in 1865; his wife and children stayed on the farm for a few more years but moved away to Iowa after 1873. The farm had several owners, before Adolph Eberhardt purchased the property in the early 1900s. The Eberhardts were among the first of several Swiss families who moved onto Town Hall Road in the early 1900s; the Swiss were instrumental in the development of the cheese industry in Springdale. The Eberhardts added onto the log home that already existed on the property (and which is still present). Town Hall Road runs through the middle of what was the Krause, and later Eberhardt, farm.

Adolph Eberhardt Farm (8947 Weeping Willow Bend)

Adolph Eberhardt acquired several pieces of property in the early 1900s and farmed the earlier homestead at neighboring 2165 Town Hall Road. As his family grew (Adolph and Helena had 10 children), they eventually moved a nearby house onto the northernmost property and established a farm in this location. The farm was purchased by the Syvrud family in the mid-1940s; it is still in the family.

Harald Haraldsen Stugaarden Homestead (2343 Town Hall Road) (see photo)



This farm was homesteaded by Norwegian immigrant Harald Haraldsen Stugaarden in 1852 at the age of 23. He later married a young Norwegian girl from Blue Mounds named Berit Syverude; they lived in a log home until Iver Kleven built a house for them in 1875. That house was replaced in 1918 by the house that stands now, an American Foursquare built by later owners Martin and Anna Bang. The existing wheat-era barn on the property was built by Iver Kleven in 1874. Harald and four of his eight children are buried at Springdale Lutheran Church Cemetery.

Springdale Town Hall (2367 Town Hall Road) (see photo)

