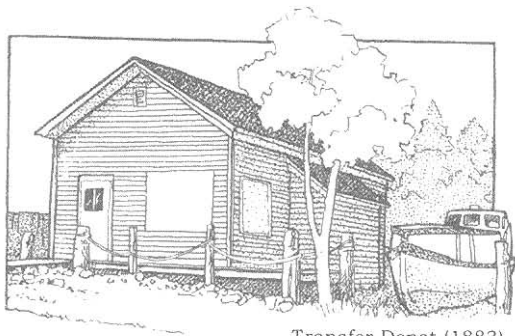




BROWNSTONE AND BARGEBOARD

A WALKING TOUR

OF HISTORIC BAYFIELD



Transfer Depot (1883)

A Walking Tour

A walk through Bayfield is perhaps the best way to appreciate the town's unique architecture and coastal atmosphere. Buildings were selected for this tour on the basis of both historical and architectural significance. Twenty-four of the 28 buildings listed in this tour are among the 52 key structures cited in the National Register of Historic Places. The Transfer Depot, Crawford House, and Hannum House were included for historical reasons.

A circular tour of the town can be made by following the numerical sequence, starting at the Waiting Pavilion (page 15) at Rittenhouse Avenue and Front Street, near the excursion boat docks. Though the distance involved is not great — less than 20 blocks — we recommend you take your time and truly enjoy Bayfield. There's no other place quite like it.



Map of Bayfield

UW Sea Grant Institute



Ninth St.

Eighth St.

Seventh St.

Sixth St.

Fifth St.

Fourth St.

Third St.

Broad St.

Second St.

First St.

Front St.

Sweeney Ave.

Rice Ave.

Washington Ave.

Rittenhouse Ave.

Manypenny Ave.

5a fountain

LAKE SUPERIOR

23

28

26
27

14

13

12

11

16

17

10 bridge

18

19

21

7

8

25

20

24

2

22

6

5

4

3

1



list of buildings on page 7

BROWNSTONE AND BARGEBOARD
A WALKING TOUR
OF HISTORIC BAYFIELD

written by Whitney Gould and Stephen Wittman

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Sea Grant Institute

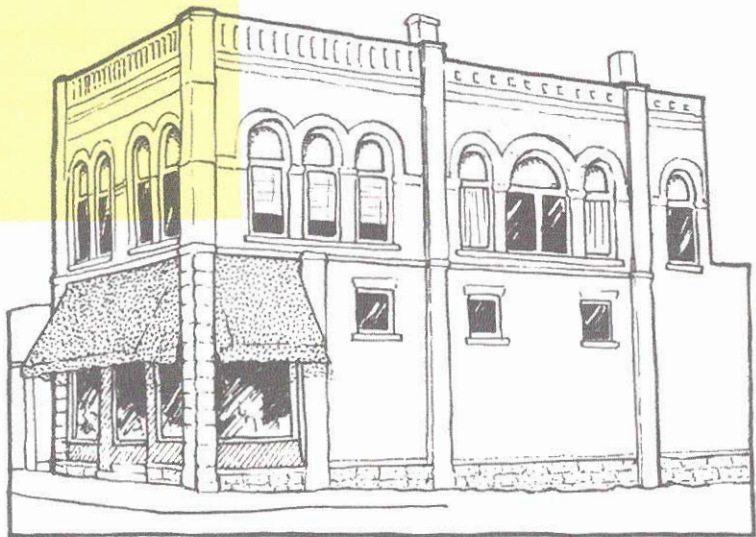
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Currie Bell Block (1892)

Brownstone & Bargeboard: A Walking Tour of Historic Bayfield

Bayfield appears to have been under a spell for the past 100 years — a spell that has magically preserved in the village's architecture a unique period in the history of the Lake Superior region and the United States.

In 1981, coinciding with the 125th anniversary of the founding of the village, a 50-block area of Bayfield became the 17th historic district in Wisconsin in the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places. The 174-acre district encompasses all of the early commercial area and most of the residential area and includes 52 structures of special historical and architectural significance. The creation of the district resulted in part from two events — the creation of the nearby Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in 1970 and a subsequent study of Bayfield's historic buildings by William Tishler, professor of landscape architecture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Tishler and several graduate students conducted the study in hopes of protecting Bayfield's unique

architecture and character in the event of extensive commercial development in connection with the park.

Funded in part by the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Program, Tishler's study suggested that a walking tour of Bayfield "would be a great asset to preservation efforts" and "one of the best methods for introducing residents and visitors to the historical, cultural, and natural wealth" of the village. To that end, this guide has been produced as a public service of the UW Sea Grant Institute.

It is hoped this guide will prompt other Great Lakes coastal communities to examine the priceless heritage inherent in historic buildings that add character and uniqueness to their towns. Intelligent planning for the future begins with a sensitivity to a community's cultural and architectural roots.

Bayfield is the result of many dreams that never came true — dreams of a port as important as Duluth, of a city as big as Chicago; dreams of profits and power.

Instead, Bayfield is a looking-glass on the past, reflecting better than any other Lake Superior community the hollow victory of the uncontrolled exploitation of the region's natural resources in the late 1800s, the quick wealth and long poverty of boom/bust economics.

The town was named after Lieutenant Henry Bayfield of the British Navy, who during 1823-25 made the first charts of Lake Superior. Bayfield was a friend of Henry M. Rice, a member of the Minnesota territorial legislature, who saw early the importance — and profit — of connecting Minnesota with a port on Lake Superior. Using Bayfield's charts, Rice convinced a group of Washington, D.C., investors that the protected, natural deep-water bay here gave the site the potential of becoming the greatest port on Lake Superior and a commerce rival to Chicago. Rice also obtained a federal land grant to build a railroad from St. Paul to Chequamegon Bay.

Thus the Bayfield Land Company was formed, and in 1856 a team of surveyors under Maj. William McAboy platted a townsite out of the wilderness. It was the survey team that built the first log cabin here, somewhere on the same block as the R.J. Nelson house, 12 South Second Street. The first pier was built a short time later, and within weeks the first ship — the schooner ALGONQUIN — arrived with town's first settlers, the John Hanley family of Superior. By 1857, Bayfield had about 100 buildings and 112 residents, including 17 women and 22 children.

The new town was firmly rooted, but the dreams of Rice and his investors were soon crashed in the financial panic of 1857, which shattered the Bayfield Land Company. Bayfield itself was unaffected by the crash and quickly became the major shipping port in the Chequamegon Bay area.

Two exceedingly abundant local resources — wood and fish — formed a solid foundation for the growing town. Opened in 1869, R.D. Pike's famous "Little Daisy" sawmill was annually producing millions of board-feet of lumber at its peak in the 1880s. Fishing became a strong economic force in 1870, when the Boutin family arrived with its own schooner and founded a commercial fishing business ultimately employing 150 people. Big business came to Bayfield when Booth Fisheries began operation here in 1880; by the 1890s, Booth employed 500 workers year-round.

