

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Fort Atkinson Historic District

other names/site number Fort Atkinson State Preserve; Archaeological Site 13WH57

2. Location

street & number 2nd Street and 8th Avenue not for publication

city or town Fort Atkinson vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Winneshek code 191 zip code 52144

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 12/11/12
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Iowa State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____	_____	_____

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Name of Property

Winneshiek County, Iowa
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	1	buildings
2	0	sites
3	2	structures
1	1	objects
10	4	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic Properties of the Ho-Chunk (Winnebago)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

Removal to the Neutral Ground

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- DEFENSE / Military Facility
- DEFENSE / Fortification
- DEFENSE / Arms Storage

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- RECREATION AND CULTURE / Outdoor Recreation
- LANDSCAPE / Park
- LANDSCAPE / Conservation Area
- RECREATION AND CULTURE / Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-Nineteenth Century

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone / Limestone

roof Wood / Shingle

walls Stone / Limestone

Log

other _____

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- _____
- _____
- MILITARY
- ETHNIC HERITAGE / Native American
- EXPLORATION / Settlement
- ARCHEOLOGY / Historic
- CONSERVATION
- _____

Period of Significance

- _____
- 1840-1853
- 1921-1942
- _____

Significant Dates

- 1840
- 1853
- 1921
- _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

- _____
- Euro-American
- Ho-Chunk (Winnebago)
- _____

Architect/Builder

- Sumner, Capt. Edwin V.
- Lynde, Capt. Isaac
- _____

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

- Office of the State Archaeologist at the University of Iowa;
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources; National Archives;
- Iowa State Historical Society

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Name of Property

Winneshiek County, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 7.08 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>15</u>	<u>5862245</u>	<u>477275</u>	3	—	—	—
2	—	—	—	4	—	—	—

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cynthia L. Peterson and David G. Stanley / Archeologists

cindy-peterson@uiowa.edu / stanley1@lowatelecom.net

organization Office of the State Archaeologist / Bear Creek Archeology date September 5, 2012

street & number 700 CLSB / P.O. Box 347 telephone 319-384-0726 / 563-547-4545

city or town Iowa City / Cresco state IA zip code 52242 / 52136

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Iowa Department of Natural Resources (Daryl Howell)

street & number 509 E. 9th Street telephone 515-281-8524

city or town Des Moines state IA zip code 50319

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 5 Page 1

**Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa**

Fort Atkinson is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in relation to two multiple property listings:

- *Historic Properties of the Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) Removal to the Neutral Ground* (Peterson and Stanley 2012); and
- *The Conservation Movement in Iowa, 1857-1942* (Conard 1991).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa**

Section number 7 Page 2

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Fort Atkinson Historic District (also referred to as site 13WH57) is the location of a stockaded 1840s fort whose military personnel enforced the federal government's Indian removal policies, especially policing the Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) who had been forced from their Wisconsin homelands into the Neutral Ground buffer strip in what is now northeast Iowa and southeast Minnesota. The fort is prominently positioned on a blufftop high above the surrounding terrain in the steeply dissected Iowa landform region known as the Paleozoic Plateau. When completed, Fort Atkinson included at least 24 buildings inside the stockade and 14 outside, all of limestone, log, or wood-framed construction. Eight years after the fort's construction, the Ho-Chunk were removed to central Minnesota. In 1853, the government sold portions of the fort to a private individual. Beginning in the 1920s, concerned locals lobbied the Iowa State government to preserve what remained of the fort buildings. This early conservation effort led to site preservation and interpretation. Today, the property is an Iowa State Preserve, with well-preserved buildings, structures, objects, and sites. Fort Atkinson retains excellent historic integrity in terms of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Officially, the 200-x-40-mile Neutral Ground buffer zone was created to separate the Santee Dakota (Sioux) from the Sauk and Meskwaki (Sac and Fox; Figures 1 and 2). But by 1830, the U.S. Government already had plans to remove the Ho-Chunk from Wisconsin in order to make lands in Wisconsin and along the Mississippi River available for Euro-American settlement and for natural resource exploitation. The Neutral Ground was seen as a convenient place to house the displaced Ho-Chunk, essentially in a temporary reservation until the tribe could be moved further from their Wisconsin homelands.

The U.S. government called for the construction of the Yellow River Subagency, near the Mississippi River in Iowa, as a base for education of Ho-Chunk children. Soon, the government decided the subagency was too near Wisconsin, providing a temptation for Ho-Chunk to return to their homeland, so the Turkey River Subagency was constructed about 30 miles further west (Figures 2-3). The placement of this second subagency, a great distance (about 50 miles) from Wisconsin's Fort Crawford, necessitated the construction of Fort Atkinson, where soldiers could be stationed to police the Neutral Ground. Foremost among the soldiers' duties were the containment of Ho-Chunk within the Neutral Ground, and the ejection of illegal entrants, such as whiskey traders, uninvited missionaries, and Euro-American farmers.

Construction of Fort Atkinson began in 1840; it (and the earlier Fort Atkinson in Nebraska) was named after Brigadier General Henry Atkinson, who gave orders establishing the palisaded garrison in Iowa. The general was famous for his leadership of the 1819 Missouri and the 1825 Yellowstone expeditions; for his service as the commander of troops during the 1832 Black Hawk War, including at the Battle of Bad Axe; and for the establishment and commanding of Jefferson Barracks, the first infantry school for the Army, in St. Louis. Fort Atkinson was one of a series of forts built around this time in the Upper Midwest, the likes of which include Fort Snelling in Minnesota; Fort Des Moines No. 2 (the progenitor of the modern City of Des Moines); and Fort Armstrong in Illinois, all constructed to pacify tribes and regulate white settlement of the area. Iowa's Fort Atkinson was one of two contemporaneous forts (along with Minnesota's Fort Riley) that oversaw a tribe corralled within a buffer strip (the Neutral Ground) between other hostile tribes.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa**

Section number 7 Page 3

When completed, the Fort Atkinson complex included at least 24 buildings inside the stockade and another 14 outside (Figures 4 and 5). Large buildings within the picketed log stockade included two blockhouses (sometimes called "cannon houses"), a powder magazine, a commissary storehouse, a sutler's store, a guardhouse, two officer's quarters, and two enlisted men's barracks. These buildings surrounded a central parade ground. In addition, inside the stockade there was a deep cistern and numerous smaller buildings, such as privies and lean-to kitchens. Just outside the stockade were two large stables and two smaller ones, three small residences where some soldier's families lived, the quartermaster's house, a granary, icehouse, bakehouse, blacksmith's shop, a carpenter's shop, and numerous privies. Many of the interior buildings were of limestone construction or limestone foundations with a log or wood framed superstructure. Exterior buildings were mostly framed. A limestone quarry adjacent to the fort provided some raw building materials. Plowed fields and pastures nearby supplied food and fodder. An elaborate trail system radiated out from the fort, leading to Ho-Chunk villages, the Turkey River Subagency, trading posts, and Fort Crawford, to name a few destinations.

As a result of a treaty signing and sale of their Neutral Ground lands, the Ho-Chunk were escorted out of Iowa, into Minnesota in 1848 (Figure 1). After the removal of the Ho-Chunk, there was no need for a military presence in northeast Iowa, and in 1848 the Army dropped Fort Atkinson from its list of garrisoned posts. The War Department hired caretakers to keep out squatters, but the fort deteriorated rapidly. Much of it was vandalized, and quantities of building stone and timbers were carried off by settlers for use on their own homes and farms (Goddard 1923). In 1853, most of the military reserve around the fort was sold at auction to Caroline Newington. The fort itself was not sold until 1855, when it, too, was purchased by Newington. That same year, she had the property surveyed and platted as part of the town of Fort Atkinson (Goddard 1923; Sparks 1877).

Local residents became concerned about the condition of the fort in the 1920s, rallying governmental officials to preserve a property that serves not only as a reminder of Iowa's formative history, but also the history of the Indian removal frontier. Lobbying was successful, with the State of Iowa acquiring the main portion of the fort, stabilizing the three remaining buildings, and supporting the reconstruction of a fourth building. Fort Atkinson became one of the earliest examples of Iowa's Conservation Movement as it relates to the preservation of important historic structures in a park setting.

Today, Fort Atkinson is located within the corporate limits of the City of Fort Atkinson, Winneshiek County, Iowa. It is within the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 8, T96N-R9W (Figure 3). The area presently owned by the State of Iowa encompasses 7.08 acres. The fort functions as a park, managed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and it is designated an Iowa State Preserve. The northern barracks building houses a museum. A buckskinner's rendezvous and associated "children's school day" have been held at the fort annually since 1977; now, the event attracts over 1,000 visitors each September.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The landscape position of Fort Atkinson, within Iowa's Paleozoic Plateau, is very scenic, set against a highly dissected backdrop that includes such features as resistant, bluff-forming bedrock outcrops, springs, and the Rogers Creek valley (Prior 1991:87-97). Glacial deposits and loess are thin or absent over most of the region. The topography of the area is highly dissected by Mississippi River tributaries that became deeply entrenched during the Wisconsinan (the last glacial period). Summits and stream terraces are generally level or rolling, and hillslopes are often steep and rocky. In the western portion of the region, approaching the Silurian Escarpment, the topography becomes less angular as the influence of bedrock decreases and the thickness of loess and drift deposits increases (Prior 1991:87-97).

The predominant mapped soil type at Fort Atkinson is Winneshiek loam, 2-5 percent slope. Winneshiek series soils formed in 50 to 100 cm of glacial drift over limestone bedrock. Native vegetation was mixed tall grass prairie and trees. The Winneshiek series is classified as fine-loamy, mixed, superactive, mesic Mollic Hapludalfs (Soil Survey Staff 2012). Steep portions of Fort Atkinson, to the south of the fort buildings, are mapped as steep rock land or Winneshiek loam, 14-18 percent slopes. The adjacent limestone quarry is mapped as steep rock land. The far southeast corner of the Fort Atkinson Historic District, a terrace lying below the bluff, is mapped as Waukegan silt loam, deep, 0-2 percent slope.

LIKELY APPEARANCE OF PROPERTY DURING THE PERIODS OF OCCUPATION OR USE

Lt. A.N. Reynolds (1842) drew a detailed plan view and sketch of the fort shortly after its completion in September, 1842. Archaeological investigations confirm the accuracy of both his plan and sketch (Figures 4-5). He depicts the fort during active use, high on the blufftop. Trees are generally absent from the general fort vicinity, though they may be seen in the distance to the north of the fort. Military personnel would have enjoyed an unobstructed view of the surrounding terrain, including a Turkey River tributary, Rogers Creek, to the south of the fort and the homes of a few civilian employees nearer the river. The fort was the hub of three approaching trails--one from Fort Crawford in the northeast, one from the Turkey River Subagency in the south, and the other leading to a Ho-Chunk village northwest of the fort. Approaching travelers would have been readily visible from at least a half-mile distance. The fort limestone quarry was immediately adjacent and southwest of the fort, forming a steep embankment that further protected Fort Atkinson.

Log pickets enclosed the heart of Fort Atkinson, protecting the officer's quarters, barracks, blockhouses, powder magazine, commissary, sutler's store, guardhouse, and privies. The parade grounds and flagpole lay at the center of the fort. Less important buildings lay outside the stockade, to the north, and included stables, a granary, bakehouse, blacksmith and carpenter's shops, laundresses' huts, root house, and ice house. A large garden lay just outside the fort wall also.

After the fort was sold to a private party in 1853, many of the logs, milled wood, and massive limestone blocks that made up the building's superstructures, foundations, and pickets were slowly but surely scavenged as the town of Fort Atkinson grew up around the former stronghold. Some buildings were used as livestock barns, others for machinery storage. Two houses were constructed within throwing distance of the central

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

Section number 7 Page 5

flagpole. In the 1920s, local residents, alarmed by the state of Fort Atkinson, successfully lobbied the State of Iowa to acquire the main portion of the fort. The remaining three buildings were stabilized, and a fourth building, which lay in ruins, was reconstructed. The area began its use as a park; today, this state-owned portion of the fort is an Iowa State Preserve.

BUILDINGS, SITES, STRUCTURES, AND OBJECTS

The Multiple Property Documentation (MPD) form, *Historic Properties of the Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) Removal to the Neutral Ground* (Peterson and Stanley 2012:23–40) provides details on the standing structures, buildings, and ruins that comprise Fort Atkinson. Only summary information is given in this nomination.

Carr (1998) provides the most detailed modern description of the standing buildings and structures at Fort Atkinson. With the exception of the log palisade, which was reconstructed in 2007, Carr's descriptions remain unchanged a decade later. As an overall assessment, Carr (1998) described the buildings:

The architecture of the [three remaining] fort-period buildings must be considered “vernacular,” which can be described as common, ordinary buildings fashioned for functional purposes. The term “vernacular” is not so much a definition of a particular style, rather it describes the method by which a building is erected. Each of the three are of heavy masonry construction, made of limestone from a nearby quarry. The only stylistic inferences one might make is with regard to the North Barracks, which might have some Early English Colonial leanings. Typically, this style is characterized by steeply pitched gable roofs, tall, massive chimneys (which the building is thought to have had originally), second-story overhangs, and narrow plans, often only one room deep. Vogel (1993) has identified the architecture of Fort Atkinson as having been built in the style of Greek Revival, possibly due to the presence of a cornice with abbreviated cornice returns on the Powder Magazine. This feature does identify the architecture of the Powder Magazine as having been influenced by Greek Revival. However, the remaining buildings cannot be considered thus. The blockhouses, one of which is a reconstruction, and the powder magazine are box-like structures, with one entrance each, and with either gabled (blockhouses) or hip (powder magazine) roofs. Basically, the architecture of Fort Atkinson is simple and functional.

In addition to the three fort-era buildings and one fort building that was reconstructed, there are several other contributing and non-contributing resources within the nominated area. Figure 6 depicts the locations of all the discussed contributing and non-contributing buildings, sites, structures and objects within the nominated portion of Fort Atkinson. Figure 7 depicts all the known archaeological features associated with Fort Atkinson. Figure 8 is an aerial view of the fort.

Fort Atkinson is nominated to the National Register in association with two MPDs, with two very different Periods of Significance: 1840–1853 and 1921–1942. All contributing buildings, sites, structures, and objects nominated in association with the “Fort Atkinson, 1840–1853” context under the MPD *Historic Properties of the Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) Removal to the Neutral Ground* (Peterson and Stanley 2012) are also considered contributing under the the context “Parks, 1890–1942” within the MPD *The Conservation Movement in Iowa, 1857–1942* (Conard 1991). These contributing resources have a dual nature because all fort-era resources are also of importance to Iowa's Conservation Movement at Fort Atkinson after the

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa**

Section number 7 Page 6

land was purchased in the 1920s by the Iowa Board of Conservation (the precursor to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources) and it became a public park. However, several resources, including one building (the Northeast Blockhouse) are contributing to the 1921–1942 context Period of Significance, but not to the 1840–1853 context Period of Significance, because these resources were either reconstructed or newly built between the 1920s and 1940s; these later elements relate to the Conservation Movement, but not to the Ho-Chunk Removal to the Neutral Ground.

Contributing buildings include:

1. Powder Magazine.
2. Southwest Blockhouse.
3. Extant portion of the North (Enlisted Men's) Barracks (approximately one-half of the original building remains standing).
4. Northeast Blockhouse reconstruction (contributing to 1921–1942 Period of Significance within the "Parks, 1890–1942" context ; non-contributing to the 1840–1853 Period of Significance within the "Fort Atkinson, 1840–1853" context)

Contributing sites are:

1. 13WH57, Fort Atkinson
2. Limestone quarry

Contributing structures are:

1. Well/cistern.
2. Shelter atop the well/cistern.
3. Stone wall.

Contributing object is:

1. Water Pump.

Non-contributing resources include:

1. Garage (building)
2. Stockade reconstruction (structure).
3. Entrance gate (structure).
4. Flagpole (object).

Note that all the above-mentioned contributing and non-contributing buildings, structures, and objects are within the nominated (state-owned) portion of Fort Atkinson.

Contributing Buildings

There are three buildings contributing to the "Fort Atkinson, 1840–1853" context, all three were built between 1840 and 1842: the Powder Magazine, the Southwest Blockhouse, and the North Barracks. A fourth building, the Northeast Blockhouse, contributes to the "Parks, 1890–1942" context.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshek County, Iowa

Contributing Building #1, the Powder Magazine (Figures 6 and 9 to 11), is situated just inside the stockade. This limestone-walled building measures 16 feet north-south by 20 feet east-west. Carr (1998) noted the presence of small vent holes in the "solid, rough-cut limestone walls." Originally covered in split pine shingles, the building now has cedar shingles. The west-facing door is mounted on strap hinges. The interior walls and barrel-ceiling are lined in plastered soft-mud brick. The floor is constructed of closely laid limestone cobbles. There is some interior graffiti etched or carved into the brick, some dating as early as the 1930s.

Contributing Building #2, the Southwest Blockhouse (Figures 6 and 12 to 16), is situated in the southwest corner of the parade grounds. The building is square, measuring 30-feet 2-inches on each side. The building is constructed of rough-cut limestone and the floor is constructed of closely laid limestone cobbles. The building has embrasures, rifle ports, and a pyramidal hipped roof. The door, on the east side of the building, opens onto the parade grounds. A shed addition and hay mow, shown on Figure 12, are not fort-era and have been removed. The shed addition is briefly discussed as Feature n4, Foundation, in the section "Features that are not fort-era."