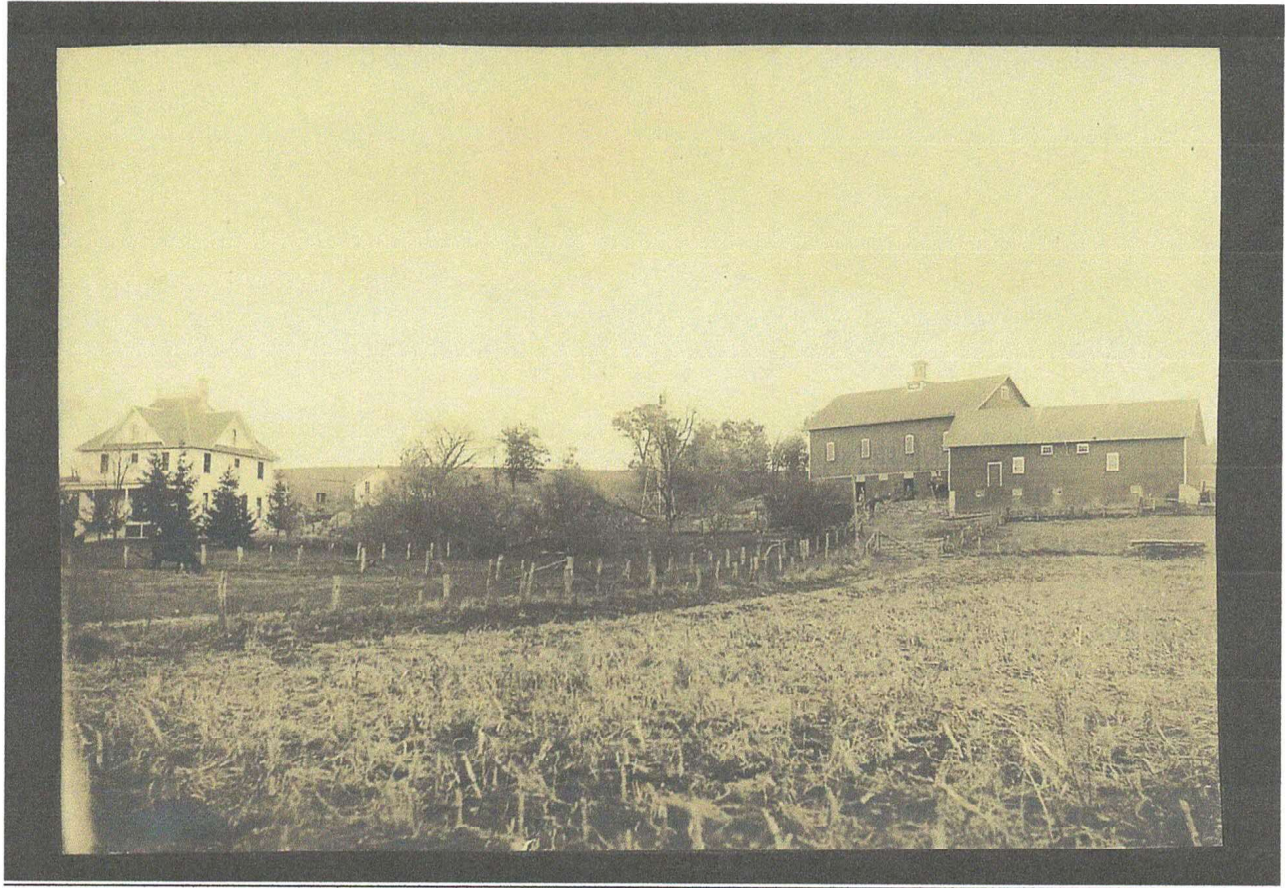


The historic Springdale Town Hall, built in 1915, by land donated by Anton Field. Anton Field was born October 7, 1857, in Bang, Sør-Aurdal, Valdres, Norway, and emigrated to America in 1883. Anton later married Inger Erickson and resided in Mount Horeb until October 1899 when they purchased the farm at this location. Anton was a stone mason and bricklayer. He built the Town Hall on land he and Inger gifted to the Town, with stipulations. Quoting from the deed, "This is given for the purpose of being used for town hall purposes and if ever discontinued for that purpose, it shall revert back to the original owners. Said premises shall never be used for dancing in any form." The present Town Hall, built in 1980, is located directly behind the historic structure, on purchased land that was also part of this farm.

Peter Haraldson Brager Homestead (2418 Town Hall Rd)

Peter Haraldson Brager and his wife Guro Olsdatter purchased their property in 1861 and built a log home in which they raised their four children. They were charter members of the Springdale Lutheran Church, and Peter served for one year in the American Civil War. Son Ole P. Brager took over the farm in 1892, during which time the current Queen Ann style farmhouse was built. Associated with the barn is a glazed clay, hallow-tile silo popular in the 1930s; few of these tiled silos exists today. By the 1960s, four generations of Bragers had lived on the farm. Peter and Guro, and three additional generations of Bragers, are buried at Springdale Lutheran Church Cemetery.

Thore T. Spaanem and Sven T. Spaanem Homesteads (2526 and 2521 Town Hall Road)
(Spaanem Pioneer Farm) (see photo)



Thore Thoreson Spaanem, with his wife Turi and son Sven, came to America from Telemark, Norway in 1846, settling on this land in Springdale Section 17. The farm, originally extending to both sides of Town Hall Road, was entered at the U.S. Land Office to Thore Thoreson Spaanem in 1848-1849. The first Springdale Lutheran Church service was held on this farm, on the west side of Town Hall Road, on March 27, 1850, under a large oak tree. Thore T. Spaanem is credited with forming the nucleus of the Norwegian Blue Mounds Settlement and encouraging other families to move here from Norway. Thore and Turi's oldest son Sven was deeded the property on the east side of Town Hall Road in 1857; this portion of the farm has been in the Spaanem family, or their descendants, ever since. Thore S. Spaanem, son of Sven, was the Town Chairman when the nearby Springdale Town Hall was built in 1915. Thore and Turi, and many members of their family are buried at Springdale Lutheran Church Cemetery; three of Thore and Turi's children are buried at Springdale Norwegian Pioneer Cemetery west of Town Hall Road.

Syver Ellefson Homestead (2597 Town Hall Road)

The Ellefson homestead was established in the 1860s by Syver and Guro Ellefson. The current house is an earlier form of balloon-frame farmhouse and is one of several houses along Town Hall Road built by Iver Kleven and is believed to be one of the oldest houses along Town Hall Road. The farm was next owned by Syver's son, Ellef Syverson and his wife Marit. Syver and Guro are both buried at Springdale Lutheran Church Cemetery.