Another abundant local resource, brownstone, created yet another industry in 1868. By 1888, seven different brownstone quarries were operating in the Bayfield area, supplying stone for buildings in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, and other states, including thousands of row houses in Chicago and New York City. Such brownstone buildings still standing include the former Post Office in Ashland and the Washburn Courthouse and Central High School in Duluth.

From about 1880 to 1910, Bayfield was at the peak of its prosperity. The fishing, lumber, and brown-

stone industries were booming. The economic pace quickened further with the long-awaited arrival of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Omaha Railroad in 1883. Bayfield already had a reputation as a spa, but tourism became a real economic force when the railroad built the opulent, 80-room Island View Hotel (no longer in existence). Luxurious excursion boats from Buffalo, Detroit, and Chicago stopped here. It was during this golden period — when the flow of wealth was its richest — that Bayfield's most prized homes and buildings were constructed.

But the weave of Bayfield's wealth was already unraveling. In 1877, the Wisconsin Central Railroad connected southern Wisconsin with the town of Ashland at the southern tip of Chequamegon Bay. Suddenly, Bayfield was no longer the primary port on the bay. By the time the C.St.P.M. & O. Railroad reached Bayfield, the shift to other ports had become permanent. For 26 years, Bayfield had been the only town and port on the peninsula; nonetheless, the railroad established Washburn in 1883 as its principal port on Lake Superior. In 1892, after much political connivance, Washburn was designated as the new county seat, and Bayfield's fine brownstone county courthouse stood vacant only eight years after it was built.

Attempting to restore Bayfield's fading prestige and fulfill its founder's dream, Bayfield entrepreneur William Dalrymple in 1883 began to build his own railroad north along the Lake Superior shore to connect the port

here with his huge farms in North Dakota and Minnesota. Only 3.9 miles of track had been laid by 1893, and the financial panic of that year and Dalrymple's death forever buried any hopes of a Duluth-like destiny for Bayfield.

Meanwhile, the unbridled harvest of the Lake Superior fishery was causing concern as early as 1880, particularly among the fishermen of Chequamegon Bay. The bay was closed to fishing twice in the waning years of the century but was reopened because of political pressure. Logging and sawdust from the lumber mills destroyed spawning grounds, further depleting the resource. Fishing declined as an important local industry yet remained a stabilizing economic force until the 1940s, when the invasion of the parasitic sea lamprey nearly destroyed the Lake Superior lake trout population. With sea lamprey control and fishery management, Lake Superior today provides a small commercial fishing industry and sport fishing business for Bayfield area residents.

The brownstone industry had completely disappeared by 1910 — the victim of a change in architectural styles, the use of steel building materials, and competitive price-slashing.

Dalrymple's railroad was purchased in 1914 by Henry J. Wachsmuth, who had taken over Pike's "Little Daisy" mill and needed the train as a shuttle to his ever-more-distant logging camps. After 70 years of unrestrained exploitation, the timber resource was nearly exhausted. Wachsmuth's mill, Bayfield's last, closed in 1924

— ironically, the same year a reforestation amendment was added to the Wisconsin constitution. With the forests gone, the region fell into a economic depression from which it has never fully recovered.

Despite the advent of the automobile, the tourism industry was stalled first by the Great Depression and then by World War II. The town's side road location on the United States' northern coast has also hindered efforts to attract tourists, but the designation of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore and Bayfield's position as the gateway to this national treasure have contributed to the city's attraction as a visitor destination. Bayfield's historic character and the area's many natural and cultural attractions have helped create a flourishing tourism industry.

Bayfield Architecture

The exceptional visual character of Bayfield is chiefly the result of the striking harmony of its architecture, which was shaped by the building customs of the last half of the 19th century, by the availability of building materials, and by the town's spectacular setting on the shore of Lake Superior.

The most eye-catching form of building in Bayfield's residential architecture is the Queen Anne style — an American interpretation of the popular English style that reached Wisconsin about 1880, just as Bayfield was

entering its golden years. The imposing Queen Anne style is recognized by its variety of surface textures, multiple gables and dormers, turrets, and sweeping porches. It was a favorite among Bayfield's wealthier residents, allowing them to take maximum advantage of the Lake Superior panorama. The large porches were ideal in summer for enjoying the cool breezes from the lake.

The most majestic examples of the Queen Anne style in Bayfield are the Frank Boutin, Jr., House, 7 Rice Avenue (#5), the William Knight House at 108 North Third Street (#12), and the Allen C. Fuller House, 301 Rittenhouse Avenue (#16). Each is discussed in more detail later in this brochure.

Bayfield residents of more modest means at the turn of the century lived in simpler, wood-frame dwellings. The typical Bayfield house is white, 1 1/2 stories tall, and rectangular in shape. It has clapboard siding, medium-height gables, a fieldstone foundation, and a large yard. Very few houses in Bayfield in the 1880s were architect-designed, and only two were built completely of brick. Many houses were built with steep roofs to shed the heavy snowfalls common here in winter.

Wood is the most common construction material in Bayfield — a direct result of the booming lumber industry created by the region's lush forests. The tall, "boomtown" false fronts in the commercial district, the clapboard siding of most houses, and the shiplap siding of some waterfront buildings are visual reminders of Bayfield's industrial roots.

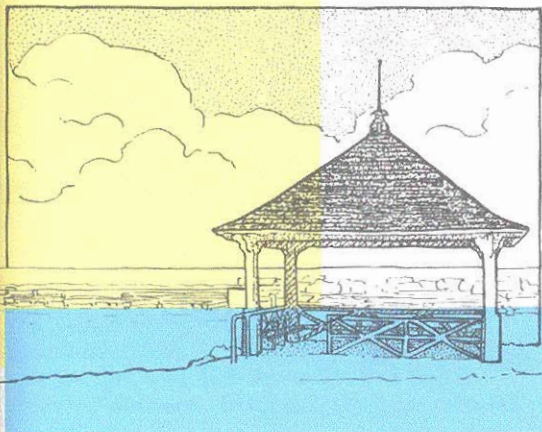
Clapboard for many of the town's houses was produced at R.D. Pike's "Little Daisy" mill on Bayfield's south side and later by Wachsmuth Lumber Company. The logging and lumber industry attracted hundreds of Scandinavian and German immigrants. Immigrant carpenters like Theodore Ernst, using the newly invented scroll saw and other woodworking devices, produced much of the delicate "gingerbread" trim gracing several Bayfield houses. The use of fieldstone for house foundations, chimneys, and terrace retaining walls also reveals the Scandinavian influences in Bayfield's architecture.