Carr (1998) commented on the condition of contributing buildings #1 and #2:

Because both [the Southwest Blockhouse and the Powder Magazine] share almost identical states of repair they will be discussed together. In both cases there is substantial evidence for water damage along the base of each building. As in the case of the North Barracks, a gutter system should be installed to collect and direct water away from the structures. The base of the buildings should be cleaned of mold and the damaged limestone should be repaired, again following the Secretary of Interior's standards. A second, and alarming, problem is the condition of the buildings' doors. In each case, the doors are improperly sized and do not shut completely. The survey which this report highlights was conducted in March when snow was still on the ground. On inspection of the southwest Blockhouse one could see a rather sizable drift of snow extending in through the large gap between the doors. High priority should be placed on resizing and refitting the doors so to properly seal the interior spaces during inclement weather.

Contributing Building #3, the North Barracks (Figures 6 and 17 to 23), is partially preserved and houses a museum, known locally as the State Museum, to distinguish it from the Fort Atkinson City Museum. As the historical photographs in Figures 17 and 18 show, approximately twice as much building was standing around 1900 as compared to 2008. The original footprint measured 170-feet east-west by 24 feet north-south. Today, only 85-feet east-west is still standing, with the rest of the building in evidence as exposed, two-foot-thick foundation ruins. The two-story building of rough hewn limestone measures 20-feet from the ground to the roof eaves.

The north wall of the North Barracks is flush with the rest of the stockade, actually forming the north wall of said palisade. Carr (1998) describes this building:

The first floor was divided into at least four rooms, a mess room, lounge rooms, and the hospital in the far eastern portion. Interior stairways were present at each end of the barracks and led to the squad rooms where soldiers slept on double bunks (one above the other). Ceilings were lathed and plastered. Interior walls were plastered with a deep orange colored plaster. A low attic existed which could be reached through openings in the ceilings of the second floor. Four chimneys served the first and second floor fireplaces.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshie County, Iowa

Section number 7 Page 8

First and second story porches extended the entire length of the building and measured eight feet wide. Four outside stairways, at least one of which contained 16 treads, lead to the second story porch. The barracks's gabled roof projected out over the second story porch, the ceiling of which was plastered. Door and window placement can be ascertained for about half of the structure by referring to a historic photo of the building (Nichols 1965:596). At least two doors opened to the second story porch. At ground level, doors opened to both the south side of the barracks and the north side, which would have led to outside the stockade.

Based on the recommendations of Iowa historian Merrill Mattes (1956), stabilizing renovations took place at this building between 1958 and 1962 in preparation for using the space as a museum. The unstable chimneys were removed, and the nearly collapsed southeast corner of the building was reconstructed. The completely open west end of the building was replaced with cinder (concrete) blocks. The rotting rafters had been replaced sometime between 1912 and 1933.

Carr (1998) commented on the general state of the North Barracks during a site visit in 1997:

From a visual inspection, it is apparent that the roof is in need of some repair. From the ground one can see wooden shingles which have come off. Because water is probably the most serious threat to the preservation of a building and its contents, first priority should be given to the professional inspection and repair (as needed) of the roofs of all preserve buildings. A second concern is the state of the exterior east wall of the North Barracks. Originally, the surface was an interior plastered wall with fireplaces centrally located on both first and second floors. Today, this surface is exposed to inclement weather, vandals, and pigeons, who have taken up residence in holes in the wall. This wall is an important example of a fort-period interior and should be preserved. It is recommended that some sort of enclosure should be constructed to protect the surface. Ideally, the enclosure would be as unobtrusive as possible and would allow visitors to still be able to view the wall's features. Possibly a layer of Plexiglas could be used to cover the surface, preventing further deterioration and graffiti.

The south side of the North Barracks has a few problems as well. First, where five beams once existed to support the second story porch are now three remnants of beams and two holes from which limestone is falling out. It is suggested that these holes be rebuilt to their original dimensions and pieces of wood reminiscent of the ones still remaining be set into the holes, sealing the space from moisture penetration. The remaining remnants might benefit from some sort of wood restorer or sealer to prevent further rotting. However, a professional, such as a historical architect or one familiar with historic materials preservation, should be consulted before any original materials are treated. The area around the second story far right window also requires attention. Of all of the shuttered windows, this window's sill has begun to rot and should be repaired or replaced. The decision to replace the rotting sill should be contingent on whether the wood is original to the fort. Should further historical or archaeological investigation indicate the sill is original, every effort should be made to preserve and repair the feature. Also, noteworthy are the cracks in the stone lintel above the window and cracks traveling down from the lower right-hand corner of the sill. Most probably attributable to building settling, such cracks are probably not of great concern unless they continue to grow in the future. If the cracks continue to grow, this would indicate possible structural problems, requiring the contracting of a structural engineer to inspect the state of the building's structural systems [...] If moisture does concentrate in the areas of the cracks, appropriate measures should be taken to patch them. Again, a professional and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and preservation briefs should be consulted. Finally, discoloration probably due to moisture is apparent around the base of the North Barracks. To prevent further moisture damage it is strongly recommended that a gutter system be installed to the roof of the building so to direct water away from the building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

Section number 7 Page 9

Contributing Building #4, the Northeast Blockhouse (Figures 6 and 24), was originally constructed between 1840 and 1842. The building standing today is a 1920s reconstruction built on the original foundation. At the time of reconstruction, the building was in near complete ruins. The reconstruction is remarkably consistent with the original building methods exhibited in its sister building, the Southwest Blockhouse (Contributing Building #2). Both have a pyramidal, hipped roof. The Northeast Blockhouse measures 30-x-30-feet, as compared to the Southwest building's measurements of 30-feet 2-inches per side. Like all the buildings on-site, this one originally had split pine shingles, but now has cedar shingles. Embarasures are centrally located on all four sides to accommodate cannons. Four tall, narrow rifle ports are located on all but the east side. Today, the east side has two rifle ports and an entrance door.

This building is a reconstruction, and therefore dates outside the 1840–1853 Period of Significance. However, Conard (1991) recommended this building NRHP-eligible in her National Park Service-approved MPD *The Conservation Movement in Iowa, 1857–1942*, specifically, within the context “Parks, 1890–1942.”

Contributing Sites

There are two sites which contribute to both periods of significance.

13WH57, Fort Atkinson (Figures 3 and 6), is the archaeological site that encompasses all of the contributing and non-contributing buildings, structures, and the limestone quarry, discussed below.

The Limestone Quarry (Figures 6 and 25), measures 220 feet northwest-southeast by 85 feet southwest-northeast, immediately north of County Highway W14 (a.k.a., Main Street). This quarry exposes the type section of the Fort Atkinson Limestone Member of the Maquoketa Shale. This regional variation of the shale was identified and named by prominent Iowa geologist Samuel Calvin in 1906 (Koch 1968:1–2).

All of the limestone for the fort buildings was quarried from this location. Today, a chain-link fence is located immediately northeast of the quarry. The fence prevents visitors to the fort from falling into the quarry. Although early City of Fort Atkinson inhabitants probably also used this quarry to obtain building materials, the extent of post-fort use is not known.

Contributing Structures

There are three contributing structures. The well/cistern contributes to both periods of significance (1840–1853 and 1921–1942). The other structures, a shelter atop the well/cistern and a stone wall, contribute to the latter period of significance only.

Contributing Structure #1, Well / Cistern (Figures 6 and 26), is surrounded by Contributing Structure #2 (Wooden Shelter atop the Well / Cistern). Engineers attempted to drill a well at this location in 1840 or 1841. After excavating a reported 70 or 80 feet into the limestone bedrock, they gave up. The structure was thereafter used as a cistern. Today, a cast iron grate protects the unfilled well / cistern structure.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

Section number 7 Page 10

Contributing Structure #2, a Shelter atop the Well / Cistern (Figures 6 and 27), was previously discussed under Contributing Structure #1, the Well/Cistern. The shelter is a small rectangular, wood-planked box that surrounds the well, topped by a cedar shingled, gabled roof structure. There is no evidence for or against such a structure during the fort-era (1840–1853), however, some means of conveying water up from the 70-to-80 foot deep recess would have been needed. Historic photographs dating back to the early 1940s depict this structure.

Contributing Structure #3, a Stone Wall (Figures 6, 20, 21, and 28), extends along the line of the former palisade, from the east end of the North Barracks (Contributing Building #3) to the Entrance Gate (Non-Contributing Structure #2), for a length of 80 feet, and from the west end of the building, 20 feet. This wall has been reconstructed along the north wall of the absent portion of the North Barracks. Unlike the regular limestone courses of the wall construction at the extant barracks, the stone wall courses are random laid. The date of wall construction is not known with certainty, but the reconstruction is certainly related to use of the area as a park.

Contributing Object

The water pump contributes to the Parks, 1890–1942, context.

Contributing Object #1, Water Pump (Figures 6 and 24), was placed to the north and east of the Entrance Gate (Non-Contributing Structure #2) sometime after 1930. This pump is used by Iowa DNR personnel and Rendezvous participants. The hand pump can be seen in Figure 18.

Non-Contributing Resources

There are one non-contributing building, two non-contributing structures, and one non-contributing object within the nominated portion of Fort Atkinson. These include a garage, the stockade reconstruction, the entrance gate, and a modern flagpole.

Non-Contributing Building #1, a Garage (Figures 6 and 29), was constructed in 1980 near the northwest corner of the state-owned portion of Site 13WH57. The Iowa DNR uses this garage for equipment storage. The garage measures 32 feet east-west by 18 feet north-south.

Non-Contributing Structure #1, Stockade Reconstruction, and #2, the Entrance Gate (Figures 6 and 30 to 31), will be discussed together. The stockade was reconstructed between 1958 and 1962. This rotting structure was replaced in 2007. The main gate through the stockade, and thus into the parade grounds, is located east of the North Barracks, on the north side of the enclosure. The gate is constructed of heavy planks and spans a width of 22 feet. A small “single-man” door is inset into the main gate. Originally, a second, narrow gate, as tall as the original 11-foot 9-inch stockade, was also located west of the North Barracks. A third gate was originally present along the west wall of the South Barracks. Today, the South Barracks is in evidence as an archaeological feature. Carr (1998) notes that the original gate doors were hung on iron pegs or bolts, and “attached to the Stockade wall was a sentry beat or platform which ran west 40 feet from the southeast

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 11

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshek County, Iowa

corner of the Stockade between the Powder Magazine and the south wall of the Stockade." A limestone cobble entrance patio straddles the interior and exterior of the reconstructed Entrance Gate. This cobbled pad measures 40 feet north-south by 24 feet east-west. This entrance pad is not fort-era. Photographic evidence suggests it was built after 1942.

Non-Contributing Object #1, a Modern Flagpole (Figures 6 and 27), is situated about 4 m south of the fort-era flagpole location. Reque (1944) archaeologically identified the base of the original flagpole. There is presently no evidence this replacement flagpole was erected before 1942 (Fordahl 1933; Whittaker 2007).

COMPONENTS OF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE 13WH57

Previous archaeological work at 13WH57 was fully discussed in the MPD *Historic Properties of the Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) Removal to the Neutral Ground* (Peterson and Stanley 2012:34–37). The location of previous archaeological investigations are shown on Figure 32. There are numerous identified subsurface features within archaeological Site 13WH57 (Figure 7). Measurements and descriptions of the buildings once associated with these foundation remnants are given in the MPD. The MPD lacks photographs of exposed features, so these are provided in this nomination form. In addition to the subsurface features identified at the fort (Figure 7), Whittaker (2006a-c) identified numerous potential futures during non-invasive Ground-Penetrating Radar (GPR) surveys. He subsequently excavated test units at several of these features. GPR-identified potential features that have not been field verified or which do not have corroborative map or photographic data are omitted from the following discussion. A map of Whittaker's GPR data is included in the aforementioned MPD as Figure 14.

Identified fort-era (1840–1853) features within the nominated area include the archaeological remains of the:

1. Commissary (excavated or foundations exposed by Reque ca. 1941; see Reque 1944)
2. Sutler's Store (Reque 1944)
3. Guard House (Reque 1944)
4. East Barracks (Reque 1944)
5. West Barracks (Reque 1944)
6. South Barracks (Reque 1944)
7. Original Flagpole (Reque 1944)
8. At least seven privies (McKusick 1966)
9. Two other privies (Whittaker 2007)
10. Builder's trench at the Northeast Blockhouse (Whittaker 2007)
11. Unknown function foundation (Whittaker 2007)
12. Original stockade wall trench (Whittaker 2007)

In addition to the features listed above and shown on Figure 7, Whittaker (2007) identified several other features that may relate to the 1840–1853 period. The "p" on the list below stands for "possible" fort era. These features include

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

Section number 7 Page 12

- p1. Root cellar
- p2. Depressions thought to represent privies
- p3. Limestone rubble areas

With a few exceptions, all features within the nominated portion of the site date to the Period of Significance, 1840–1853. The “n” on the list below stands for “not” fort era. Known features that do not date to either Period of Significance include:

- n1. Behrens’ house (Whittaker 2006a-d, 2007)
- n2. James’ house (Whittaker 2006a-d, 2007)
- n3. Stockade reconstruction trench from the 1950s (Whittaker 2007)
- n4. Foundation (Whittaker 2007)
- n5. Numerous 1970s and 1980s Rendezvous fire pits (Stanley 1999; Whittaker 2007).
- n6. Dump (Whittaker 2007)
- n7. Another limestone rubble area (Whittaker 2007)

Carr (1998) provided a general commentary on exposed limestone building foundations at the site:

With regard to the foundations of now demolished buildings, in some instances it will be necessary to rebuild walls which are collapsing into the shallow basements. One might argue that the foundations represent ruins and, thus require no maintenance. However, an effort must be made to preserve the foundations intact so they may accurately represent the spatial patterning and layout of fort-period buildings. It is apparent that some of the foundation walls have begun to collapse inward and require reconstruction and future monitoring.

Today (2012) nearly all of these foundation basements have been filled in with sterile, off-site soil, thus stabilizing the foundations.

Fort-era (1840-1853) Archaeological Features

1. Commissary (excavated or foundations exposed by Reque ca. 1941; see Reque 1944; Figures 7 and 33) measured 60 feet east-west by 26 feet north south. Originally, the Commissary was set up in the South Barracks. Construction of a separate Commissary began in 1841 or 1842; the one-story-tall, log walls were reportedly two-thirds constructed in July, 1842, and presumably finished shortly thereafter (Reque 1944). Reque found the entrance door was in the center of the south wall. The building was at the northwest corner of the palisade; the west and north walls of the building formed a part of the stockade.

The field notes of Reque are very few and vague. He barely discusses his excavations in an unpublished manuscript about the fort (Reque 1944). Contemporaneous photographs may provide the best information about all of his excavations. Photos indicate that he had one primary objective: to expose foundations, so that visitors might have a sense of the scale and arrangement of Fort Atkinson. At some foundations, he excavated to bedrock, thus removing all artifacts interior to the foundations. At other foundations, he exposed the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 13

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshek County, Iowa

foundations by shovel-skimming, essentially leaving fort-era deposits intact. At the Commissary, excavation photos have not yet been identified, so it is impossible to know the level of disturbance by Reque. A narrow archaeological trench excavation through the feature would resolve this question. Today, the foundations are discernable as a rectangular alignment of limestone; the interior of the building is at ground level.

2. Sutler's Store (Reque 1944; Figures 7 and 34) was a one-story wood-framed building, constructed between 1840 and 1842. Henry M. Rice, future Minnesota senator, served as the fort sutler. The building measured 36-feet east-west by 22 feet north-south. The western third of the building had a 3.5-foot-deep basement. Like the Commissary, no known photographs of Reque's excavations have been located. Reque did not fully excavate the eastern portion of the feature (Carr 1998). Presumably, significant archaeological deposits remain in the eastern two-thirds of the foundation. Figure 34 depicts the present condition of this foundation.

3. Guard House (Reque 1944; Figures 7 and 35) was a one or two storied, wood-framed building, probably built in 1840, and definitely present by 1842. The building measured 16-feet east-west by 24 feet north-south. No basement was known to have been present. The building was separated into two rooms, one 4-x-24-feet, presumably used to house prisoners, and the other 12-x-24-feet. The north wall of the building formed a portion of the stockade. Reque did not fully excavate the feature (Carr 1998). No photos contemporaneous to his excavations have yet been identified. Like the Sutler's Store, significant archaeological deposits associated with this feature likely still exist.

4. East (Officer's) Barracks (Reque 1944; Figures 7 and 36 to 37) was two-storied, built of limestone between 1841 and 1842. The commanding officer lived in the northernmost room. Commissioned officers and any accompanying family members lived in the rest of the building. Carr (1998) continues with the description:

The plan is a 128 feet north to south, by 22 feet east to west rectangle with three rectangular kitchens and one 3 feet deep basement attached to the east wall. The kitchens were built of logs, lathed, and plastered. The barracks were divided into six rooms of similar size, three of which were on each floor. The interior contained three-inch-thick pine floors, fireplaces, lathed and plastered walls, three stairways, closets measuring 4 feet by 4 feet or 4 feet by 3 feet, and a low attic on the second floor. Four of the rooms contained two fireplaces each, which were made of brick with wooden mantles. The east wall had at least two doors opening to the east, where the officer's gardens were, but it did not have any windows. First and second story porches stretched the entire length of the west side of the building, with three stairways leading to the upper porch which had a plastered ceiling. The first floor porches were set on stone or brick foundation. The porches had one foot in diameter wooden pillars spaced 10 feet apart. Lattice blinds were eventually added to the porches in 1844.