John Fosshage Homestead (2749 Town Hall Road, opposite Springdale Church)

This homestead was established in the 1860s by Norwegian immigrants John Fosshage and Synneva Torsdatter. In 1881, the old farmhouse was replaced with a larger "modern" house built by local Norwegian builder Iver Kleven (namesake of the nearby community of Klevenville); this is the house that exists today. John and Synneva, and two of their children, are buried at Springdale Lutheran Church Cemetery.

Springdale Lutheran Church and Cemetery (2752 Town Hall Road) (see photo)



A Norwegian Luthern congregation was officially organized in Springdale in 1852, the first Norwegian church in the larger Blue Mounds Settlement. For the first 10 years the congregants met in various area homes. The first church building was erected at this location in 1861; following Norwegian tradition, it was built on a hill overlooking the area's farmsteads. A 25-foot tower was constructed in 1877 by Norwegian immigrant and local builder Iver Kleven

(namesake of the nearby community of Klevenville) and remains today. The steeple was designed by renowned Norwegian master craftsman Aslak Olsen Lie (whose original log house is being restored by nearby Folklore Village) in the 1860s, as was the altar inside the church. Due to a need for a larger church, the present church was built in 1895 by Mount Horeb builders (and Iver Kleven's sons) Knut and Gilbert Kleven. The associated cemetery is the resting place of many of the area's earliest Norwegian settlers and their families, many of whom were residents along Town Hall Road. The designation of Dane County Historical Status was granted to the Springdale Lutheran Church in 1988; the steel marker was installed later that year.

John I. Berge Homestead (2936 Town Hall Road)

John I. Berge was among that first group of Norwegian immigrants that arrived in Springdale from Muskego in 1846. John I. Berge helped to establish the Town of Springdale in 1848, donated land for the first schoolhouse, and was the first resident to serve as constable. John's homestead was located at 2936 Town Hall Road; while the original house is no longer present, the classic Wisconsin dairy barn still stands. Three members of the John I. Berge family are buried at the Springdale Norwegian Pioneer Cemetery west of Town Hall Road; John I. Berge, his wife Guri, and their son and grandson are buried at Springdale Lutheran Church Cemetery.

Military Ridge State Trail

This recreational trail was formerly the roadbed for the Chicago and North Western Railroad route from Madison to Lancaster. It was completed in 1881 and abandoned/ceased operation on August 20, 1982. On January 25, 1983, the Natural Resources Board approved the purchase of the railroad right-of-way between Madison and Fennimore for the creation of a recreational trail. Established as the Military Ridge State Trail, it was one of the first rail-to-trail projects in the nation to preserve rail corridors for public use.

Nils Halvorson Grasdalen Homestead (2979 Norwegian Trail; formerly accessible from Town Hall Road)

Nils Halvorson Grasdalen was among the first group of Norwegian settlers who had come to Springdale in 1846 by way of Muskego. He and his wife, Sigri, settled along Town Hall Road on top of the ridge overlooking the creek (later named Schlappbach Creek) below. While originally located along Town Hall Road, today the farm is accessible from Norwegian Trail. Most of the farm buildings have been removed, but the historic house remains. Nils and Sigri, and at least one of their children, are buried at Springdale Lutheran Church Cemetery; several Grasdalens are buried at the earlier Springdale Norwegian Pioneer Cemetery west of Town Hall Road (not accessible to the public).

John K. Lindelien Homestead (3003 Town Hall Rd) (see photo)



This Norwegian homestead was established with the marriage of long-time property owner John I. Berge's daughter, Randi Berge, to John K. Lindelien in 1877. The house was likely built at that time and represents one of the most common house styles in the area, as well as throughout the upper Midwest—the balloon frame, T-shaped farmhouse. The asymmetry and expansive capability of the “wings” of the house made these T-shaped (or the similarly configured ell-shaped) farmhouses pleasing in appearance, efficient in layout, and economically practical for a growing farm family.