Bayfield's houses have an abundance of decorative work — brackets under eaves, stained-glass windows, ornamental railings and pillars, and "fish scale" and other kinds of decorative siding. The elaborate ornamentation and irregular profiles of many of these buildings are the hallmarks of an architectural revolt in the last half of the 19th century by builders who shunned the more rigid classical conventions and adopted instead picturesque and often whimsical forms that could be reproduced from pattern books. Built in the Carpenter Gothic style, Christ Episcopal Church (#13) is an excellent example of this architectural trend in Bayfield.

As much as the porches, bull's-eye windows, and turrets of many Bayfield houses reflect the influence of styles, materials, and immigrant craftsmen, these features were also particularly well-suited to the town's

coastal setting. Many houses were sited on Bayfield's sloping lots especially for the view of Lake Superior.

The brownstone industry also had important implications for Bayfield's architecture, though less than might be expected. Lured by an 1847 geological report praising brownstone's strength and chemical stability, Frederick Prentice opened the first brownstone quarry in 1868 on Bass Island in the Apostle chain. Before the industry collapsed in 1910, numerous other quarries were opened in the Bayfield area. Abandoned quarries can still be seen today on Hermit (Wilson's) Island, Stockton Island (Presque Isle), and at two locations on the mainland — four miles south of Bayfield on Highway 13 and on Houghton Point between Bayfield and Washburn. Although thousands of row houses in New York City and Chicago were built of brownstone from the Bayfield area, the stone's residential use here was limited to foundations, retaining walls, and similar uses. Brownstone was used in Bayfield for only two public buildings — the former Bayfield County Courthouse (#14) and Lincoln School (1895) — and two commercial buildings — the R.D. Pike Building (#19) and the Power House (1895; now Bayfield City Hall) — and the Holy Family Catholic Church (#6). Nonetheless, the earthy, reddish-brown color and irregular texture of brownstone are as vital to the visual diversity of the town today as the economic impact of the brownstone industry was to Bayfield's development in the past.



1. The Waiting Pavilion (1913)

Rittenhouse Avenue at Front Street

A Bayfield landmark, this lakefront gazebo was built in 1913 for \$300 by the Civic League, a Bayfield women's group. Often used as a shelter by passengers awaiting Apostle Islands excursion boats, the structure is still occasionally used as a band shell and speaker's platform. Originally located on the other side of Rittenhouse Avenue, it was moved to its present location in the 1920s.

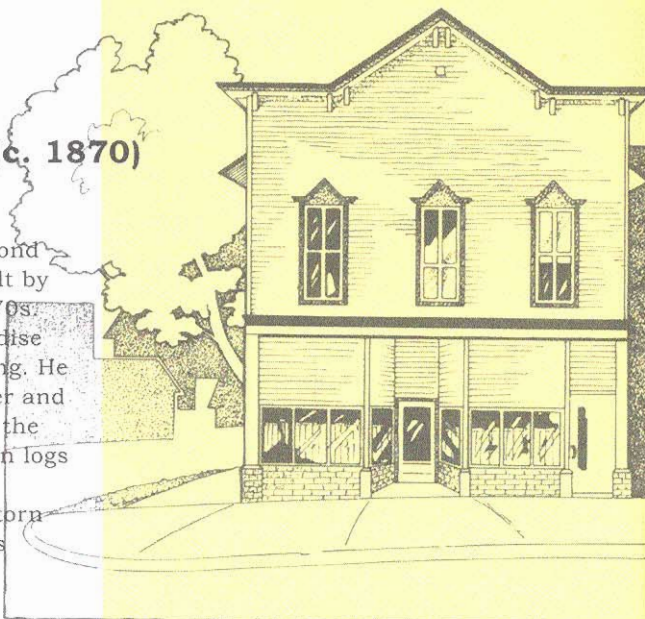
The builder was William Bell, a local carpenter who made gingerbread trim for many of Bayfield's houses — besides knitting coats and making an occasional coffin. An opera house that once stood next to the pavilion burned in 1924.

2. A.C. Hayward Building (c. 1870)

100 Rittenhouse Avenue

Originally located on North Second Street, this structure was built by A.C. Hayward in the early 1870s. Hayward operated a general merchandise business and post office in the building. He and his daughter served as postmaster and assistant postmaster, respectively. In the early 1890s, the building was rolled on logs to its present site, replacing James Chapman's general store, which was torn down after serving as one of Bayfield's oldest buildings for many years.

Similar to the nearby Andrew Tate building in its center gable and decorative window trim, this narrow rectangular building has housed many area businesses, including a saloon, hardware store, newspaper office, and antique shop. The second floor has been used as a family residence and more recently as tourist rooms.



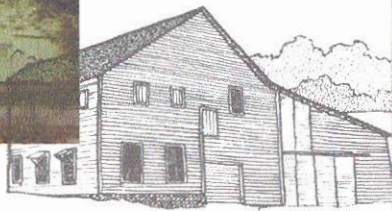
3. Booth Cooperage (c. 1900)

Washington Avenue at Front Street

Built prior to the turn of the century, this simple frame building was first used for storing and packing fish by two of Bayfield's early major fisheries, Booth and Dormer-Boutin. In the fall of 1914, Booth converted a portion of the building into a cooperage, where high-quality handmade barrels of Douglas fir were assembled. The barrels were then put to use packing fish from Booth's many fishing stations. Later on, the barrels were made of local bass-wood.

With five coopers working, the cooperage could turn out 50,000 to 75,000 barrels a year. Refrigerated

transportation, new packing methods, and the decline of local fish populations all led to the decline of barrel production and the closing of the cooperage in the late 1950s. During work on the foundation in 1981, it was discovered that the oldest portion of the building was built on cribbing. Once a dockside building, the cooperage grounds and much of the Washington Avenue area at the waterfront have been extensively filled in by both human and flood debris.





4. Transfer Depot (c. 1883)

1 Washington Avenue

This is the one visible reminder of the Bayfield Transfer Railway formed in 1883 by William F. Dalrymple, owner of huge farms in North Dakota and Minnesota. Dalrymple envisioned a railroad transporting Midwestern grain cheaply to huge elevators in Bayfield, where it would be shipped east. But after 10 years, only 3.9 miles of track had been laid, to Red Cliff, “a pleasant 15-minute ride along the lakeshore,” according to an early poster advertisement. The round trip fare was 25 cents.

Dalrymple’s dream for Bayfield would be realized in Duluth. Meanwhile, his railroad was bought in 1914 by Henry J.

Wachsmuth, who had taken over R.D. Pike’s “Little Daisy” sawmill and reopened it as the Wachsmuth Lumber Company. Wachsmuth, who built the big, two-story clapboard house at 229 South Sixth Street in 1902, turned out some 8 million board-feet of lumber a year in his mill. He used the Transfer Railroad as a shuttle between Bayfield and his lumber camps. By 1924, however, with the timber supply nearly gone, the mill and the railroad both closed for good.