This building reportedly burned to the ground in 1865 (Reque 1944). Figure 36 provides one example of Reque's variable level of archaeological excavation. Clearly, he excavated an estimated 3 feet down in the central portion of the building, where he noted a cellar was present. Elsewhere, excavations exposed the foundations, but did not go beyond a few inches below ground surface. Presumably, the central portion of the East Barracks has no intact deposits, due to Reque's excavations. Elsewhere, some intact deposits probably still exist.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 14

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

Reque was generally not interested in excavating far from the exterior edge of the buildings, except to expose limestone pier supports for porches at the barracks. His manuscript notes there was a "cooling cellar" with dimensions of 10-x-12-feet situated east of the middle portion of the barracks. Contemporaneous photos do not show archaeological excavations there.

5. West (Noncommissioned Officer's) Barracks (Reque 1944; Figures 7 and 38) were two-storied tall, built of notched logs, hewn flat, constructed during 1840 and 1841. Noncommissioned officers and their families lived within. Carr (1998) stated that this building measured:

122 feet north to south and 18 feet east to west, the building was divided into six sets of rooms. Each set was comprised of two rooms divided by fireplaces, providing 12 rooms total. The interior floors were made of pine. Each room had floor space measuring approximately 255 square feet, excluding space taken by stairways and chimneys, of which there are three. Interior walls were weather stripped, lathed, and plastered. Outside, the walls were chinked. The southern most first floor room served as a barbershop during the fort's military occupation. Two stone pillars which supported first and second story porches still exist. The porches ran the length of the east side of the structure, were eight feet wide, and had railings. Three outside staircases lead to the second story porch. The gabled roof extended over the upper porch. Two or more doors were present on the west side of the building, leading to the officers gardens and yards. Basements measuring approximately three feet deep are located in the northern end of the structure as well as in a room in the mid section of the building. Second story, west wall window placement (fenestration) can be ascertained from Reynolds' fort-period drawing. The drawing depicts ten windows arranged in pairs just below the roof line and three evenly spaced chimneys, which correspond actual chimney foundations.

Again, Reque's (1944) manuscript says little about his excavations. Historic photos, such as in Figure 38, suggests he exposed foundations, but excavated between six and 15 inches below ground surface. There is potential for intact archaeological deposits within this feature.

6. South (Enlisted Men's) Barracks (Reque 1944; Figures 7 and 39) was similar in construction to the West Barracks. Built in 1840 and 1841, it was two-stories tall, of notched logs, hewn flat. Enlisted men lived in the North and South Barracks. The South Barracks were slightly larger, at 177-feet east-west by 22 feet north-south. In addition to housing, the South Barracks contained a combination chapel and schoolroom at its west end.

[There were] second story porches located on the north side. The gabled roof extended over the second story porch which was accessible via outside stairways. The walls were weather boarded, lathed, and plastered. According to a fort-period sketch (Reynolds 1842), two ground-level doors were located on the west end of the building, on the south wall, with two small openings to the east of each. Nine second story windows were also located along the length this wall. Finally, three small first-story windows were present on the south wall toward the east end of the building. Drawn in the 1842 sketch were four chimneys which correspond to the outlines of four fireplaces. Foundations indicate that the first story was divided into five main rooms, three of which contain basements that measure from two to three feet deep [Carr 1998].

Photographs indicate Reque fully excavated the interior cellars. Elsewhere at the South Barracks, he excavated to expose foundation edges. Intact archaeological deposits may remain.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

Section number 7 Page 15

7. Original Flagpole (Reque 1944; Figure 7) was exposed by Reque as a the base of a wooden pole. Originally, the flagpole stood 30-feet-tall. It is unclear if Reque left the flagpole intact or if he removed it.

8. At least seven privies (McKusick 1966; Figures 7 and 40) were exposed by McKusick (1966). His notes indicate that he fully excavated six privies, and partially excavated a seventh. Two of the privy locations are not known with certainty. The locations of the five known, excavated privies were on the plan of the fort drawn by Reynolds (1842). Reynolds' map depicts only the Officer's privies, situated to the west (rear) of the West Barracks and to the east (rear) of the East Barracks. Carr (1998) speculated that some of the Enlisted Men's privies may have been outside the stockade. McKusick's excavations revealed these features were lined with unmortared limestone, with the privy floors chiseled an average of 6 to 12 inches into the bedrock. Otherwise, exact privy dimensions cannot be calculated from the 1966 field notes, except to say that each privy was roughly square in plan view, and was between four and six feet per side. McKusick found near pristine deposits of fort-era materials in these privies (fully described in Carr 1998). McKusick backfilled the features and capped them with concrete. Therefore, the interiors of these privies have been severely impacted by the removal of their original contents, and the concrete cap. As shown on Figure 40, McKusick's excavations were confined to the privy interiors; artifacts within any builder's trenches exterior to the features should still be preserved.

9. Two other privies (Figures 7 and 41) were identified during limited archaeological trench excavations in 2006. Only the edges and tops of these features were exposed. Whittaker (2007) encountered the tops of the features at between 8 and 11 cm below ground surface. These mortared, rough-faced limestone-lined vaults are situated to the rear (west) of the westernmost officer's privies identified by McKusick (1966). The foundation walls were between 25 and 32 cm thick. Builder's trenches were not in evidence. The latrines identified by Whittaker may represent privies for enlisted men. Since Whittaker's excavations were small, and did not include the interior of the privy vault, these features likely possess a high degree of integrity.

10. Builder's trench (Figures 7 and 42) relating to the original (1840) construction of the Northeast Blockhouse (Contributing Building #4) was identified during limited trench excavations in 2006. Whittaker (2007) found the narrow builder's trench extended 27 cm distant from the west wall of the blockhouse and was 25 cm deep. Although few artifacts were found in this small portion of the builder's trench, other areas surrounding the building may contain greater quantities of fort-era artifacts. Additionally, Whittaker's work was important in noting that, although above-ground disturbance occurred at this building during its 1920s reconstruction, subsurface damage was modest.

11. Unknown function foundation (Figures 7 and 43) was identified immediately north of the North Barracks (Contributing Building #3), exterior to the stockade. Whittaker's (2007:15) test unit contained two features related to this foundation:

Feature 5 is a layer of close-fitting flat limestone, apparently lacking mortar, that was found 22 cm below surface at the south end of the test unit. This limestone bed is at least 75 cm north-south, but extends farther south towards the museum [North Barracks]. This layer of stone is at least one course deep. Feature 6 is a dense layer of loose limestone rock 30 cm below surface immediately north of the Feature 5 limestone.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

Section number 7 Page 16

With the exception of one modern nail, all materials from Feature 6 were fort-era. Both personal items and architectural materials were recovered here. Building function is not presently known. A ground-penetrating radar survey suggests this feature is a rectangular foundation measuring about 50 feet east-west by 16 feet north-south covered by rubble that extends about 60 feet east-west by 23 feet north-south (Whittaker 2006a).

12. Original stockade wall trench (Figure 44) was identified at several locations. Whittaker's (2007) investigations reveal that, although the 1950s stockade reconstruction occurred along nearly the same path as the original stockade, isolated areas contained preserved remnants of the original stockade trench. In the 1850s, Fort Atkinson area settlers salvaged the stockade for building materials and firewood. Whittaker found no traces of *in situ* 1840s stockade posts, but he could distinguish via artifact deposits and soil stratigraphy evidence of the original builder's or wall trench. Although much of this feature has been destroyed by the 2007 construction of a new log palisade, some traces of this feature may still remain.

Possible Fort-era (1840-1853) Archaeological Features

In addition to the archaeological features discussed above, Whittaker (2007) identified three other features that may relate to the fort-era Period of Significance. The "p" designation signifies "possible" fort era.

p1. Root cellar (Figures 7 and 45) is just south of the stockade and nearly adjacent to the south wall of the South Barracks (Whittaker 2007). The cellar walls were constructed of mortared, rough-cut limestone. There was no evidence of interior plaster. Depth of the feature is not known. Excavations at this single test unit terminated at 50 cm below surface. Probing indicated the feature extended to greater depth. The vast majority of this feature remains undisturbed. The feature measures at least 8.5-foot-long north-south. Whittaker's findings suggest the cellar was infilled during the fort occupation or immediately afterward. Fort-era artifacts were aplenty, and artifact count was 522 from this 2-x-0.5-m unit.

p2. Depressions thought to represent privies (Figure 7) were identified at two locations by Whittaker (2007). These depressions were previously unmapped. Due to the similarity in size to privies excavated by McKusick (1966), and the presence of the depressions in the same linear transect as those identified by McKusick, but further south, these features likely represent unstudied privies. Whatever their function, it seems that no archaeological investigations have taken place at these two locations.

p3. Limestone rubble areas (Figure 7) contained high quantities of fort-era materials amidst dense limestone rubble (Whittaker 2007). These three areas were not fully explored and function remains elusive. GPR survey (Whittaker 2006a) indicated unusual disturbances at the westernmost of the rubble areas, consistent with findings of a hard or paved surface. The rubble area immediately north of the Powder Magazine (Contributing Building #1) may be related to a post-fort corn crib, but function could not be definitively ascertained. All of these features remain mostly intact, as Whittaker's excavations were only 50-cm-wide through these features.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

Section number 7 Page 17

Non-Fort-era Archeological Features

With a few exceptions, all features within the nominated portion of the site date to the Period of Significance, 1840-1853. Known features that do not date to the fort-era are briefly discussed below. The "n" on the list below stands for "not" fort era.

n1. Behrens' house and the (n2.) James' house were both constructed on the fort grounds in the late nineteenth century and are both named after their residents (Whittaker 2006a-d, 2007; Figures 7 and 46). Both buildings were demolished between 1957 and 1964. Anonymous (ca. 1900) described the Behrens' residence as the "quartermaster's house," but it is more likely that the building is post-fort, given its location on the line of the stockade (Whittaker 2007:14). The building was made of limestone, probably salvaged from the fort. Whittaker recommended additional work to ascertain the exact relationship of this building to the fort-era. Whittaker (2006a-b) identified the remains of the wood-framed James' house during his ground-penetrating radar survey. No other archaeological investigations have occurred there.

n3. Stockade reconstruction trench from the 1950s was in archaeological evidence across much of the edge of the fort enclosure (Whittaker 2007). Historian Merrill Mattes (1956) recommended the stockade reconstruction, so that visitors to the fort could gain a sense of its original layout. Reconstruction began the following year. This reconstruction was rotting, so it was replaced in 2007. Prior to the most recent stockade reconstruction, the 1950s posts were pulled out. With the installation of its replacement, all or most of the 1950s stockade post holes were destroyed. Numerous photographs of the 1950s reconstruction exist (Whittaker 2006d). A few examples can be seen in Figures 1, 8, 10, 13, and 34.

n4. Foundation (Figure 7) was identified just north of the Southwest Blockhouse (Contributing Building #2). Photographic (see right-hand side of Figure 6, upper) and artifactual evidence suggest this feature was a shed addition to the north side of the blockhouse (Whittaker 2006d, 2007). The evidence further suggests the shed was constructed in the 1850s, and was removed by about 1900. Exact dimensions and construction methodology are not known. Whittaker recommended additional investigations, to verify feature function and age.

n5. Numerous post-1977 Rendezvous fire pits (Stanley 1999; Whittaker 2007; Figure 7). An annual reenactor's Rendezvous has been held at Fort Atkinson since 1977. Stanley (1999) mapped the surficial evidence of Rendezvous fire pits across the fort site (see very small squares on Figure 28). Typically, these pits were about 0.5 m in diameter. Whittaker (2007) archaeologically excavated one such pit. Since its inception in 1977, Rendezvous participants were allowed to make fire pits at the site, but only outside the log palisade. The exact number of modern fire pits is not known. Archaeological investigations have tentatively identified 28 of these features.

n6. Dump (Figure 7) was identified at the top of the bluff edge to the southeast of the fort stockade. Whittaker's (2006a-c) GPR survey identified this locale as a possible rubble-filled bluff notch or draw, possibly a dump full of loose stone. His subsequent test unit excavation confirmed this hypothesis (Whittaker 2007). Large quantities of building debris, along with lesser amounts of metal and kitchenwares were recovered, and

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa**

Section number 7 Page 18

included a jumble of fort and post-fort era debris, with no discernible stratigraphy. The extent of this feature is not known.

n7. Limestone rubble area (Whittaker 2007; Figure 7) was present west of the stockade near the Powder Magazine (Contributing Building #1; Whittaker 2007). This post-fort era feature may be an addition to the Powder Magazine, related to use of the building as a chicken house around 1919 (Clum 1919). Dimensions are not known.

CURRENT AND PAST IMPACTS

Subsurface disturbances have included the construction of two houses (the Behrens' and James' houses; Figures 7 and 46) in the late nineteenth century. These buildings were removed between 1957 and 1964. Small (0.5-m maximum diameter) firepits have been allowed outside the palisade during the several days of Rendezvous, an annual celebration since 1977. Archaeological excavations have been conducted at the fort (Figures 7 and 32); the two house features and at least 28 Rendezvous firepits have been identified. Despite the buildings, firepits, and archaeological investigations, over three-quarters (75 percent) of the nominated portion of the fort has not been subjected to archaeological subsurface investigation or other known disturbance. Despite use of the fort as a farmyard from about 1860 until the State of Iowa acquired its first portion of the site in 1921, archaeological excavations have revealed a high level of integrity across much of the site.

The nominated portion of Fort Atkinson is protected by the State of Iowa which is committed to its preservation. There are no plans to further develop the site, and the managing entity, the Department of Natural Resources, purposefully avoids impacting it. On occasions when improvements are necessary, such as the 2007 replacement of the rotting timber stockade, the DNR consults with the State Historic Preservation Office as the the best course of action.

INTEGRITY STATEMENT

Fort Atkinson retains a significant degree of historic integrity in terms of location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and design, all of which clearly relate to the period of national significance. Although the 7.08 acre nominated portion of the site is only a fraction of the 21.5 acres that encompass the 13WH57 site boundaries, the nominated, State-owned portion of the site constitutes the most important part of the Fort Atkinson Historic District, including the entire interior stockaded portion of the fort site (Figures 47-49). Integrity details are provided in Section 8, "Criteria Justification."

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 19

**Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa**

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Atkinson is nationally significant as a reflection of the broad patterns of the federal government's Indian removal policies of the 1840s (National Register of Historic Places Criterion A) and for the archaeological and architectural data it has provided and the in ground data it still contains that can illuminate this policy and the daily lives of those who implemented it (Criterion D). Fort Atkinson is also of statewide significance under Criterion A as a premier example of Iowa's Conservation Movement as it relates to preserving important historic buildings and structures within a park setting. Local significance lies in the district's importance to the development of the City of Fort Atkinson.

Situated on a prominent blufftop above a Turkey River tributary (Rogers Creek) in northeast Iowa, Fort Atkinson is the only remaining fort in the state with standing buildings and structures in their original position. It is one of only two forts (along with Minnesota's Fort Ripley) in the United States built to oversee an American Indian-inhabited buffer zone (the Neutral Ground) that separated hostile tribes from each other. Historical and physical integrity is high, with well-preserved buildings, structures, objects and sites. Archaeological investigations, including non-invasive work (ground-penetrating radar), have definitively demonstrated intact subsurface features remain; these features include refuse middens, privies, and building foundations with fort-era fills. The breathtakingly rich and diverse artifact assemblage provides research opportunities into various topics related to 1840s military history and the interaction between the military and the Ho-Chunk people.

Fort Atkinson's areas of significance include Military, due to its use as a fort; Ethnic Heritage/Native American, for its mandate to protect and police the Ho-Chunk people and other inhabitants of the Neutral Ground; Exploration/Settlement, for its leading role in opening this area west of the Mississippi River, initially for Ho-Chunk settlement, and subsequently paving the way for Euro-American settlement; Archeology/Historic, due to its known and potential research value, particularly with regard to the material culture expression of the United States' Indian removal policy of the mid-nineteenth century; and Conservation, as an early example of statewide efforts to acquire and preserve properties chiefly for their historic value.

The 7.08-acre state-owned portion of the fort is nominated in association with the Multiple Property Document (MPD) *Historic Properties of the Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) Removal to the Neutral Ground* (Peterson and Stanley 2012). Fort Atkinson's historic context and prior archaeological investigations are fully detailed in the MPD. This fort, nationally significant as the primary component of the "Fort Atkinson, 1840–1853" historic context, meets the registration requirements as set forth in the MPD. During this period of significance, the fort was owned by the U.S. Government. Significant dates include 1840, when fort construction began, and 1853, when the government sold much of Fort Atkinson to a private party.

In addition to the fort-era contributing resources, one building and several structures at Fort Atkinson were reconstructed between 1921 and 1942. These resources are considered of statewide significance under the MPD *The Conservation Movement in Iowa, 1857–1942* (Conard 1991), specifically, under the context "Parks, 1890–1942" as one of the "Buildings, structures, sites, and features associated with municipal, county, state and national parks and park movements." The year 1921 marks a significant date, when the State of

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 20

**Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa**

Iowa began acquisition of the central portion of the fort, including standing buildings, and began conversion of property into a park.