Thosten Thompson Rue Homestead (3070 Town Hall Rd) (see photo)



Thosten Thompson Rue and his wife Guri Gaarden arrived in Springdale in 1846 and settled on the property at the north end of Town Hall Road, at the corner of the Military Road. They were among the first group of Norwegian settlers to arrive in what would become the Blue Mounds Norwegian Settlement. They had traveled with five other individuals and families, most of whom settled along Town Hall Road, from Muskego, Wisconsin. They arrived in a caravan of covered wagons drawn by oxen by way of Madison and the Military Road. Thosten and Guri's house, the first Norwegian house in Dane County to be located along the Military Road, served as a stop-over point for many of the Norwegian immigrant families who moved to the Blue Mounds Settlement in the coming decades.

The current house was built in 1909 by Thosten's son, Henry, in the Victorian-era Queen Ann style. The homestead's intricately connected barns are unique in that they illustrate the progression from the early days of wheat farming to that of dairy, a pivotal economic transition that occurred in Wisconsin between the 1870s and the 1880s. The older, gabled-roof barn was built not long after the homestead was established. The larger, gambled-roof dairy barn was constructed by local Norwegian builder Iver Kleven, namesake of the nearby community of Klevenville, in 1878. This dairy barn was one of the first of its kind in the area and its iconic shape came to represent Wisconsin's dairy industry. Many of the farms along Town Hall Road still retain their original dairy barns.

Thosten, Guri, and many members of their family are buried at Springdale Lutheran Church Cemetery.

The Thompson farm, also known locally as the Skindrud (descendants of the Thompsons) farm, was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1994. It was one of the first farms in the area to adopt the 1930s soil conservation measures of the New Deal when the local Civilian Conservation Corp installed terraced, contour strip farming and two stone dams on the property. These methods later became common throughout the Driftless Area's rolling farmland.

Course of Wisconsin Territory's Military Road

In this location, County Highway S follows the course of the historic Military Road, the first, and once the only, highway through Dane County. This road, built by the U. S. Army between 1832 and 1837, connected three important military forts—Forts Crawford, Winnebago and Howard—and improved communication and the movement of supplies across Wisconsin Territory. The Driftless Area portion of the road followed the prominent ridge from Prairie du Chien to this area just east of the Blue Mounds; the landform became known as the Military Ridge. Early settlers arrived in the area from farther east via the Military Road.

Address (Parcel No.)	Current Owners	Homesteader	Ethnicity of Homestead Family	Historical Significance	Historical Resources Present		Visible from Town Hall Road?
					Early House	Early Barn	
2090 Town Hall Rd (054/0607-282-8300-5)	Henry and Ellen Bunn	Patrick Dunn	Irish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fryes Feeder named after later residents, Herman and Doris Frye 	Yes	Yes	Partial
2165 Town Hall Rd (054/0607-282-8110-5 and 054/0607-282-8000-8)	Daniell and Lorraine Free/Aagard Trust	Carl Krause,	German	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First German settler on Town Hall Road, Existing part-log home, Road extends through the middle of 19th c. farm. 	Yes (part log)	Yes	Yes
8947 Weeping Willow Bend (054/0607-213-9081-0)	Wayne and Leona Syvrud	Adolf Eberhardt	Swiss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Swiss settler on Town Hall Road 	Yes (c. 1900)	Yes (c. 1920)	Yes
2343 Town Hall Rd (054/0607-212-9000-0)	NA Access Dane	Harald Haraldsen Stugaarden	Norwegian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Original wheat-era barn built in 1874 by Iver Kleven, WWII-era American Foursquare farmhouse. 	Yes (1918)	Yes (1874 by Iver Kleven)	Yes
2367 Town Hall Rd (054/0607-212-8860-2)	Springdale Town Hall	n/a	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Original Town of Springdale Town Hall built by Norwegian stone mason, Anton Field 	n/a	n/a	Yes
2418 Town Hall Rd (054/0607-212-8500-7)	Norman and Melba Rick	Peter Haraldson Brager	Norwegian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victorian Queen Ann-style farmhouse dating to 1892, much of which is original, Unusual hallow-tile clay silo; only one on Town Hall Rd. 	Yes (1892)	Yes (attache d tiled silo)	Yes