The Transfer Depot later became a ticket office for excursion boats operated by Booth Fisheries. The boats also picked up catches for fishermen off the Apostle Islands. The depot is now used as a seasonal gift shop.

5. Frank Boutin, Jr., House (1908)

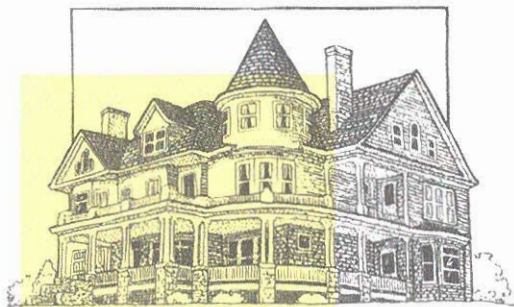
7 Rice Avenue

This sprawling lakefront home was built in 1908 by Frank Boutin, Jr., whose father had pioneered in the lumbering and fishing industries of early Bayfield. Boutin, Jr., lived here only a few years before he moved to Idaho, where he made a fortune in the lumber business.

With its generous sweeping porches, corner turret, dormer windows, and complex gabled roof, the house is an excellent example of the Queen Anne style, which was popular around the turn of the century. Contrasting materials — in this case, sandstone, brick, and clapboard — were another hallmark of the style. Even the coachhouse, located to the west of the house, was built of clapboard on brick in the Queen Anne style.

Across the street to the east are the stonework remains of the Boutin fountain (5a), which was built about 1920.

Restored by its present owners, the Boutin home retains the stained glass windows, gleaming woodwork, and other decorative details that reflect the financial prosperity of the original owner. Today, the house is operated as a bed and breakfast inn.



6. Holy Family Catholic Church and Rectory (1888-1898)

232 North First Street

Holy Family Catholic School (1910)

231 North First Street

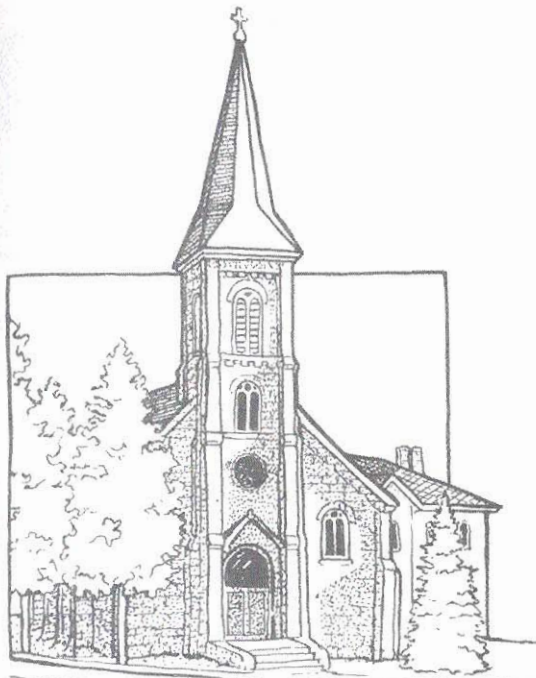


After the Methodists and Presbyterians, the Catholics were the third Christian denomination to erect a church building in Bayfield. A frame church and rectory were built in 1861 for Father John Chebul of LaPointe, noted for his ability to evangelize in Chippewa, French, and German-Slavonic as well as

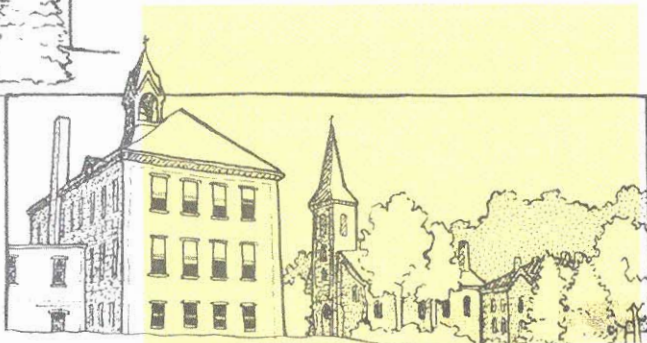
English. For 12 years the priest traveled the wilderness, usually on foot, delivering the message of Christianity.

Construction of the present church, designed by Wisconsin architect Brother Adrian Wewer, was begun in 1888. It took 10 years to complete the large rectangular building, which features a gabled roof and prominent steeple. The brownstone used in its construction was donated from the quarry of R.D. Pike, sawmill owner, banker, and one of Bayfield's preeminent citizens.

Just south of the church is the rectory, built in 1891. It was Bayfield's first brick building. A symmetrical structure with a hipped roof and gabled front, it rests on a brownstone foundation.



West across North First Street is the Holy Family Catholic School, built in 1910. The large, hipped-roof building, with its bell tower cupola, was built in the Classical Revival Style. This style was popular in the mid-19th century and emphasizes classical symmetry and detail — such as columns and porticos — and simplicity of form. It is also called Greek Revival style.



7. Henry Hannum House (1885)

104 North Second Street

Old newspaper references to Dr. Henry Hannum describe him as “the kindest-looking man you could imagine ...always smiling...always jolly.” A native of Dorchester, Massachusetts, Dr. Hannum came to Bayfield in 1882 by way of Kansas. After establishing a practice with an office in LaBonte House, now known as Greunke’s Restaurant, 17 North First Street, Hannum built this simple, two-story wood frame house in 1885.

He was considered a progressive doctor because he recorded births; previously, no one had bothered much about that. The town’s only doctor for many years, he is estimated to have delivered more than 4,000 babies. Along with Dr. Samuel Pickett, Bayfield’s first mayor, Hannum



cared for the hundreds of area residents struck ill by the nationwide flu epidemic during World War I. Despite the loss of the use of one hand to a stroke, Dr. Hannum was very active as a member and officer of the Bayfield Fire Department. He also served on the school board. A second stroke killed the doctor in 1922.

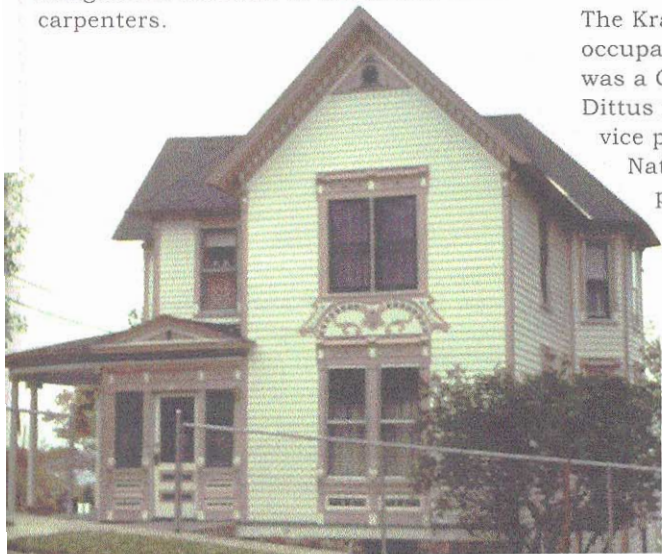
8. John Kranzfelder House (c. 1890)

36 North Second Street

Built about 1890, this large, two-story frame house — with its gabled roof, two-story bay, and curved veranda — reflects Queen Anne-style influences. Its elaborate window and entry designs are a tribute to the skill of local carpenters.