The property types associated with the identified historic context are archaeological and architectural in nature. Architectural property types associated with Fort Atkinson include the three standing buildings from the 1840s: the southwest blockhouse, the powder magazine, and approximately one-third of the north barracks. In addition, the northeast blockhouse was stabilized and reconstructed in the late 1920s by preservation-minded local citizens. The fort complex minimally included 24 buildings within the stockade and another 14 buildings outside the stockade. All of standing and former building locations within the palisade are included within the nominated portion of the site. Within the stockade were two barracks for the enlisted men (one-third of one is standing), two blockhouses (one standing; the other standing as a reconstruction), a powder magazine (standing), an officers' quarters, a non-commissioned officers' quarters, a commissary storehouse, a sutler's store, and a guardhouse. Officers' latrines and a cistern were also located within the stockade. The cistern remains as a contributing structure, as does the adjacent quarry site which was used to construct all of the fort's limestone building foundations and buildings. The remaining buildings on the interior of the palisade remain as archaeological features. Archaeological evidence of most buildings at the fort takes the form of limestone foundation alignments, pier supports, and chimney remnants, and the 1840s-era fill (soil and artifacts) associated with each building or activity area. At less substantial buildings, post construction may have been utilized, or logs may have been laid directly atop the ground surface, with no foundations laid.

ARCHITECT/BUILDER

The architect of Fort Atkinson is not known. Much of the construction was performed by unknown civilian contractors hired by the Army quartermaster as Fort Crawford. Numerous persons had supervisory roles in the construction, including (from Mahan 1926; Reque 1944; Williams 1980, 1982):

Brigadier General Henry Atkinson:

- gave orders establishing the fort and providing for its initial construction.

Capt. Isaac Lynde:

- first Commanding Officer of Fort Atkinson; initiated construction.

Capt. Edwin V. Sumner:

- artilleryman and West Point-trained civil engineer who acted as superintendent of construction; after construction was completed, he became Commanding Officer of Fort Atkinson in 1841 until his troops were withdrawn in 1846.

First Lt. J.H. Whipple:

- assistant superintendent of construction.

Lt. S.H. McPhail, Lt. J. H. King, Lt. J. N. Caldwell:

- some building construction supervision, 1840-1841.

Augustus A. Blumenthal:

- stonemason; contracted to quarry limestone and build stone barracks; 1840-1841.

Capt. Joseph B. Plummer:

- Acting Quartermaster at Fort Crawford, superintended portions of the Fort Atkinson

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 21

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

construction, 1842.

Lt. Schuyler (or Schyler) Hamilton:

- Capt. Plummer's replacement as Acting Assistant Quartermaster, summer 1842; grandson of Alexander Hamilton (Reque 1944:70).

A. Foster, J.H. Morse, F. McCoy, J. McGarry, William Byron, John Hodge, H. N. Ewing:

- carpenters, spring and summer 1842; all appear to have worked on Fort Atkinson (Reque 1944:74).

A.P. McDonald:

- drilled shaft and well at Fort Atkinson, paid summer 1843.

Brevet 2nd Lt. Rankin Dilworth:

- Hamilton's replacement as acting Assistant Quartermaster, summer 1845.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Fort Atkinson's detailed historic context is found in the MPD *Historic Properties of the Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) Removal to the Neutral Ground* (Peterson and Stanley 2012:23-40). Conard (1991:E77, E80, E94, F10, F24, G13, G17) briefly mentions Fort Atkinson in her MPD, *The Conservation Movement in Iowa, 1857-1942*. However, the fort's history relating to the 1921-1942 Period of Significance within the "Parks, 1890-1942" context is more fully documented in Peterson and Stanley (2012::34-37).

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS

As a 1920s reconstruction, the northeast blockhouse is not NRHP-eligible under the historic context "Fort Atkinson, 1840-1853" in the MPD *Historic Properties of the Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) Removal to the Neutral Ground* (Peterson and Stanley 2012). However, the blockhouse has been recommended NRHP-eligible by Rebecca Conard (1991:F-10, F-24) as one of the "Buildings, structures, sites, and features associated with municipal, county, state and national parks and park movements" in her National Park Service-approved MPD *The Conservation Movement in Iowa, 1857-1942*, specifically, under the context "Parks, 1890-1942"(Conard 1991). Also eligible under the "Parks" context but not the "Fort Atkinson, 1840-1853" context are two structures: the shelter atop the well/cistern and the stone wall, and one object: a water pump.

CRITERIA JUSTIFICATION

Fort Atkinson may be accorded national significance under Criteria A and D within the "Fort Atkinson, 1840-1853" historic context developed in *Historic Properties of the Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) Removal to the Neutral Ground* (Peterson and Stanley 2012:23-40). The fort may be accorded statewide significance under Criterion A within the "Parks, 1890-1942" context developed in the MPD *The Conservation Movement in Iowa, 1857-1942* (Conard 1991:E67-E112, F10-F24).

Comparative Resources

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

Section number 8 Page 22

Nationwide there have been many forts, but the numbers are deceiving. There were few in operation during the Fort Atkinson time period and even fewer of similar function. Fort Atkinson's contemporaries include properties owned and operated by individuals or companies, such as pioneer defensive forts (e.g., Fort Oldham, TX, 1836–1842) or trading forts (e.g., Bent's Old Fort, CO, 1833–1846; Fort Bellevue, NE, 1834–1840s; Fort Bridger, WY, 1842–1853+; Fort Durham, AK, 1840–1843; Fort Pierre Chouteau, SD, 1832–1857; Fort Renville, MN, 1826–1851; Fort Union, ND, 1826–1867; Fort Vancouver, WA, 1824–1860; Sutter's Fort, CA, 1839–1850s).

Military forts of the period served a variety of functions, such as coastal defense (including the National Historic Landmarks Fort Jackson, LA, 1822–1867+; Fort James Jackson, GA, 1808–1860s; Fort Knox, ME, 1844–1923; Fort Morgan, AL, 1834–1947; Fort St. Philip, LA, 1820s–1860s; Fort Warren, MA, 1834–1947), U.S. border defense (e.g., National Historic Landmarks Fort Jesup, LA, 1822–1846; Fort Kent, ME, 1838–1842; Fort Brown/Fort Texas, TX, 1845+), protection of overland immigration routes (e.g., NRHP-listed Fort Kearny No. 2/Fort Childs, NE, 1848–1871), and soldier recruiting, outfitting and training (e.g., the NRHP-listed Jefferson Barracks, MO, 1826–1946).

There is another class of 1840s military forts more similar in function to Fort Atkinson: those tasked with monitoring Indian groups, preventing white encroachment onto Indian lands, and generally enforcing order. These 21 forts were situated near what was then the U.S. settlement frontier. Notably, the significance of most of these forts have already been recognized via inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, with many listed as National Historic Landmarks. This list is 1840s forts of similar function to Fort Atkinson is arranged by (modern) state.

- Fort Smith No. 2, AR, 1838–1871, primary associated tribes include the Creek and Seminole; National Historic Landmark
- Fort King No. 2, FL, 1837–1843, Seminole; National Historic Landmark
- Fort Croghan, IA, 1842–1843, Sauk, Meskwaki; location not verified
- Fort Des Moines No. 2, IA, 1843–1846, Sauk, Meskwaki; determined NRHP-eligible
- *Fort Atkinson, IA, 1840–1848, Ho-Chunk; subject of this nomination*
- Fort Sanford, IA, 1843, Sauk, Meskwaki, temporary fort, NRHP-eligibility undetermined
- Fort Armstrong, IL, 1816–1845, Sauk, Meskwaki, Ioway, National Historic Landmark (in association with the Rock Island Arsenal)
- Fort Leavenworth, KS, 1827-present, Delaware, Kickapoo, Shawnee, Kansa, Munsee, Stockbridge, Wyandotte, National Historic Landmark
- Fort Scott, KS, 1842–1843, Osage; National Historic Landmark
- Fort Gratiot, MI, 1828–1879, many tribes; NRHP-listed
- Fort Mackinac, MI, 1790–1895, many tribes; National Historic Landmark
- Fort Wayne, MI, 1843–1846, Chippewa; NRHP-listed
- Fort Wilkins, MI, 1844–1846, 1867–1870, Chippewa; NRHP-listed
- Fort Ripley MN, 1848–1880, Ojibwe, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Santee Dakota; NRHP-listed

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 23

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

- Fort Snelling, MN, 1820–1846, many tribes, including Chippewa and various Lakota and Dakota groups; National Historic Landmark
- Fort Gibson, OK, 1824–1890, Cherokee, Seminole, Creek, Osage, Choctaw; National Historic Landmark
- Fort Towson, OK, 1824–1860s, Choctaw, Chickasaw; NRHP-listed
- Fort Washita, OK, 1842–1860s, Choctaw, Chickasaw; National Historic Landmark
- Fort Howard, WI, 1816–1841, Menominee; NRHP-listed
- Fort Winnebago, WI, 1828–1845, Ho-Chunk; NRHP-listed
- Second Fort Crawford, WI, 1832–1856, Ho-Chunk, Sauk, Meskwaki; portion is a National Historic Landmark

Of the 1840s forts listed above, only two were erected to implement Indian removal policies from within a neutral ground or buffer zone: NRHP-listed Fort Ripley, Minnesota, and the subject of this nomination, Fort Atkinson. Fort Ripley is today in evidence as only an archaeological site.

“Fort Atkinson, 1840-1853” Historic Context, National Significance under Criterion A

Fort Atkinson meets Criterion A for National Register of Historic Places nomination as a property that embodies the military implementation of the federal Indian removal policies during the mid-nineteenth century, specifically, the U.S. Government’s desire to remove and disassociate the American Indian population from the developing young country which was pushing further and further west. Fort Atkinson is a standing reminder of these federally mandated policies and remains an excellent example of a fort typical to the mid-1840s in its style. Fort Atkinson reflects the interaction between Euro-American military policy-enforcers and native groups, in this case, the Ho-Chunk. Activities at the fort influenced Ho-Chunk culture during a pivotal period in their history.

A transformation of the U.S. Government’s policy towards American Indians took place in the 1820s, from a policy focused on assimilation to one of relocation (Littlefield and Parins 2011). The goal of the government was not to pull Indians into Euro-American culture, but rather to culturally and physically distance Indians from whites. United States Indian policy during the 1840s was based mainly on the dual practices of extinguishing native territorial sovereignty and “voluntary” emigration to designated reservations located beyond the line of Euro-American settlement. Several forts, including Fort Atkinson, were built along the frontier to enforce this Indian removal policy.

Fort Atkinson was constructed in 1840 and garrisoned by the U.S. Army until 1846, at which point it was occupied (until 1849) by State Volunteers. A government-paid caretaker oversaw the nearly empty facility until it was sold to a private party in 1853. The Neutral Ground, in what is now northeast Iowa and southeast Minnesota, was seen as a temporary reservation for the Ho-Chunk of Wisconsin. Small numbers of Ho-Chunk moved into the Neutral Ground starting in 1830, but not until the construction of Fort Atkinson in 1840 were efforts made to move the tribe into Iowa *en masse*. The Neutral Ground Ho-Chunk were plagued by a host of problems: depredations by hostile Indian groups, indebtedness to fur traders, shortfalls in their government annuities, unscrupulous whiskey traders, encroachment by Euro-American settlers, and general malaise. Fort

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 24

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

Atkinson was constructed to both keep the Ho-Chunk in the Neutral Ground and to protect them from their hostile Indian neighbors, as well as from Euro-American trespassers. In 1848, the Ho-Chunk were removed from the northeast Iowa/southeast Minnesota Neutral Ground to a new Neutral Ground, this one separating the Santee Dakota and Ojibwe in central Minnesota.

There have been several formal and informal buffer zones established throughout the United States' history, but only a few were created to separate hostile tribes from one another: northeast Iowa and southeast Minnesota's 200-x-40-mile Neutral Ground; central Minnesota's Neutral Ground; Lovely's Purchase in Arkansas; and Kansas' 50-x-25-mile Neutral Lands (see Peterson and Stanley 2012:5-6 for further discussion). There were only two forts in the United States built to oversee buffer zones that separated hostile tribes from each other. One of these is Fort Atkinson, located in northeast Iowa and southeast Minnesota's Neutral Ground. The other is central Minnesota's Fort Ripley, built in 1848 to keep the peace between the Ojibwe, Santee Dakota, Ho-Chunk, and Menominee. Fort Ripley's Neutral Ground is where the Ho-Chunk were relocated after leaving their 1840s home in northeast Iowa and southeast Minnesota (Minnesota Indian Affairs Council 2010; Treuer 2010:80, 92).

"Fort Atkinson, 1840-1853" Historic Context, National Significance under Criterion D

Fort Atkinson meets Criterion D for National Register of Historic Places nomination for its demonstrated and potential archeological significance. The property can yield information of major scientific importance by shedding light upon a period of U.S. history when American Indian groups were struggling, usually in vain, to keep their homelands.

According to the MPD *Historic Properties of the Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) Removal to the Neutral Ground* (Peterson and Stanley 2012:89):

Properties that have the potential to address many research questions can be considered for nomination at a national significance level. To address numerous research questions, the site may be slightly disturbed, for example, by cultivation or previous archaeological excavations, but must maintain sufficient depositional and historical integrity for the site's layout or form to be discernible. If this integrity is present, then the potential for recovering the scientific data needed to better understand this period of United States Indian removal policies will be obtainable. Sites with recognizable, well preserved features may be significant at a national level of significance as they often aid in understanding of broad patterns of history that are otherwise difficult to discern. The absence of depositional integrity will preclude nomination at a national level of significance, although the site may be considered eligible for the NRHP at the state or local level.

Our understanding of Federal Indian removal policy as manifested at Fort Atkinson and in the Neutral Ground is greatly enhanced through the examination of well-preserved archaeological remains from the site.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 25

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

Archaeological study of Fort Atkinson has and can still provide research opportunities that address nationally important questions regarding soldier's lifeways, the material cultural of the military during the Indian Removal Period, and about interactions between military and civilian personnel at the fort and their Indian neighbors, in this case, the Ho-Chunk.

"Fort Atkinson, 1840-1853" Registration Requirements

For a property nominated in association with the MPD *Historic Properties of the Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) Removal to the Neutral Ground* (Peterson and Stanley 2012:90-91) to be considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under the historic context, *Fort Atkinson, 1840-1853*, properties must demonstrate they possess all of the following criteria:

1. Association with its respective historic context
2. Location within the defined geographic area
3. Appropriate age, in this case, 1840-1853
4. Research potential.
5. Integrity.

1. Association with its respective historic context

Fort Atkinson is clearly associated with the historic context *Fort Atkinson, 1840-1853*, as the context's defining element.

2. Location within the defined geographic area

Fort Atkinson is situated within the MPD's defined geographic boundaries.

3. Appropriate age, in this case, 1840-1853

The primary component at Fort Atkinson dates during the period of significance, 1840-1853. Although archaeological evidence has unearthed later-dating features and artifacts, these elements are usually stratigraphically separated from Fort-era deposits.

4. Research potential

Prior archaeological investigations, detailed in Peterson and Stanley (2012:35-38) demonstrate that Fort Atkinson has the potential to contribute to better understanding of local, statewide, and national history trends, issues, and research questions.

5. Integrity

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 26

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

This property's post-Period of Significance subsurface disturbances have included the construction of two houses (the Behrens' and James' houses; Figures 7 and 46) in the late nineteenth century. These buildings were removed between 1957 and 1964. Small (0.5-m maximum diameter) firepits have been allowed outside the palisade during the several days of Rendezvous, an annual celebration since 1976. Extensive archaeological excavations have been conducted at the fort (Figure 32); the two house features and at least 28 Rendezvous firepits have been archaeologically identified. Despite the buildings, firepits, and archaeological investigations, over three-quarters (75 percent) of the nominated portion of the fort has not been subjected to any known disturbance. Also, even though the fort was used as a farmyard from about 1860 until the State of Iowa acquired its first portion of the site in 1921, archaeological excavations have revealed a high level of historical integrity across much of the site. In addition, the structural integrity of the three contributing buildings is good to excellent.

Peterson and Stanley (2012:91–92) note that properties of the Fort Atkinson context should particularly express integrity of location, design, materials, and association, with integrity of setting, workmanship, and feeling considered not critical aspects in this context. Fort Atkinson in excellent condition. The site exhibits an extremely high level of historic integrity in terms of all seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Location: Fort Atkinson's *location* is excellent: three standing buildings remain at their original locations, and numerous contributing foundations and features remain intact or partially intact at their original locations.

Design: Fort Atkinson possesses excellent integrity of *design*. The property represents a typical 1840s frontier fort in form, plan, space, structure, and style.

Setting: The *setting* of Fort Atkinson is excellent. Setting may include elements such as "topographic features, vegetation, simple manmade paths or fences and the relationships between buildings and other features or open spaces" (National Park Service 1999:36–37). The topographic features and position of the fort are the same setting as during the 1840s, on a blufftop high over the Rogers Creek, with a steep dropoff to the related limestone quarry site below. Although numerous 1840s buildings are now absent, their presence is still easily discernible as exposed foundation edges. There have been several major changes since frontier times, mainly, several buildings are absent and modern buildings have been constructed on the periphery of the site. These changes would not preclude the site's recognizability to its 1840s occupants, were they to revisit the fort today.

Materials: Fort Atkinson possesses excellent integrity of *materials*. There are minimal intrusive artifacts or features at the site, the artifact and feature assemblage is complete, and the quality of artifact and feature preservation is outstanding.

Workmanship: Fort Atkinson possesses excellent integrity of *workmanship*. The site reflects the military and hired craftsman's labor and skill in constructing a frontier fort. This craftsmanship is reflected in the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 27

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshek County, Iowa

standing buildings and structures and in archaeological foundation remnants which have well-withstood the passage of time.