Address (Parcel No.)	Current Owners	Homesteader	Ethnicity of Homestead Family	Historical Significance	Historical Resources Present		Visible from Town Hall Road?
					Early House	Early Barn	
2521 Town Hall Rd (054/0607-174-8610-0)	JFPJH Trust	Thore T. and Guri Spaanem	Norwegian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Among first Norwegian settlers to Historic Norwegian Blue Mounds Settlement, • Site of the first Norwegian church service in the Historic Blue Mounds settlement (under an oak tree), • Thore T. Spaanem was influential in others emigrating from Norway to the Blue Mounds area in the 1800s. 	Yes (1900)	Yes	No
2526 Town Hall Rd (054/0607-174-8115-0)	Paul and Jodi Elver	Sven T. and Anna Spaanem	Norwegian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has been in the Thoreson/Spaanem family since 1852 	Yes (c. 1900)	Yes	Yes
2597 Town Hall Rd (054/0607-172-9500-4)	Hughes Trust	Syver and Guro Ellefson	Norwegian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early balloon-frame farmhouse built for Syver Ellefson by local builder Iver Kleven 	Yes (c.1870s by Iver Kleven)	Yes	Yes

Address (Parcel No.)	Current Owners	Homesteader	Ethnicity of Homestead Family	Historical Significance	Historical Resources Present		Visible from Town Hall Road?
					Early House	Early Barn	
2752 Town Hall Rd (054/0607-083-9980-2 and 054/0607-084- 9070-2)	Springdale Lutheran Church	n/a	Norwegian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Norwegian church congregation formed in the Blue Mounds Settlement, Has its original 1877 tower built by Iver Kleven, Present church building built in 1895 by Mount Horeb builders Knut and Gilbert Kleven (Iver's sons), Steeple designed by Norwegian master craftsman Aslak O. Lie in the 1860s, Associated cemetery is the resting place of many of the earliest Norwegian settlers in the area, Designated Dane County Historical Status in 1988. 	n/a	n/a	Yes
2749 Town Hall Rd (054/0607-083-8380-0)	JT3 Investments	John and Synneva Fosshage	Norwegian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> House built in 1881 for John Fosshage by local builder Iver Kleven 	Yes (1881 by Iver Kleven)	No	Yes
2936 Town Hall Rd (054/0607-081-8060-9)	John, David and Rachel Chancellor	John I. Berge	Norwegian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Among first Norwegian settlers to Historic Norwegian Blue Mounds Settlement, J. Berge helped to form the Town of Springdale 	No	Yes	Yes
Military Ridge State Trail (crosses Town Hall Rd)	WI DNR	n/a	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roadbed for the Chicago and North Western Railroad 	n/a	n/a	Yes