Early residents of the house were the Johnson family. Morgan Johnson worked as manager of the Booth Fisheries complex that sprawled on the waterfront just two blocks down the hill from the house.

The Kranzfelder family were later, long-time occupants of the house. John Kranzfelder was a German butcher who took over the Dittus meat market and later became a vice president and director of the First National Bank. Active in both civic and political affairs, Kranzfelder served as a member of the town board and county board.





9. Old City Jail (1926)

2 Washington Avenue

Built in 1926 and vacant today, this was Bayfield's village jail for many years. Only about 25 by 25 feet, the jail has thick, uncoursed fieldstone walls

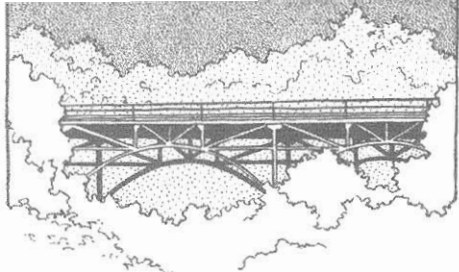
supporting a hipped roof. The iron grating over the door and windows is believed to have come from the old courthouse or the old town jail.

10. Old Iron Bridge (1912)

Rice Avenue between Second and Third Streets

Built on a hillside, the Bayfield townsite is etched with many natural drainage ravines like this one, known as the “Big Ravine.” Separating two parts of town known as “School Hill” and “Catholic Hill,” the ravine was first spanned by a wooden bridge that collapsed just after a herd of cows crossed over it. It was replaced by this delicate, 230-foot wrought-iron bridge built by Wausau Iron Works in 1912.

Natural springs and run-off feed the creek that flows in the bottom of the ravine, known historically as “Rice’s Creek” after the city’s founder. When torrential rains fell in July 1942, cataclysmic flood waters pouring down the Big Ravine destroyed or damaged parts of the town. But the Old Iron Bridge with its three-decker truss survived. The creek is now routed underground to the lake along Washington Avenue to prevent future flood damage.



The open area just below the bridge was once the site of the city cow pound and a ball park. The late Gilbert Larsen, a Bayfield native, established the beautiful nature trail leading up under the bridge in the late 1960s.

The Big Ravine contains remnants of the city’s original water system, built in 1875. Wooden pipes bound with iron carried water from a reservoir in the ravine to village residents. The system provided such good water pressure that many homes and businesses sported outdoor fountains, and Bayfield became known as the “Fountain City.” The wooden mains were replaced by iron pipes in 1887. Today, wells provide water to city residents.

The Old Iron Bridge was completely restored in 1988.

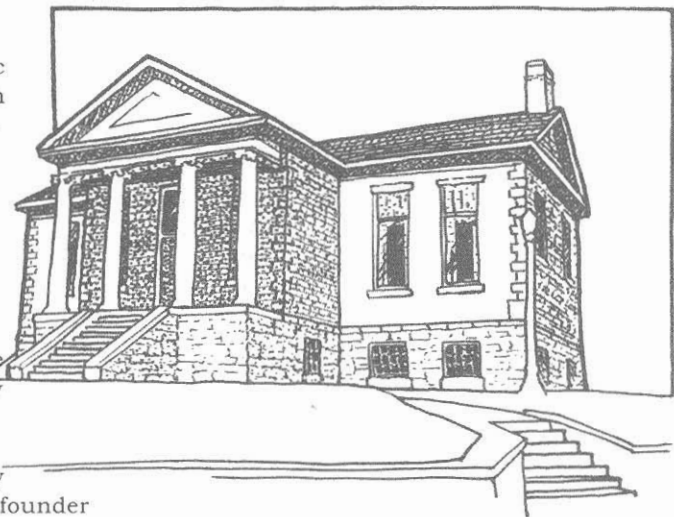
11. Bayfield Carnegie Library (1903)

37 North Broad Street

This Greek Revival-style public library was built in 1903 with \$10,000 from philanthropist-entrepreneur Andrew Carnegie, whose wealth erected many such libraries across the country. The architect was Henry Wildhagen (1856-1920), a native of Hanover, Germany, who opened an office in Ashland in 1894. Wildhagen designed a number of buildings in the area, including the Ashland County Courthouse (1915).

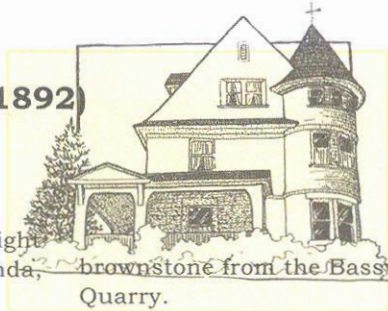
Land for the library was donated by the estate of William F. Dalrymple, founder of the Bayfield Transfer Railway.

Constructed of yellow brick, the library features gigantic ionic brownstone columns that support a pedimented portico. The brownstone quoins, sills, and lintels also contrast with the yellow brick.



12. William Knight House (1892)

108 North Third Street



Turreted, gabled, and variously textured, the massive William Knight House, with its wraparound veranda, is another example of the Queen Anne style. Elements of the shingle style are also represented by the single-wrapped porch posts. Originally located on this site was a fort, erected in 1861 during a panic over the Sioux Indian uprising in Minnesota.

The house was built in 1892 by William Knight, who had been a Bayfield resident since 1869. Knight was in the lumber business and in 1890 organized the Lumberman's Bank in Bayfield. He was also active in the promotion of fruit horticulture.

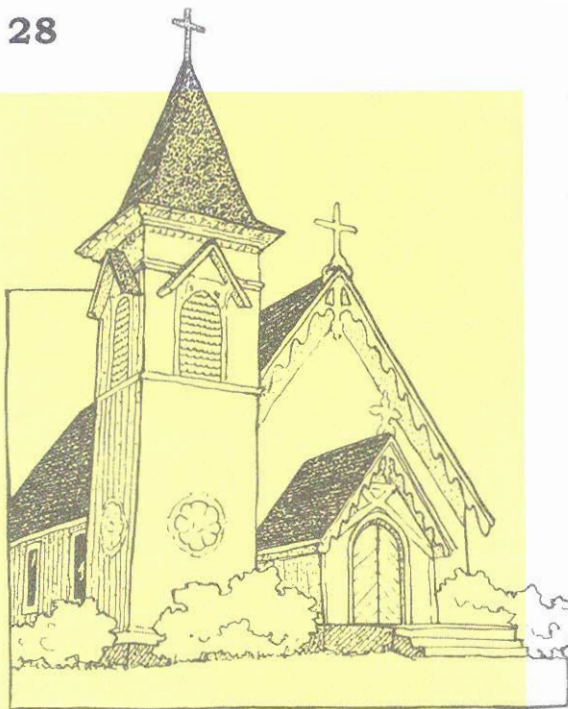
Knight's love of wood is revealed in his choice of clear pine trim throughout the house, oak for the central stairway, and a combination of oak, cherry, walnut, and mahogany for the parqueted floors. The Knight house is built on a foundation of

brownstone from the Basswood Island Quarry.

