

On the Octagon House grounds . . .

The Pioneer Barn

Article by Ken Riedl

The Pioneer Barn was built in 1848 by Wenzel Quis, who operated a general store and lodging place within what was known as the “Bohemian Settlement.” This placed the barn at the western terminus of the Watertown-Milwaukee Plank Road and just to the east of today’s Lindberg’s by the River (formerly American Legion Green Bowl, 1413 Oconomowoc Avenue).

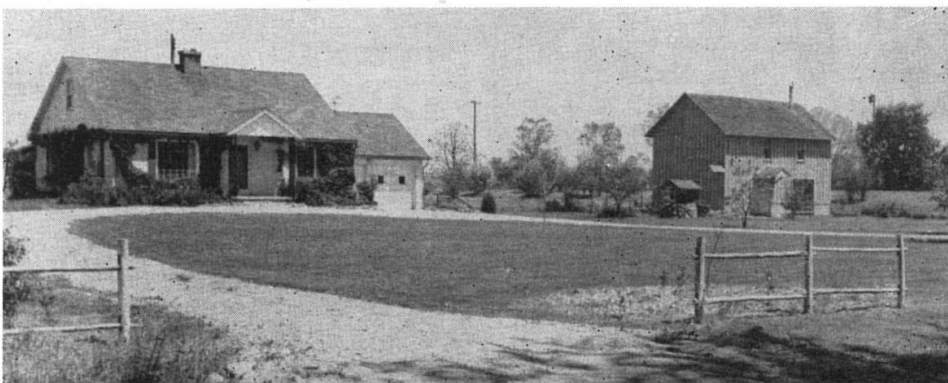
In 1963 the barn was donated to the Watertown Historical Society by owners Harry and Caroline Moore, moved to the museum grounds and restored. The site on the hill was only a short distance west of its previous location at 1424 Oconomowoc Avenue (location noted as 1423 Willow St. after Willow Street, one block north of Oconomowoc Ave, was extended to the east, beyond Kossuth Street).

The barn now houses a collection of pioneer tools and farm implements.



Image WHS_009_279

Pioneer Barn, right of center, at original location, before moving to Octagon House grounds



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Image WHS_009_291

1954 advertisement



c.1975

Image WHS_009_290

Pioneer Barn, which stood along the Watertown Plank Road, after move to museum grounds.



Pioneer Barn in background, near America's First Kindergarten, on Octagon House museum grounds.
A gift of Harry and Caroline Moore, it was moved in 1963 and restored.
It is now principally used as an implement museum.