Feeling: The property possesses excellent integrity of *feeling*. As mentioned in the integrity of setting discussion, standing at Fort Atkinson today, the vista to the river and creek and the fort's blufftop location contribute to a feeling of visiting the 1840s.

Association: The integrity of Fort Atkinson's *association* is excellent. The National Park Service (2000:42) notes that, "under Criterion D, integrity of association is measured in terms of the strength of the relationship between the site's data or information and the important research questions." The integrity of association sufficiently intact to convey the relationship of the property and 1840s-era military activities to an observer.

"Parks, 1890-1942" Historic Context, Statewide Significance under Criterion A

Fort Atkinson meets Criterion A for National Register of Historic Places nomination at a statewide level of significance for its association with "buildings, structures, sites, and features associated with" state parks and park movements (Conard 1991:F10). Specifically, Conard (ibid) calls out Fort Atkinson in her MPD property type description an example of a historic resource associated with properties acquired chiefly for their historical value. Conard (1991:F11) notes a tremendous growth of Iowa's state park systems beginning in 1918, concordant with the end of the Great War and technological and economic advances which led to an increase in available leisure time. Promoting park development as a way to preserve societal values included the conservation of important historic buildings and structures.

"Parks, 1890-1942" Registration Requirements

Fort Atkinson meets all the registration requirements for a "Parks, 1890-1942" property to be eligible under Criterion A (Conard 1991:F21):

1. Boundaries should include the extent of the park as of 1942, unless there are good reasons to exclude portions based on integrity considerations.
 - The nominated portion of Fort Atkinson includes all of the lands with the 1942-State owned park boundary.
2. Cultural features within park boundaries must reflect the historical character of the park as a whole.
 - All of Fort Atkinson's features (its contributing buildings, structures, objects, and sites) specifically reflect the historical character of the entire preserve.
3. Individual resources may have been altered but still evince the feel of a particular period of time.
 - Modern Fort Atkinson evokes a sense of the 1840s; a visitor to the property today can easily image an active frontier fort in operation here.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 28

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 29

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 30

**Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa**

Whittaker, William E.

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 31

**Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa**

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Fort Atkinson Historic District is located within the corporate limits of the City of Fort Atkinson, Winneshiek County, Iowa, in the NW¼, SW¼ and the E½, NE¼, SW¼ of Section 8, T96N-R9W (Figures 47 to 49). The archaeological site, 13WH57, encompasses 21.5 acres. The state owned portion of the site is 7.08 acres. The 21.5 acre archaeological site boundary is based upon archaeologically-field verified map data of former building locations (see Whittaker 2006a-d, 2007).

An area of 7.08 acres, owned by the State of Iowa and managed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. The fort is on the west side of the City of Fort Atkinson between First Street to the north and a steep limestone escarpment to the south. The nominated part of the fort site has as its boundaries on the south, County Road W14 (a.k.a., Main Street); along the north, 2nd Street and a private lot line; on the east, a private lot line and a steep bluff; and on the west, a private lot line and a steep bluff. The nominated portion of the fort is situated on a loess-mantled limestone bluff which overlooks Rogers Creek from the north and the Turkey River from the west. County roads B32 and W14 pass through the town, as does State Highway Iowa 24. State highway Iowa 150 and U.S. 52 are within 5 miles of Fort Atkinson.

This state-owned area is located in several city lots and blocks, specifically listed below and shown on Figure 49:

- All of Block 32.
- All of the vacated portion of Bluff Street.
- Lots 1 to 7, 15–16 and 18–19, between the Bluff Street vacation and Fort Street, all in the original plat of Fort Atkinson.
- Lots 1 of 8, 1 of 7 and 9 thru 14, and 2 of 8, between the Bluff Street vacation and Fort Street, all in the original plat of Fort Atkinson.
- All of Block 44 that is located north and east of the highway.

Privately owned portions of Site 13WH57 include all of blocks 20, 21, 33, and 45. These privately owned areas are outside the presently nominated portion of the Fort Atkinson Historic District.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This 7.08 acre area forms the heart of the fort, and contains all known contributing buildings and structures; all of the former parade grounds, and all of the non-extant (archaeological) remnants of buildings and structures that once stood inside the stockade and in the vicinity of the parade grounds.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 32 Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

Index of Figures

Figure	Page
1. Map showing Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) territory, land cessions, and removal, 1829-1874.	34
2. General location of Fort Atkinson in relation to the Yellow River Subagency, Fort Crawford, and the Turkey River Subagency.	35
3. Location of Fort Atkinson and general location of the Turkey River Subagency.	36
4. Reynolds' 1842 map of Fort Atkinson.	37
5. Enlargement of the inset on Reynolds' 1842 map of Fort Atkinson.	38
6. Map depicting all contributing and noncontributing buildings, structures, objects, and sites at the nominated portion of Fort Atkinson.	39
7. Map depicting identified archaeological features at the nominated portion of Fort Atkinson.	40
8. Aerial photograph of Fort Atkinson in 1981.	41
9. Earliest known photograph of the Powder Magazine, pre-1912.	42
10. Photograph of Powder Magazine in 2006.	43
11. Powder Magazine interior photographs.	44
12. Historical photographs of the Southwest Blockhouse.	45
13. Photographs of the Southwest Blockhouse, 2006.	46
14. Photographs of the Southwest Blockhouse, 2006.	47
15. Interior view photographs of the Southwest Blockhouse, 2006.	48
16. Interior view photographs of the Southwest Blockhouse, 2006.	49
17. Earliest known photograph of the North Barracks, ca. 1900.	50
18. Historical photographs of the North Barracks.	51
19. Photographs of the North Barracks.	52
20. Photographs of the North Barracks in 2006.	53
21. Photographs of the North Barracks in 2006.	54
22. Photograph and drawing of barracks.	55
23. Interior view photographs of the North Barracks in 2008.	56
24. Photographs of Northeast Blockhouse.	57
25. Photographs of the limestone quarry, 2006.	58
26. Photograph facing down into Well/Cistern in 2008.	59
27. Photographs of Contributing Structure #2, a wooden superstructure which covers Contributing Structure #1, the Well/Cistern.	60
28. Photograph of Modern Flagpole in 2007.	61
29. Photograph of Garage in 2006.	62
30. Photograph of Gate in 2006.	63
31. Photographs of Stockade Reconstruction in 2007, during the annual Rendezvous.	64

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Additional Documentation Page 33

**Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa**

Index of Figures

Figure		Page
32.	Location of previous subsurface archaeological investigations at the nominated portion of 13WH157, Fort Atkinson.	65
33.	Photograph of Commissary in 2006.	66
34.	Photograph of Sutler's Store in 2006.	67
35.	Drawing and photograph of Guard House.	68
36.	Photograph of East Barracks in 1941.	69
37.	Photographs and drawing of East Barracks.	70
38.	Photographs and drawing of West Barracks.	71
39.	Photographs and drawing of South Barracks.	72
40.	Photograph of one of the privies identified by McKusick in 1966.	73
41.	Photograph of southernmost privy foundation identified in 2006.	74
42.	Side view profile of Builder's Trench, depicted here at Feature 2 on left side.	75
43.	Photograph of unknown function fort-related foundation.	76
44.	Drawing of original stockade wall trench, shown here as "B" in Feature 9.	77
45.	Photograph of probable fort-era root cellar.	78
46.	Photograph of houses once present at the fort site.	79
47.	Map depicting the location of the entirety of site 13WH57, Fort Atkinson, and the nominated portion of the site.	80
48.	Map depicting boundaries of the nominated portion of Fort Atkinson and other unnominated portions of the fort which may be nominated at a later date, pending landowner approval.	81
49.	Map depicting boundaries of the nominated portion of Fort Atkinson, highlighted, as shown on city plat.	82

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 34

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winnebago County, Iowa

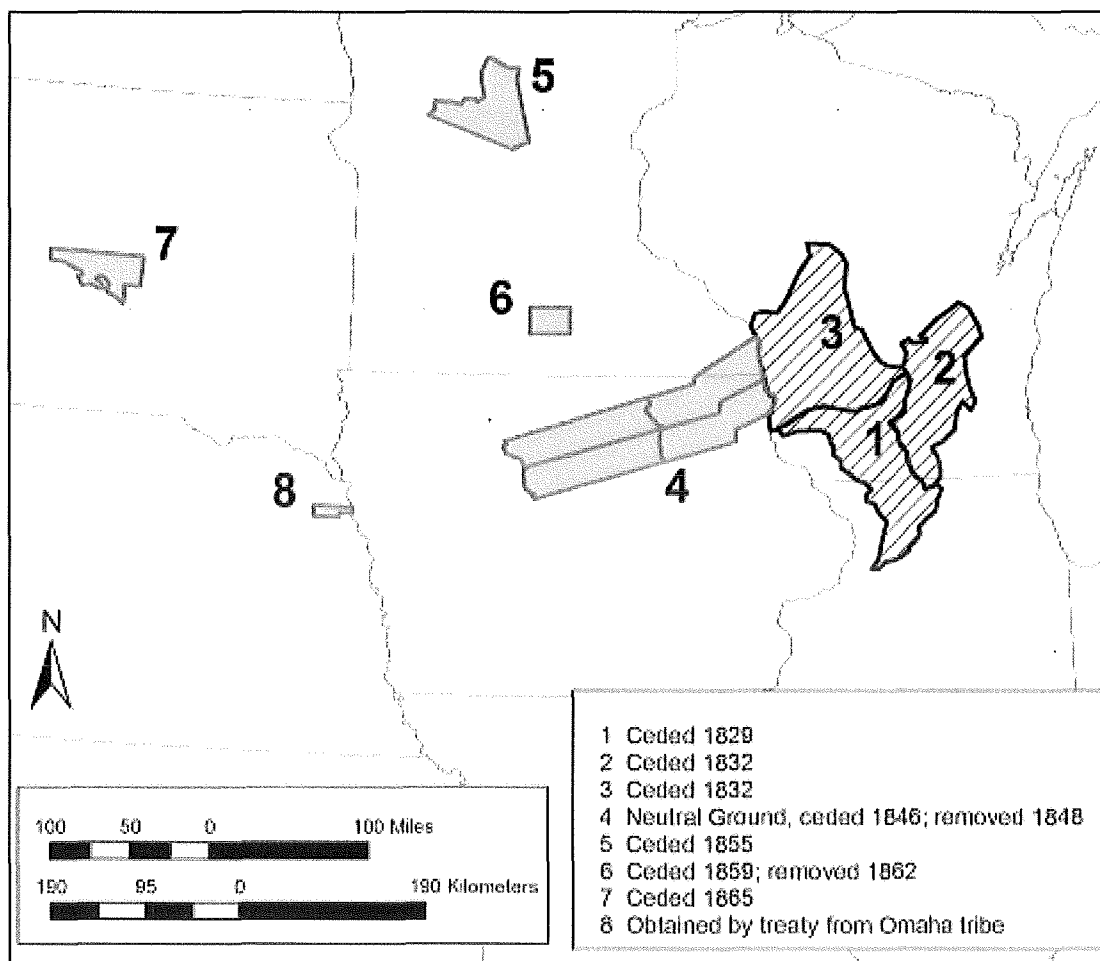


Figure 1. Map showing Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) territory, land cessions, and removal, 1829-1874. Patterned areas in Wisconsin and Illinois indicate original homelands (adapted from Lurie 1978:69).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 35

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

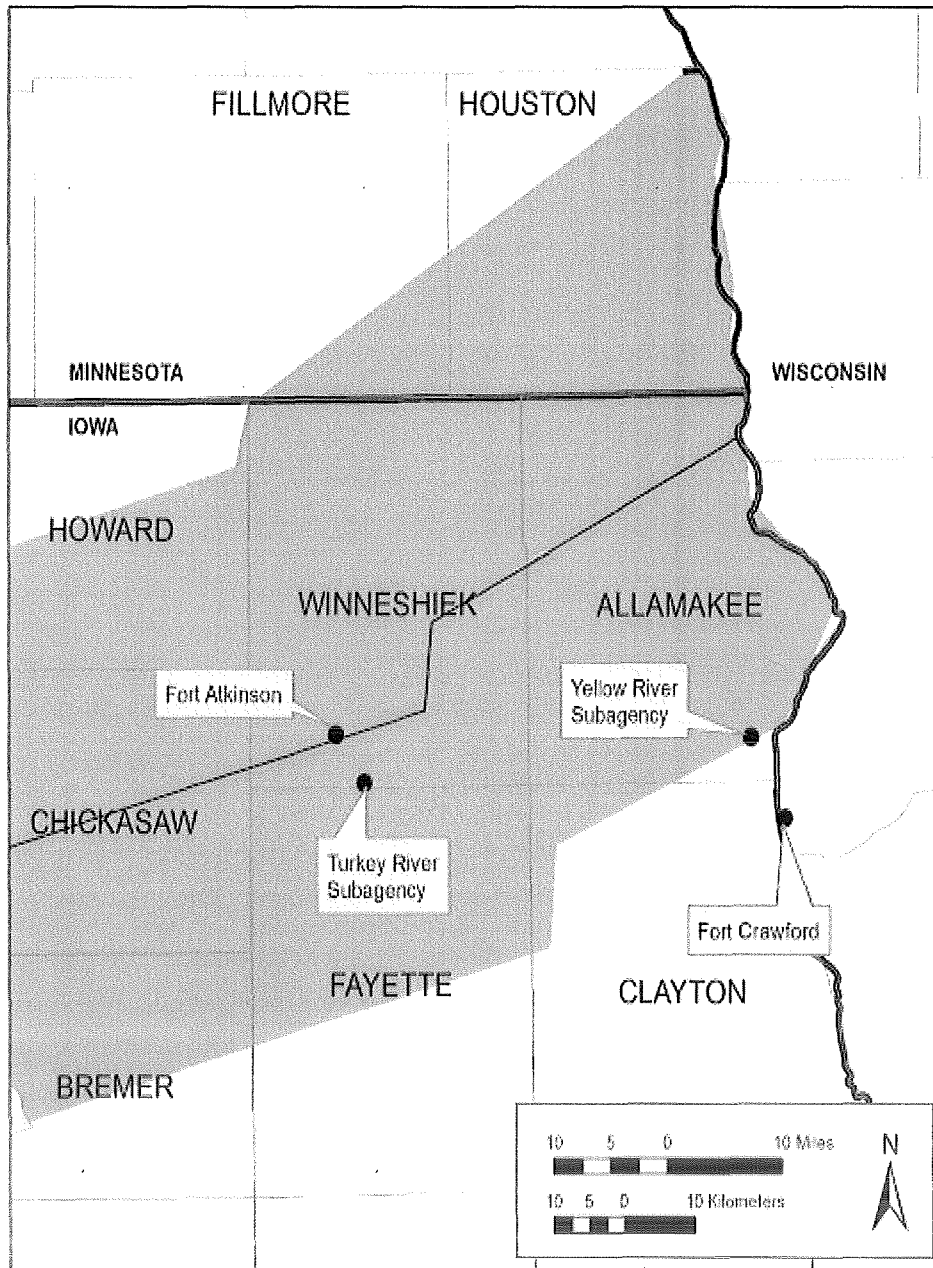


Figure 2. General Location of Fort Atkinson in relation to the Yellow River Subagency, Fort Crawford, and the Turkey River Subagency. Shaded area is the Neutral Ground (base map from Iowa Geographical Map Server 2009).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Additional Documentation Page 36

**Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa**

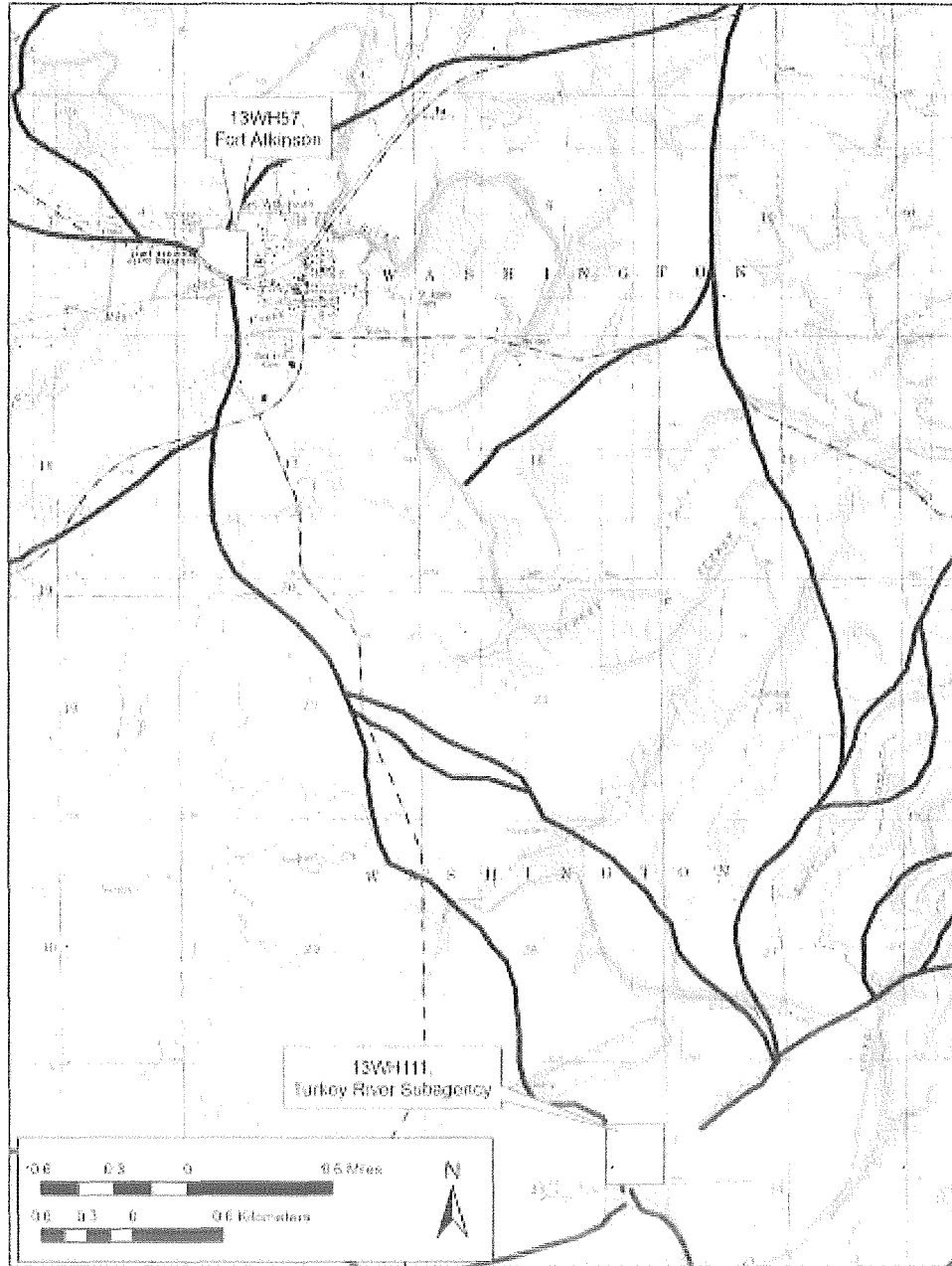


Figure 3. Location of Fort Atkinson and general location of the Turkey River Subagency (from USGS Fort Atkinson 1981 and Saint Lucas 1981, 7.5' quadrangles). Dark lines indicate 1849-mapped trails (from Office of the Secretary of State 1981).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 37