Major restoration of the house's exterior was undertaken by a new owner in 1983. The yard has been fenced as it was in Knight's time, when a fence was needed to keep wandering cows from grazing on the lawn.

In 1985, construction began on a large carriage house, which is now attached to the north side of the Knight House. The carriage house is located on the lot where Bayfield's Methodist Church stood until it burned in the 1940s. Materials and details similar to those used on the exterior of the Knight House were used in designing the carriage house.

The Knight House remains a private residence.



13. Christ Episcopal Church (1870)

125 North Third Street

With its steeply pitched, gabled roof, vertical boards and battens, and bargeboard (gingerbread) detail, this delicately proportioned little church is an excellent example of the Carpenter Gothic style. Loosely based on medieval Gothic church architecture, the style was popularized in picturesque country cottages. The invention of the scroll saw and the widespread availability of wood contributed to the Carpenter Gothic boom.

The original part of this church — its chapel — was built in 1870, the first Episcopal church erected in northern Wisconsin. Its pyramidally roofed belfry tower was added in 1883. The semicircular apse was an 1893 addition. The cedar posts that supported the church were replaced in 1948 by a more permanent concrete foundation.

This church is one of the earliest structures of Bayfield still standing. Its original construction cost was \$1,500.

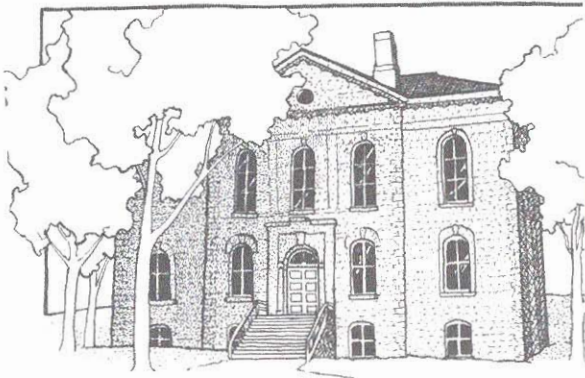
14. Old Bayfield County Courthouse (1884)

Washington Avenue between Fourth and Fifth Streets

This formidable building, constructed in 1884 of local brownstone, has had a troubled history. Replacing a wooden frame structure destroyed by fire in 1883, the courthouse was designed by Madison architect John Nader in a style that mixed the rhythmic balance of the Neo-Classical Revival style with the massive proportions and round, Roman-type arches of the Romanesque Revival style common in many public buildings of this period.

Bayfield had been the county seat since 1866; but while it was busy replacing its burned-out courthouse, nearby Washburn was founded. As the lumber industry boomed in Washburn, its citizens launched a spirited drive to move the county seat there. They succeeded — thanks to furious lobbying, petitioning, and even unscrupulous maneuvering — in 1892, and Bayfield's new courthouse was stripped and abandoned.

Used variously as a school, World War II German prisoner-of-war camp, and community center and warehouse, the building was purchased and renovated by the Bayfield Heritage Association, Inc., on behalf of the Bayfield Historical Society. Through the 1976 Historic Buildings Use Act, the courthouse was leased to the National Park Service as headquarters for the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.



17. Frank Stark Building (pre-1886)

250 Rittenhouse Avenue

Perched on the rise of Rittenhouse Avenue, this building is one of the farthest from the town's commercial center. A very high false front with projecting cornice and paired brackets gives the two-story rectangular building an imposing face. It is sided with clapboard. The storefront dates from about the 1920s.

This was the site of one of Bayfield's early commercial establishments. Four generations of the Frank Stark family operated a grocery and feed store here.



18. D.J. Etsell Building (1883)

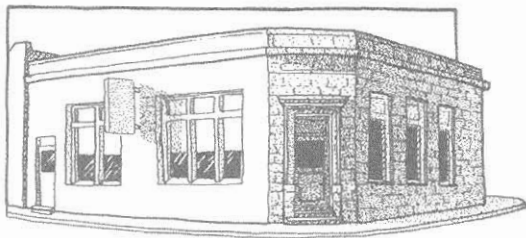
225 Rittenhouse Avenue

Built as a hardware store by David J. Etsell, this building includes an addition on the north side that served as a tin shop. The two-story building was a twin to a now-demolished commercial block directly across Rittenhouse Avenue. Olof Englund ran a hardware store here after Etsell.

The building stands on a full brownstone basement and is topped by a hip gable roof. Like the other early commercial blocks, it is sided with clapboard and has a projecting cornice supported by brackets. Detailing is limited to the decorative brackets and window trim. An early storefront is still in place.

The store front was angled back when the site became an automobile filling station earlier in the 20th century.





19. R.D. Pike Building (1904-05)

201 Rittenhouse Avenue

Currently the only brownstone commercial building in Bayfield, this served as the town's only bank from the time it was constructed in 1904-05 until 1980. The name of R.D. Pike, chiselled over the side entrance, is that of the founder of the bank.

Son of pioneer Bayfield resident Elisha Pike, Robinson Derling Pike was a prime mover behind Bayfield's development

during its boom years. A Civil War veteran, Pike founded the Bayfield and Ashland Telephone Company about 1880. As founder and president of the Bayfield Lighting Company, he brought electric street lighting to the town in 1887. The brownstone Power House, 125 South First Street, now serves as City Hall. Pike also made other firsts — his rock quarry four miles south of town was the first in the area to use a steam drill; he was the first to use the telephone regularly to conduct business, and he built the first ship for hauling lumber ever constructed at a Lake Superior port.

Pike's "Little Daisy" sawmill, formerly located on the shore at the end of South Third Street, turned out 12 million board-feet of lumber in one season during its peak — one of the busiest such operations in northern Wisconsin. The mill's whistle told Bayfield residents the time of day until railroad whistles began to serve that function.

20. Currie Bell Block (1892)

2 North Second Street

One of Bayfield's best examples of a brick business block, this commercial stretch was constructed in 1892 by Currie G. Bell, editor and publisher of the local newspaper, the *Bayfield Press* (later the *Bayfield County Press*). Bayfield's first town chairman and a county board member, Bell campaigned vigorously to establish the Bayfield Fish Hatchery, the second and, at the time, largest fish-rearing facility in the state.