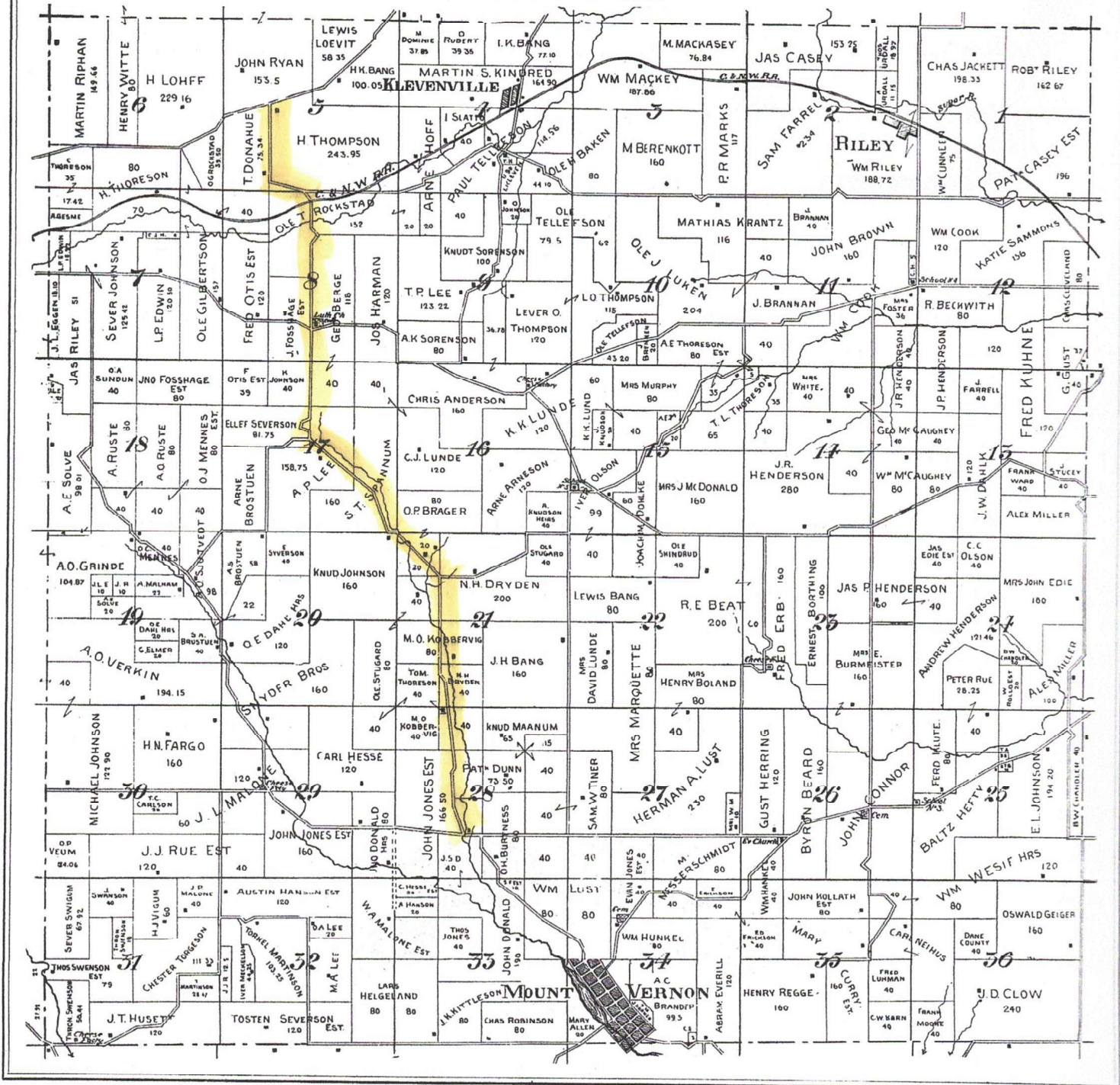
Address (Parcel No.)	Current Owners	Homesteader	Ethnicity of Homestead Family	Historical Significance	Historical Resources Present		Visible from Town Hall Road?
					Early House	Early Barn	
2979 Norwegian Trail (054/067-082-8061-0)	Thomas and Julie Miller	Nils and Sigri Halvorson Grasdalen	Norwegian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Among first Norwegian settlers to Historic Norwegian Blue Mounds Settlement, • 19th c. house still remains 	Yes (c. 1900)	No	No (accessible from Norwegian Trail)
3003 Town Hall Rd (054/0607-053-9331-3)	Not available in Access Dane	John K. and Randi (Berge) Lindeliien	Norwegian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House original to homestead (1877) • First of first-generation Norwegian-American in Blue Mounds Settlement 	Yes (c. 1877)	No	Yes
3070 Town Hall Rd (054/0607-053-8002-0)	Keith Sadler Teddiann Sadler	Thosten and GuriThomps on Rue	Norwegian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Among first Norwegian settlers to Historic Norwegian Blue Mounds Settlement, • Stop-over point for incoming Norwegian immigrant families in mid-1800s, • Combined wheat and dairy barn, • One of first farms to utilize Soil Conservation methods, • On National Register of Historic Places. 	Yes (1909)	Yes (1878 by Iver Kleven)	Yes
Course of Military Road (County Hwy S)	n/a	n/a	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location of the Military Road across southern Wisconsin Territory; • Used as an access road to the Blue Mounds area ever since. 	n/a	n/a	Yes



SPRINGDALE

Township 6 North, Range 7 East
of the Fourth Principal Meridian.
DANE CO. WIS.

Scale 2 Inches to the Mile.



Klevenville

Village of Mount Horeb

Donald Rock

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