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

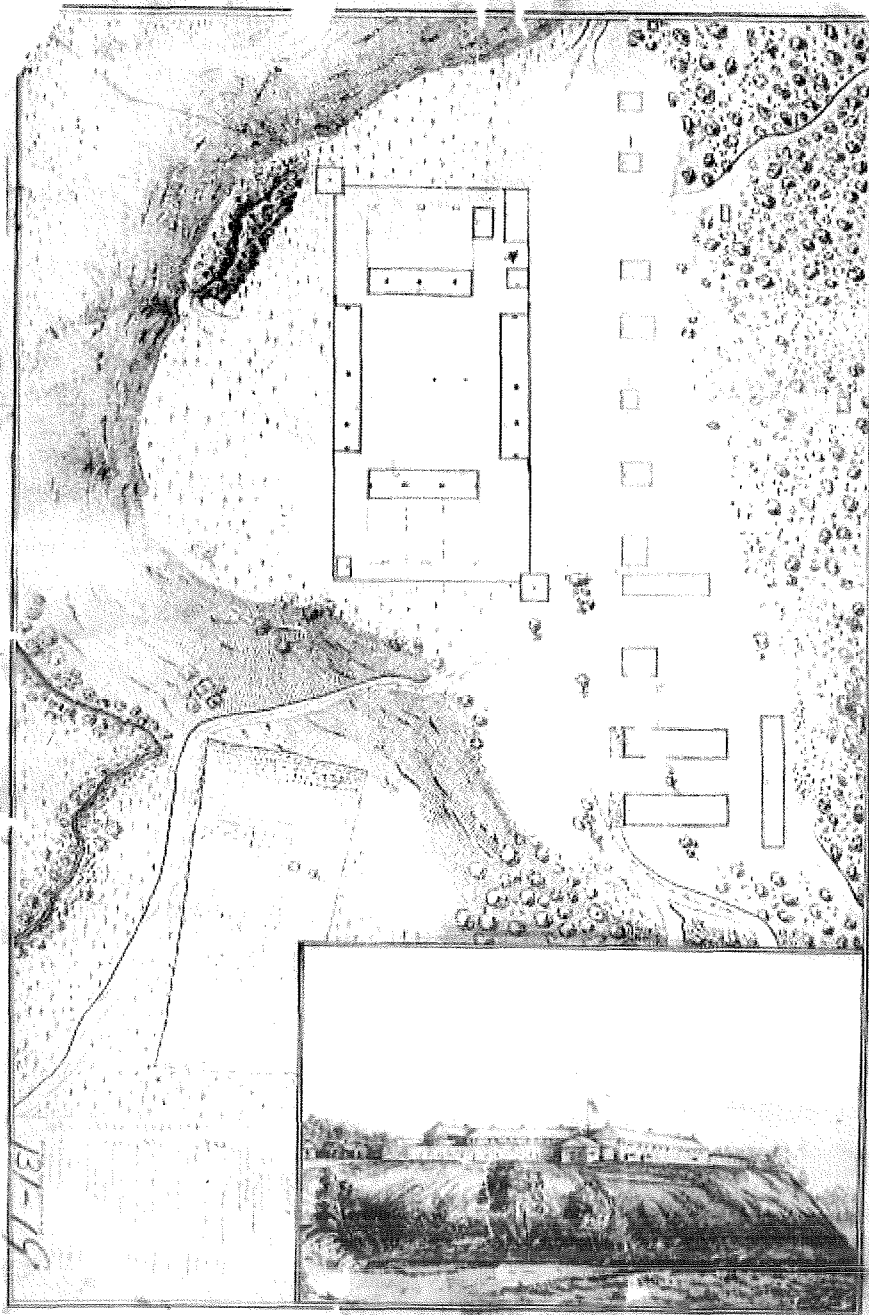


Figure 4. Reynolds 1842 map of Fort Atkinson. Plan view map is oriented with north on the right hand side. Inset map view is to the northeast.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Additional Documentation Page 38

**Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa**

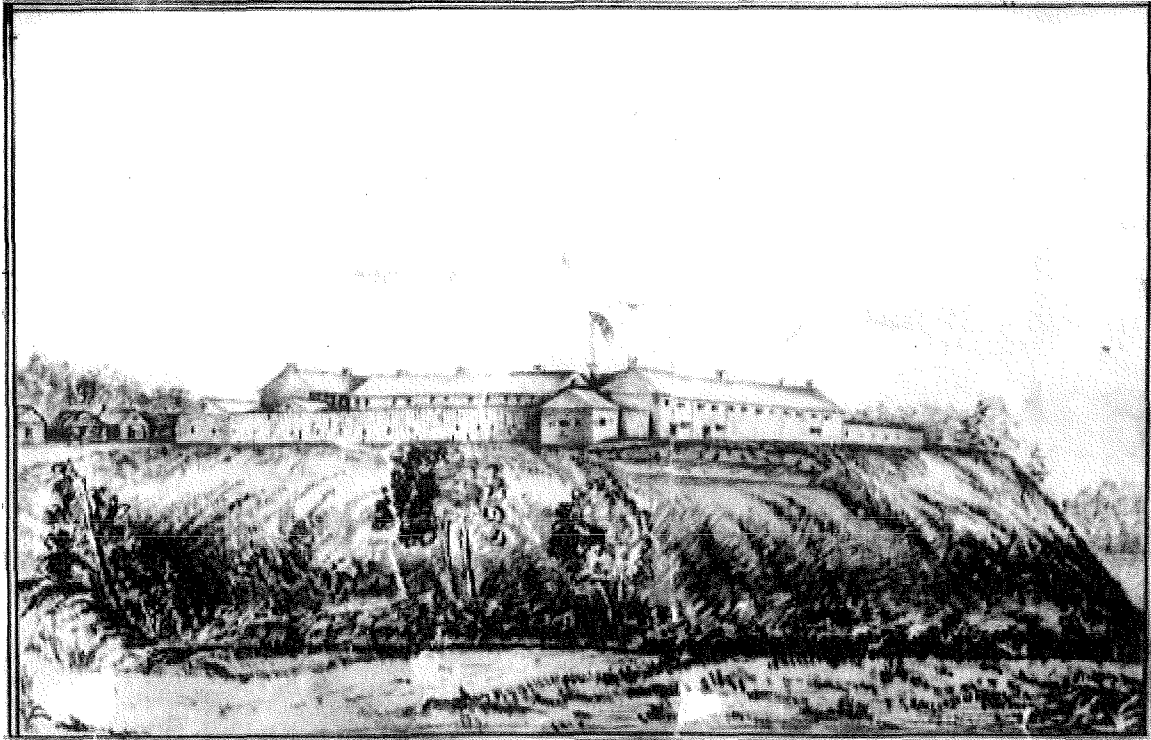


Figure 5. Enlargement of the inset on Reynolds' 1842 map of Fort Atkinson. View is to the northeast.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 39

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

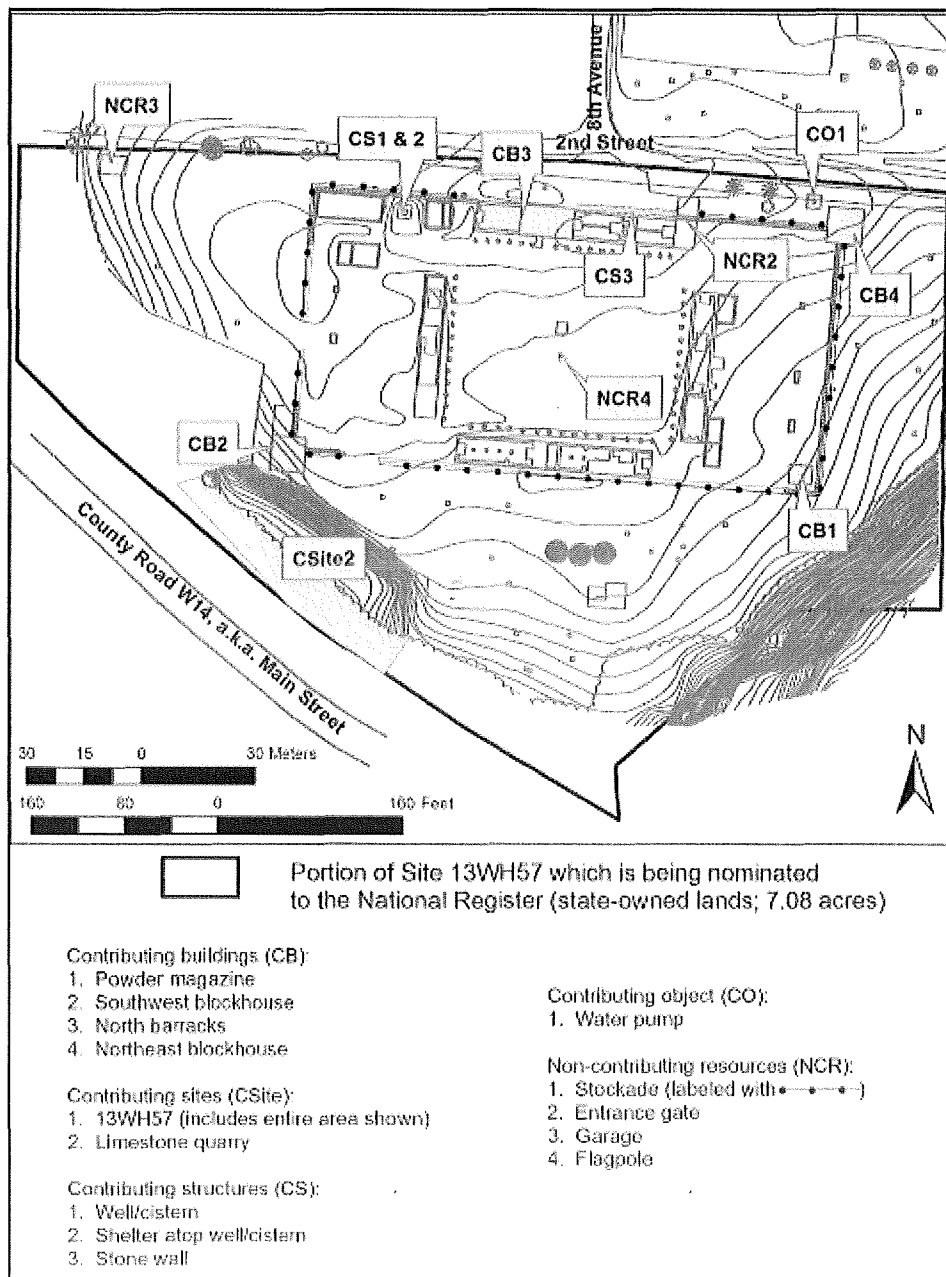


Figure 6. Map depicting all contributing and noncontributing buildings, structures, objects, and sites at the nominated portion of Fort Atkinson (base map from Stanley 1999). Unlabeled areas include exposed building foundations.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 40

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

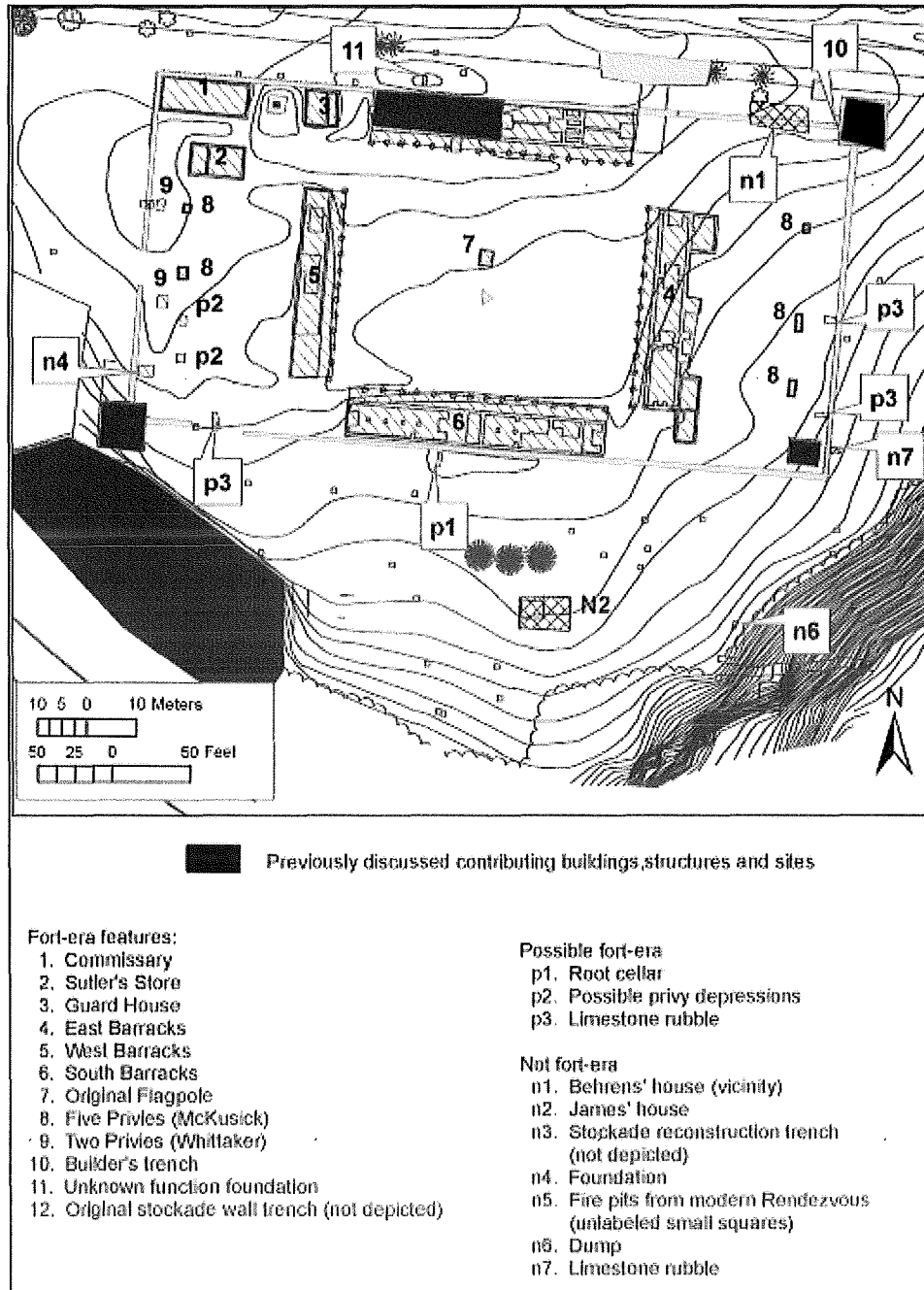


Figure 7. Map depicting identified archaeological features at the nominated portion of Fort Atkinson (base map from Stanley 1999).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Additional Documentation Page 41

**Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa**

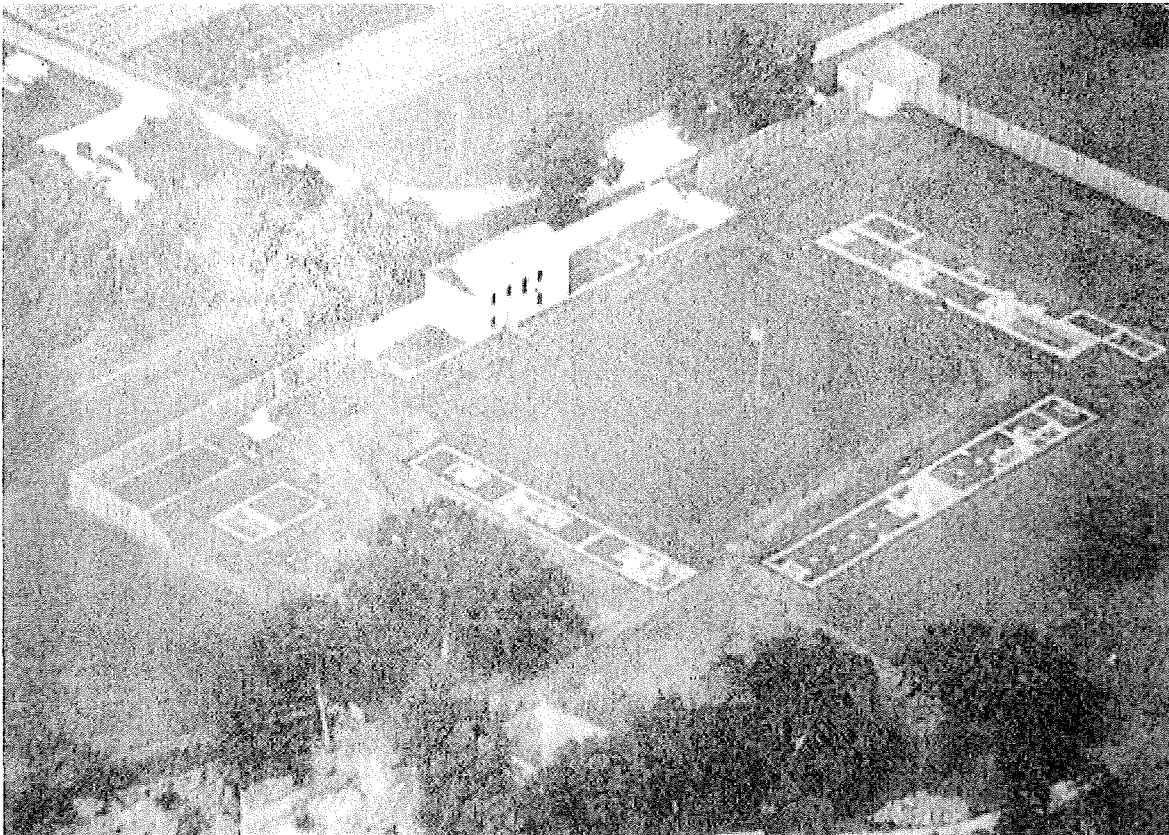


Figure 8. Aerial photograph of Fort Atkinson in 1981 (from Fort Atkinson Historical Centennial Book Committee 1995). View is to the northeast.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 42

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winnebago County, Iowa



Figure 9. Earliest known photograph of the Powder Magazine, pre-1912. Facing southeast (Anonymous ca. 1900 as reproduced in Whittaker 2006d:70).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Additional Documentation Page 43

**Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa**



Figure 10. Photograph of Powder Magazine in 2006. Facing northeast (from Whittaker 2006d:75).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 44

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

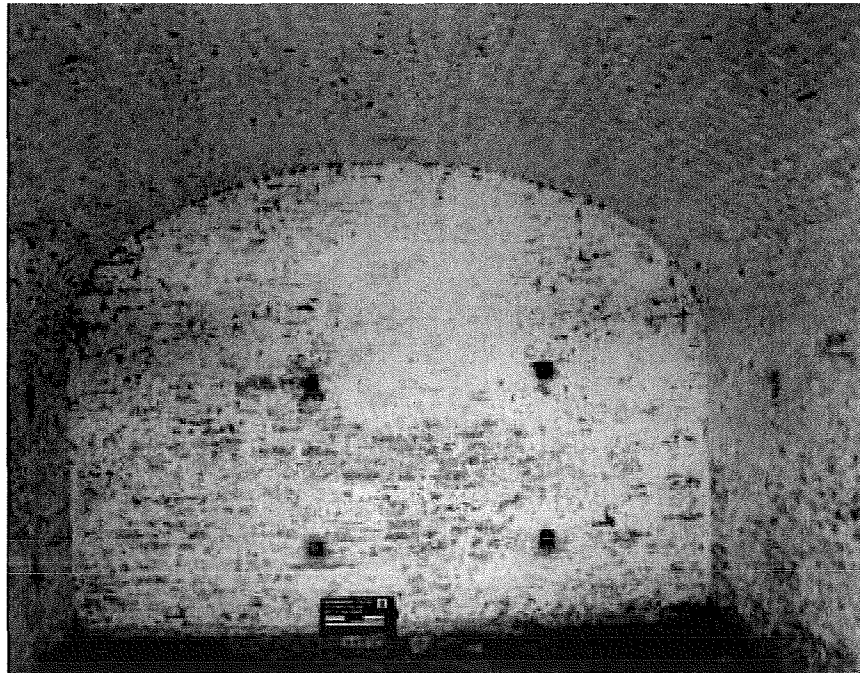


Figure 11. Powder Magazine interior photographs, 2006 (from Whittaker 2006d:75). Upper: facing east. Lower: facing west.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 45

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

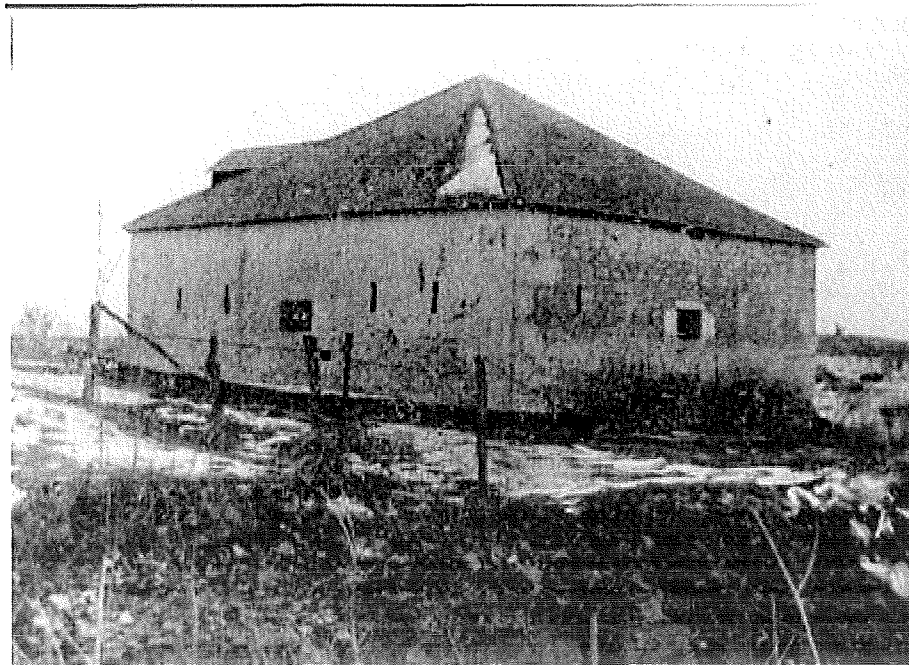
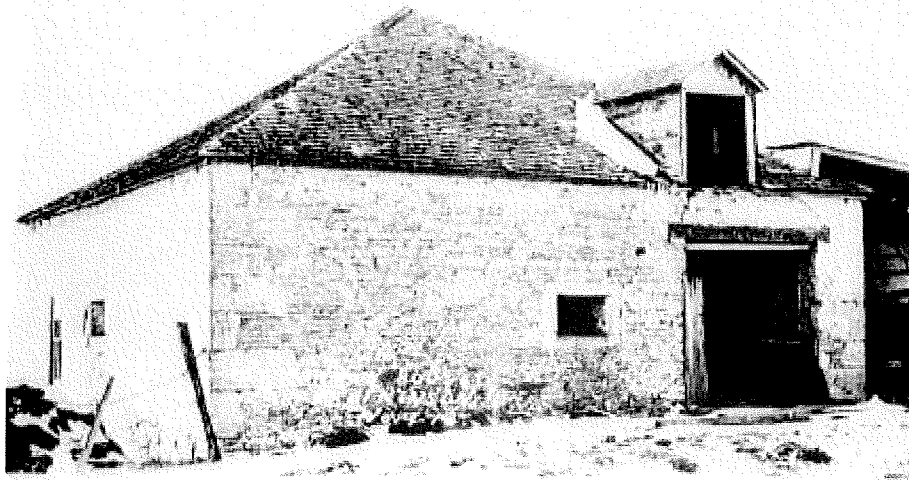


Figure 12. Historical photographs of the Southwest Blockhouse (Anonymous ca. 1900 as reproduced in Whittaker 2006d:88). Upper: facing northwest; note shed addition on north and hay mow, probably both nineteenth century, but not related to the fort. Lower: probably facing southeast.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 46

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa



Figure 13. Photographs of the Southwest Blockhouse, 2006 (from Whittaker 2006d:91). Upper: facing southwest. Lower: facing west.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Additional Documentation Page 47

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

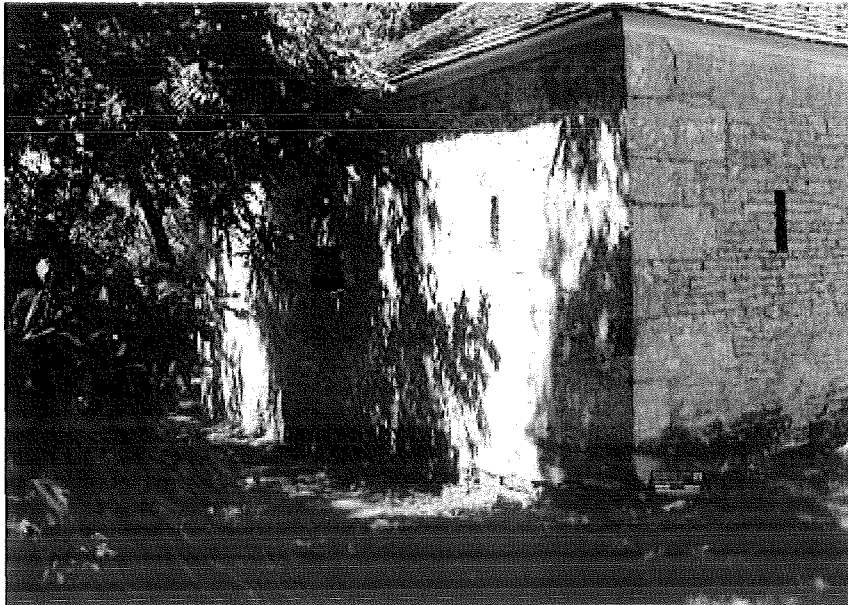


Figure 14. Photographs of the Southwest Blockhouse, 2006 (from Whittaker 2006d:92-93). Upper: facing south. Lower: facing northwest.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 48

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

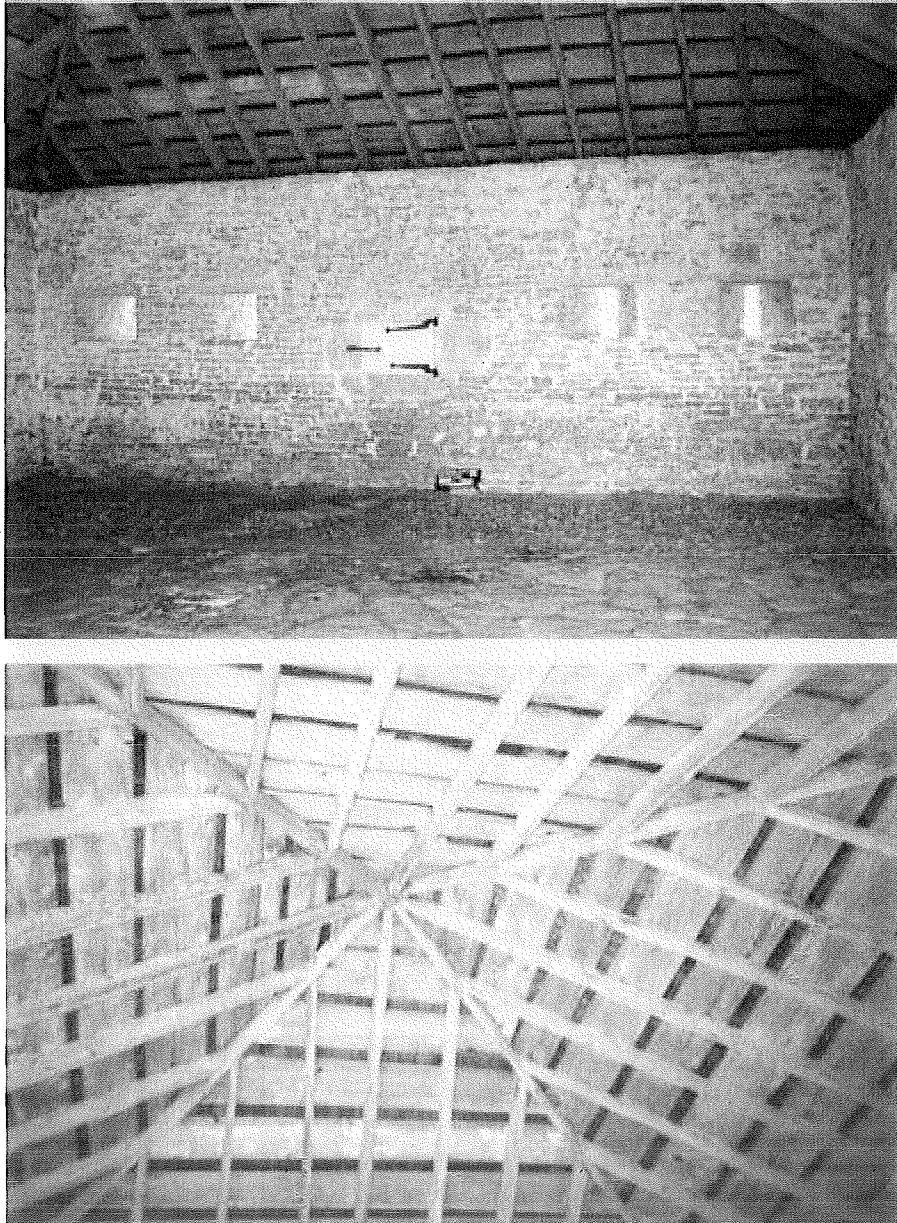


Figure 15. Interior view photographs of the Southwest Blockhouse, 2006 (from Whittaker 2006d:94-95). Upper: facing west. Lower: ceiling.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 49

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa



Figure 16. Interior view of the Southwest Blockhouse, 2006, facing east (from Whittaker 2006d:95).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 50

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa



Figure 17. Earliest known photograph of the North Barracks, ca. 1900, Facing northwest (Anonymous ca 1900 reproduced in Whittaker 2006d:31).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 51

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa



Figure 18. Historical photographs of the North Barracks. Upper: probably between 1912 and 1919, facing northeast (original on file State Historical Society of Iowa, reproduced in Whittaker 2006d:33). Lower: dated August 2, 1935, facing northwest (original on file, Fort Atkinson Museum, reproduced in Whittaker 2006d:36).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 52

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

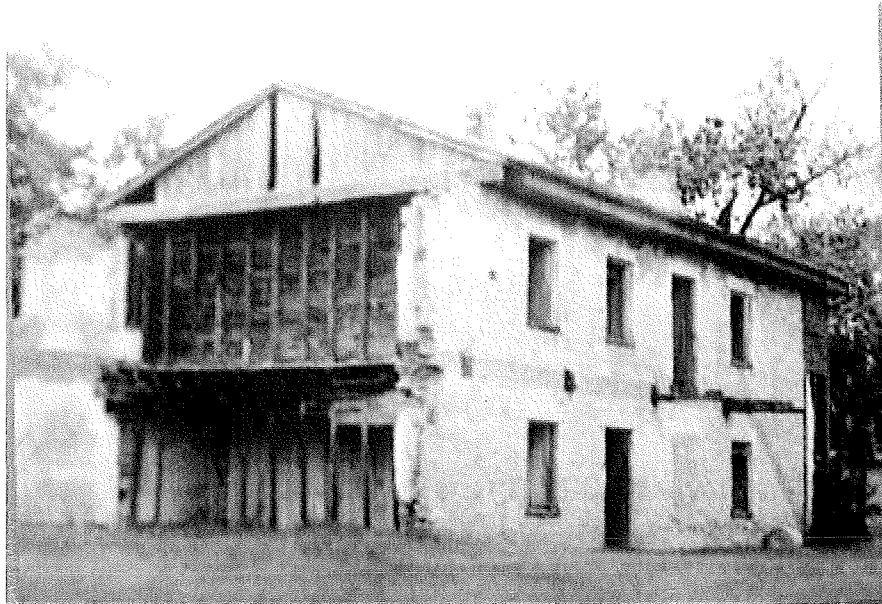


Figure 19. Photographs of the North Barracks. Upper: between 1935 and 1958, facing northeast (original on file, Fort Atkinson Museum, reproduced in Whittaker 2006d:38). Lower: similar view in 2006 (from Whittaker 2006:41).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 53