The first Bayfield commercial building constructed of brick, the Bell block has brownstone trim, segmentally arched windows, and a parapet wall. The Bell block housed a pharmacy for many years, as well as other commercial enterprises, with a residential area on the second floor.



21. George Crawford House (c. 1870s)

13 South Second Street

One of several early boarding houses built for sawmill workers, this simple frame building was erected in the 1870s. It has been popularly known as the Crawford House after one of its turn-of-the-century proprietors, George Crawford. An outstanding cook, he fed 200 to 300 lumberjacks daily in shifts. The menu ranged from beans, dried fruit, and oysters to salted and fresh pork, freshly made bologna, and sausage.

The front porch was washed away in Bayfield's infamous 1942 flood, but parts of the building still have their original floors. The Crawford House has more recently served as a dry cleaning establishment, a residence, and an art gallery.



22. R.J. Nelson House (c. 1890)

12 South Second Street

One of the two residences in Bayfield built completely of brick (the other is a store/house at 118 Rittenhouse Avenue), this one was constructed of local bricks believed to have been made from red clay dug at Red Cliff and pressed at Bayfield's short-lived brick manufacturing plant begun here in 1888 by Colonel C.P. Rudd.

The two-story building, featuring a wide veranda and flared hip roof with gable projections, was built around 1890 by William Dittus, who ran a meat market near the Etsell building.

Rudolph J. Nelson purchased the property in 1905, and it is still owned and occupied by the Nelson family. Nelson owned and operated logging camps in the early 1900s and had a livery stable at the northwest corner of Second Street and Manypenny Ave.



23. Ervin Leihy House (1888)

105 South Seventh Street

Few buildings are left from Bayfield's first 20 years. The urgency of building a new town, or perhaps a sense of impermanence, may have had some bearing on the investment made in these buildings. According to the *Bayfield Progress* (December 21, 1911), "There was not much use to pay much attention to home building . . . nearly every house and every store was simply built on ground with cedar blocks for foundations . . ."

Ervin Leihy expressed his belief in Bayfield's future prosperity when he constructed his new house on a full basement of local brownstone. Built on Swede Hill, the outskirts of town in 1888, Leihy's house was one of Bayfield's first residences to have such a foundation.

The structure is a spacious two-story balloon frame house with a flat hipped roof and two-story full-gabled projections on



the north and south facades. Bull's-eye windows pierce the gables, and bay windows afford views of Lake Superior. A wraparound veranda on the east and south sides of the house is supported by a decorative balustrade and columns. The house cost Leihy \$5,000 to build and, according to the local newspaper, was elegant and a showcase in part because of its novel basement.

In 1985, the house was renamed the Grey Oak Guest House, a bed and breakfast business.

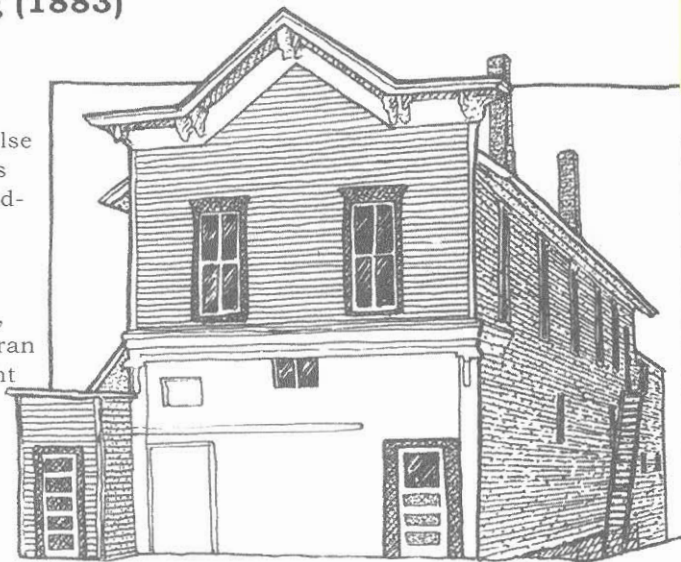
24. Andrew Tate Building (1883)

1 North First Street

With its high, “boomtown” false front and center gable, this rectangular clapboard building is one of the oldest remaining commercial structures in Bayfield.

It was built in 1883 by Andrew Tate, one of the town’s first settlers, who ran a drugstore on this site. A self-taught lawyer, Tate became a prominent civic leader. Over the years he held the posts of school superintendent and county treasurer and served as Bayfield’s first district attorney and its first judge.

At the turn of the century, the building became a furniture store, later a movie and vaudeville palace. It has been used by many community organizations and today is owned by the Shamrock Rebekah Lodge.



25. Henry Wachsmuth House (c. Late 1880s)

21 North First Street



This one-story house has been converted to commercial use. It was built as a residence by Henry Wachsmuth and features an intersecting gable roof and clapboard siding. Decorative window trim frames the 4/4 windows. A gable projects from the front facade. A front shed-roofed veranda is supported by columns. A second-story veranda once stretched across the front.

Wachsmuth came to Bayfield from Germany in 1884. He started a shoemaking business here and later served as mayor. It was his nephew, Henry J. Wachsmuth, who in 1901 at age 25 started the Wachsmuth Lumber Company and took over R.D. Pike's "Little Daisy" sawmill on Bayfield's south side.

26. Frank Stark House (1906)

5 South Sixth Street

This finely detailed dwelling is a mixture of Classical Revival influences and the Lake Picturesque style. The home was built by Frank Stark, Jr., in 1906. Stark hired a talented German carpenter named Paulsen, who added much of the lacy trim. The interior has been meticulously maintained and remains much as it was when built. The six-bedroom home features birch woodwork in the kitchen and dining room, an oak staircase, and a hand-carved oak fireplace mantle.

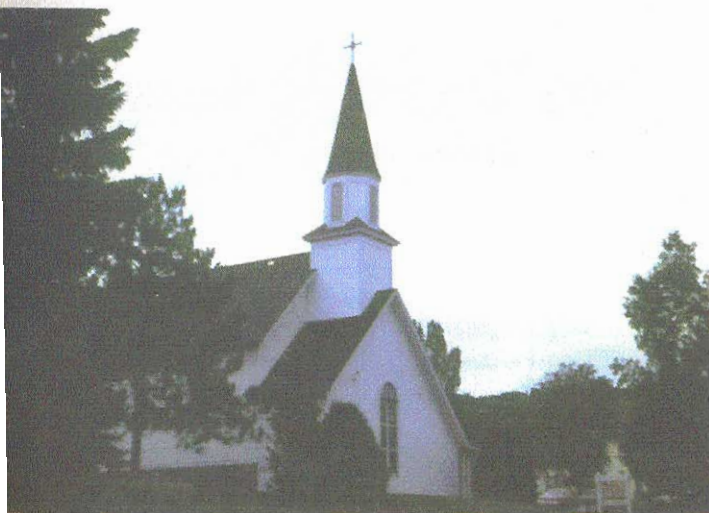


27. H.O. Cook House (c. 1886-1892)

17 South Sixth Street

This imposing two-story dwelling, with its flared hip roof and decorative brackets, was built between 1886 and 1892 by Henry Cook, who ran a woodenware factory and operated the water and light utility. It was later the home of the Dr. Samuel Pickett family. Pickett served as Bayfield's first mayor, and his name graces the brownstone carriage step at the front of the house.





