

CHAPTER II - SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Introduction

The City of Kaukauna received a survey and planning grant in 1982 from the Historic Preservation Division of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. This grant provided for an intensive architectural/historical survey of the City's resources and the preparation of a multiple resource nomination. Brian Peterson, Director of the Community Development Department of Kaukauna, acted as Project Director. Melanie Betz, Principal Investigator and Architectural Historian, conducted the survey and completed the nomination. Carolyn Kellogg, Project Historian, and Rebecca Helland, Research Assistant, prepared the thematic studies and assisted with the research. Susan Duda, Executive Secretary for the Community Development Department, served as typist during the project.

Reconnaissance Survey

The first phase of the project began with updating the previous reconnaissance survey. Conducted in November of 1977 by the Historic Preservation Division, this reconnaissance or windshield survey yielded about 55 sites of historical or architectural interest. Each site identified in the original survey was re-checked during the 1982 survey to determine any alterations made (including demolition) in the intervening period. Those buildings which had been altered were noted and then re-photographed.

In order to compare similar building types and establish potential historic districts, Kaukauna was surveyed in sections based on geographical location. Since the City is relatively small (with a population under 12,000), only three major sections were established: the north and south business districts; the older residential areas which included religious and educational buildings; and finally, the areas beyond the older sections which included farmsteads and newer subdivisions. The Principal Investigator identified about 55 additional sites during the 1982 survey. The new sites included several vernacular structures - both commercial and residential - that retained their original integrity despite their modest sizes. The later survey also included a few additional Bungalows, a building type often overlooked in the previous survey. The Principal Investigator then made inventory cards and took photographs of all the buildings added to the reconnaissance survey.

Intensive Survey

The next phase of the project focused on re-examining a potential historic district roughly outlined in the field. This area would have included Second Street between Main Avenue and Crooks Avenue. However, the Principal Investigator and the Historic Preservation Division decided that the area did not possess sufficient integrity to be considered a historic district.

With the initial field work completed, the Project Historians and the Principal Investigator began in-depth research on the buildings that appeared on the survey. The Historians researched the historical themes important to the development of Kaukauna. The Principal Investigator examined the prevalent architectural styles in the City as well as the significant architects and builders. The Researchers consulted several different institutions to obtain information for their studies including the Kaukauna Public Library, the Lawrence University Library, the Archives and Library of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, the Kaukauna Times newspaper, and the Outagamie County Historical Society. Sanborn Perris Maps, Birds-eye view maps, City tax rolls, City directories, old newspaper articles and photographs, and several publications including The Lion of the Fox Valley (1891) provided invaluable information for the study. The material compiled by the researchers was then used to complete the intensive survey forms and report. The Principal Investigator was also responsible for recording (by special coding) the site locations onto a mylar map.

National Register Nominations

The final phase of the project consisted of identifying the most significant properties on the survey for inclusion in a multiple resource nomination. Using National Register criteria, the Principal Investigator and Historians determined 21 properties to be potentially eligible.

Conclusion

During the course of the project period, the Community Development Department sponsored two public informational meetings. The first meeting, held in January of 1983, introduced the project and the surveyors. The Principal Investigator gave a slide presentation on the architecture of Kaukauna. Representatives from the State Historical Society and the Outagamie County Historical Society also spoke at the meeting. The final meeting, held in May of 1983, presented the survey findings.

Two publications for public distribution have been completed as a result of this project. First, A Walking Tour of Old Kaukauna: Two Self-Guided Walking Tours was completed. This booklet covers early historical development, architectural background, the Charles A. Grignon Home, and two walking tours with historic and architectural descriptions of the near north and south sides of Kaukauna. The second publication is titled, Kaukauna Downtown Improvement: The Value of Preservation Design. This report is designed to provide design guidelines and recommendations for preservation and renovation of commercial properties located within the Central Business District. The report also provides case studies with cost estimates and planning recommendations.