28. Bethesda Lutheran Church (1895)

109 South Sixth Street

Located in an ethnically settled neighborhood nicknamed “Swede Hill,” this church reflects the simple tastes of its Scandinavian builders. It is a modest clapboard-sided frame structure, featuring a central steeple. Recent additions include a new front entry and rear addition. The foundation is cement block.



The church was built in 1895 as the Bayfield Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Free Church — a name shortened to Bethesda Norwegian Free Church in 1905 and to its present name in 1962.

Architectural Terms

Balustrade — The railing along a porch or stairway.

Bargeboard — Decorative boards attached to the gable end of a roof; often designed in ornate scrollwork and sometimes referred to as “gingerbread.” (fig. 1)

Board and Batten — Vertical siding made up of wide boards with narrow strips of wood (battens) nailed over the joints. (fig. 3)

Bracket — A projection, often scrolled wood, used to decorate or support a cornice in Victorian-era (19th century) houses. (fig. 2)

Bull’s-eye Window — A round window; also known as an oculus.

Clapboard — Horizontal siding made up of overlapping narrow boards that are usually thicker at one edge than the other. (fig. 2)

Cornice — The projecting ornamental molding along the top of a building or roof edge.

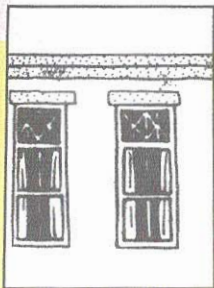


Cupola — A small structure built on top of a roof. Used as observation platforms; also to shelter the bells on 19th century school-houses.

Dormer — A window structure projecting from a sloping roof.

4/4 Window — a window divided into four panes separated by strips of wood (muntins).

Ionic — A spiral or scroll-shaped top on a column, named for the Ionic order of architecture of ancient Greece.



Lintel — A horizontal architectural member spanning and usually carrying the load above a door or window.

Pediment — A triangular space forming the gable of a two-pitched roof in classic architecture.

Portico — A colonnade or sheltered entrance to a building, especially in classical architecture.

Quoins — Stone or other building material set in the corners of a building to contrast with the color or texture of the adjoining masonry of the sides.

Shiplap — Wooden sheathing in which the boards are rabbeted so that the edges of each board lap over the edges of adjacent boards to make a flush joint. (fig. 4)

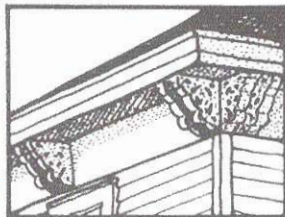
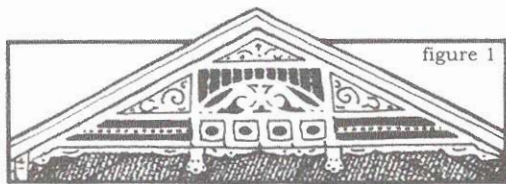


figure 2



figure 3

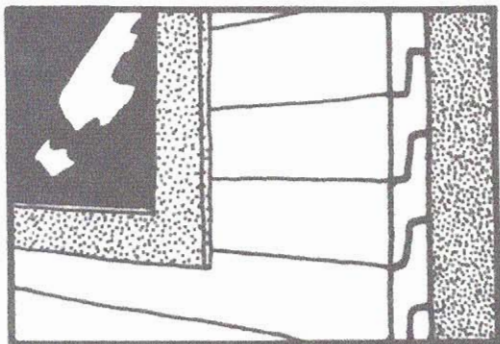


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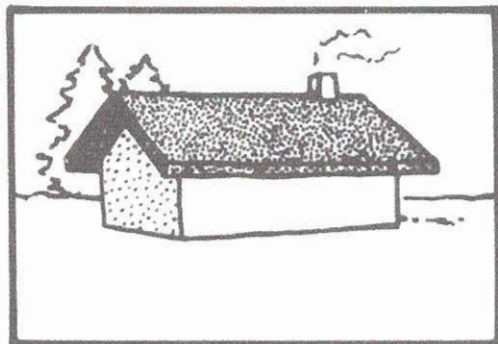


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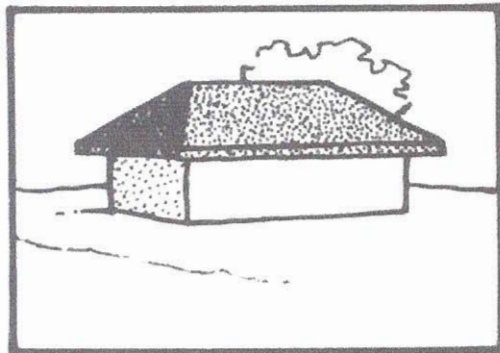


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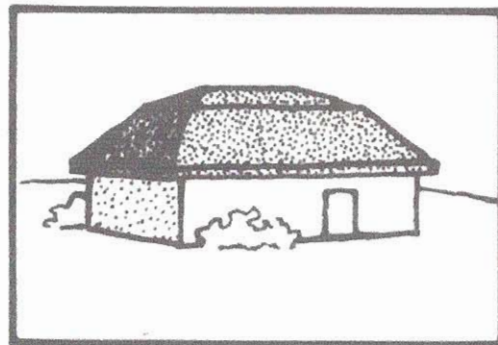


figure 7

Roof Types

Gabled — End walls form triangles, or gables. (fig. 5)

Hipped — A four-sided roof rising up from each side of a rectangular building. (fig. 6)

Mansard — Two sloping surfaces on all sides, the lower surface rising more steeply than the upper one. The term also refers to the Second Empire architectural style popular in the mid- to late 19th century. (fig. 7)

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Editing—Elizabeth Seaman

Design— T. Yao

Production Assistant—Jessica Marklein

Photography—Laurence Wiland

Illustration—Jana Fothergill

Additional copies of this booklet are available from:



Bayfield Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 138
Bayfield, WI 54814



UW Sea Grant Institute
Communications Office
Goodnight Hall
1975 Willow Drive/2nd Floor
Madison, WI 53706-1103



Bayfield Heritage Association, Inc.
PO Box 137
Bayfield, WI 54814

For additional information, contact
the Bayfield Heritage Association,
phone (715) 779-5958.