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

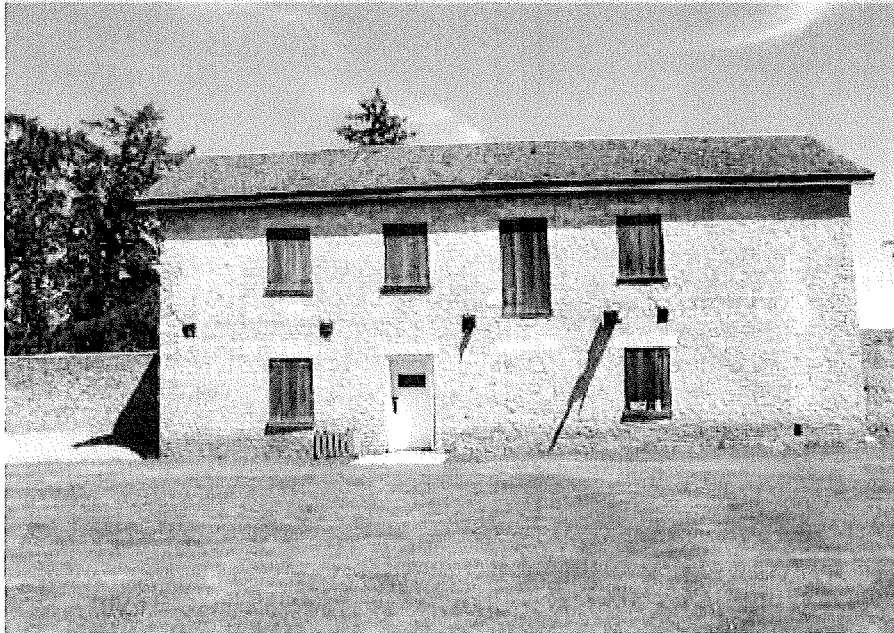


Figure 20. Photographs of the North Barracks in 2006. Note the Stone Wall (Contributing Structure #3) that extends to the east and west of the building. Upper: facing north. Lower: facing south (from Whittaker 2006:40).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 54

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

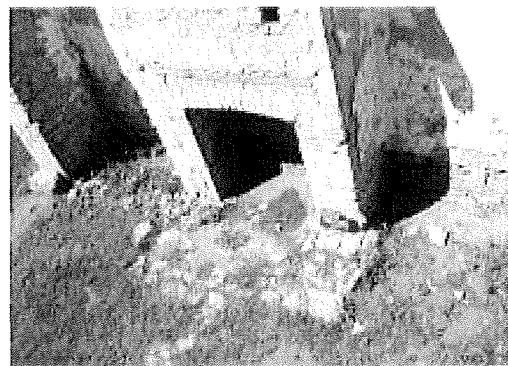


Figure 21. Photographs of the North Barracks in 2006. Note the Stone Wall (Contributing Structure #3) that extends to the east of the building, on the right side of the upper photograph. Upper: facing west. Lower: close-up of fireplaces (from Whittaker 2006:41-42).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 55

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

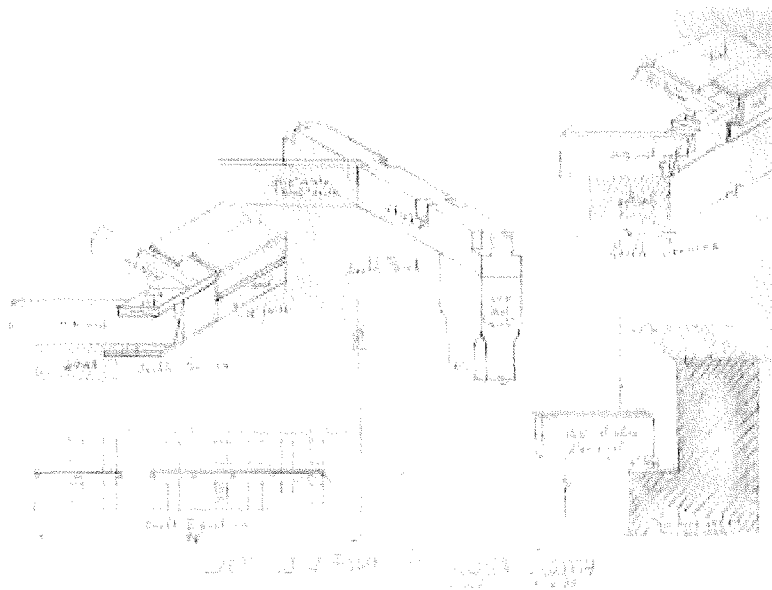
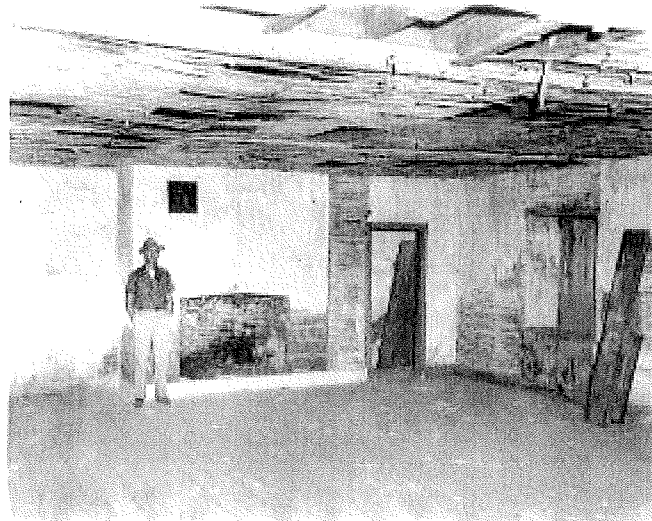


Figure 22. Photograph and drawing of barracks. Upper: Interior 1950s photograph of Barracks with Andy Myers, then-mayor of Fort Atkinson. Lower: 1933 sketch of barracks, including cornice, floor joists, and porch construction details (photo courtesy of Alan Becker, Fort Atkinson Historic Preservation Commission; sketch by Fordahl 1933, on file State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 56

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

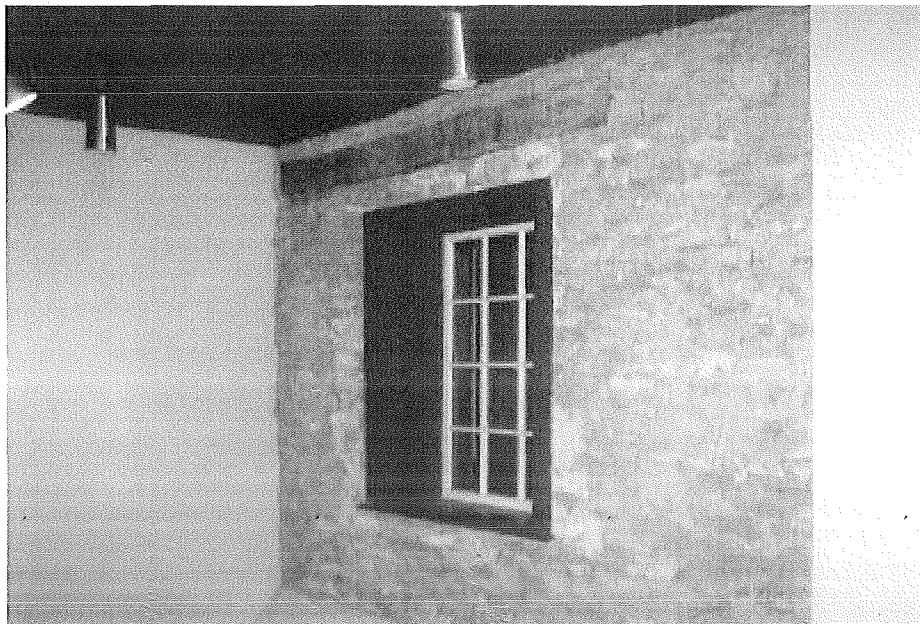
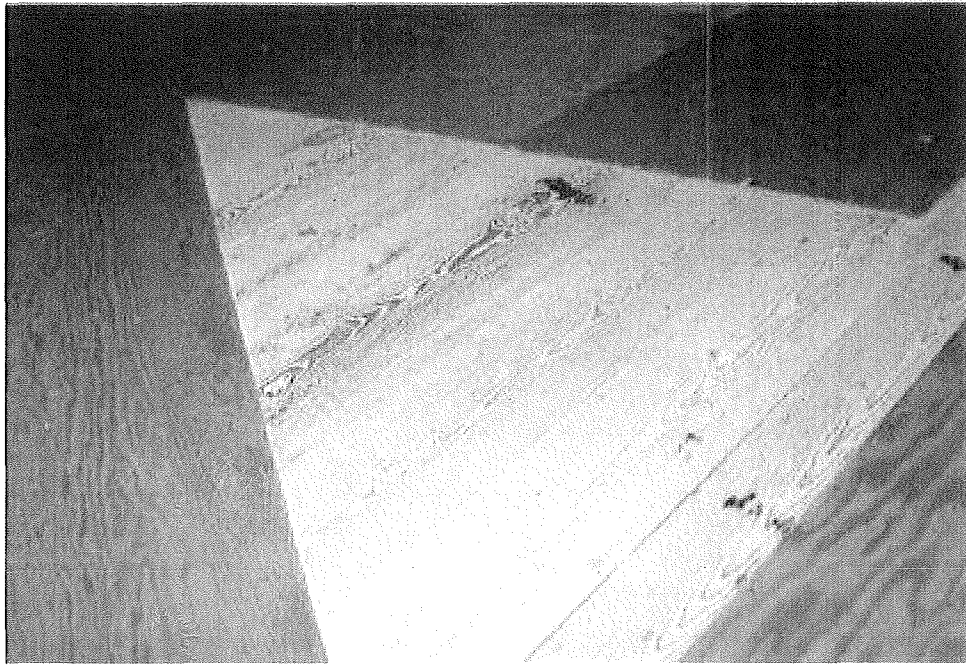


Figure 23. Interior view photographs of the North Barracks in 2008. Upper: floor of second story, with the original floor exposed to give visitors a glimpse of the preserved, but generally hidden, flooring under plywood. Lower: interior view, second story window, January, 2008 (courtesy of Alan Becker, Fort Atkinson Historic Preservation Commission).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 57

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

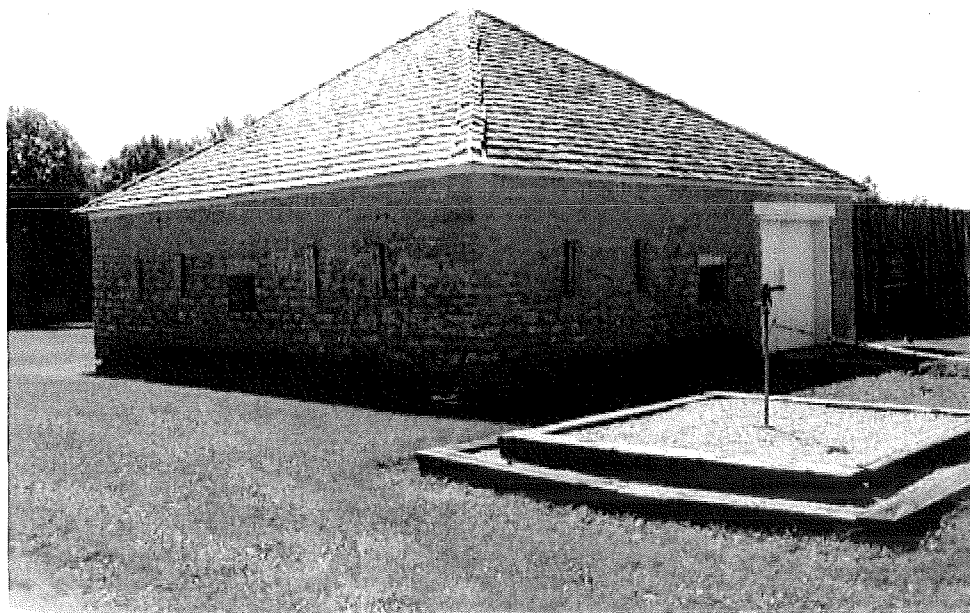


Figure 24. Photographs of Northeast Blockhouse. Upper: facing south, 1927 (Original on file, State Historical Society of Iowa, reproduced in Whittaker 2006d:50). Lower: facing southeast in 2006. Note Contributing Object #1 (water pump) in foreground (from Whittaker 2006d:54).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Additional Documentation Page 58

**Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa**

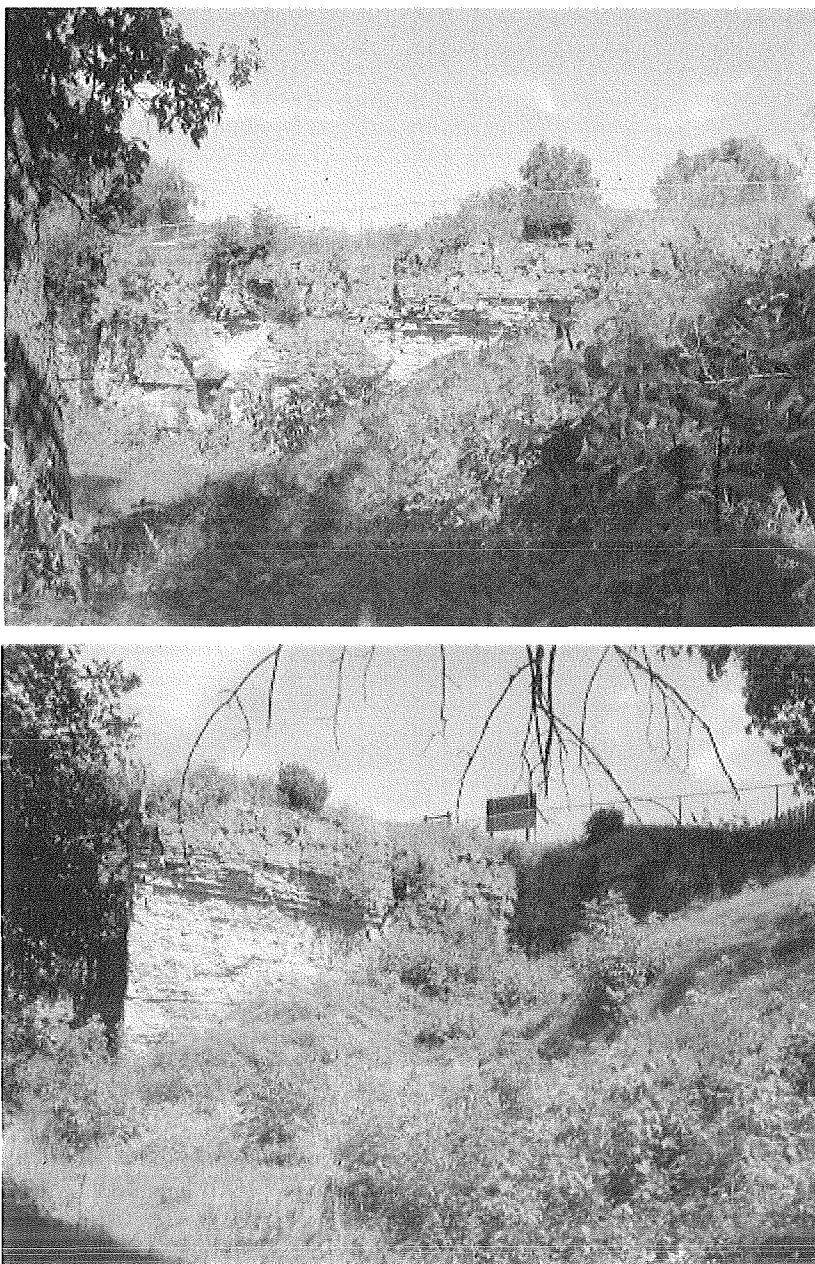


Figure 25. Photographs of the limestone quarry, 2006. Upper: facing north. Lower: facing northeast (on file, Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist, Iowa City).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Additional Documentation Page 59

**Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa**



Figure 26. Photograph facing down into Well / Cistern in 2008. Photograph on file, Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist, Iowa City.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 60

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

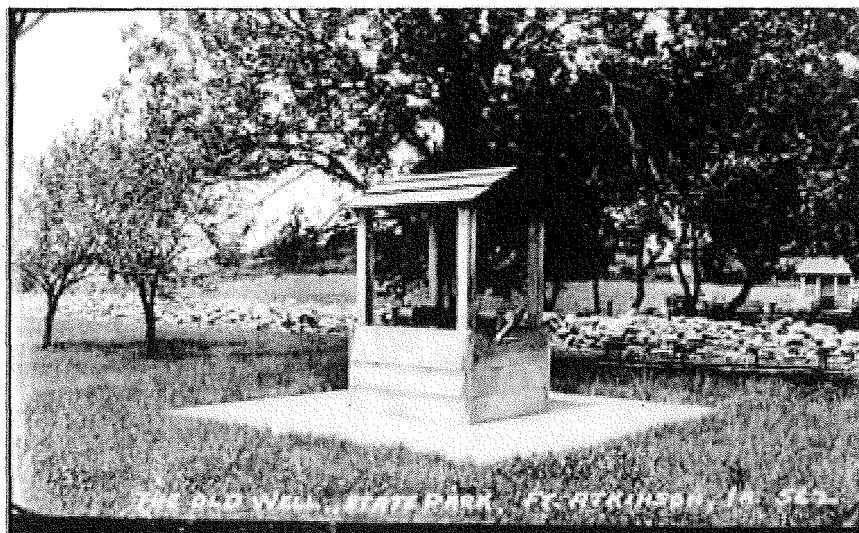


Figure 27. Photographs of Contributing Structure #2 a wooden superstructure which covers Contributing Structure #1, the Well / Cistern. Upper: facing northwest, probably pre-1940 (original on file, State Historical Society of Iowa; reproduced from Whittaker 2006d:105). Lower: facing northwest in 2006. Note the two garages in the background are within the boundaries of Site 13WH57, but outside the area presently under nomination (from Whittaker 2006d:108).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Additional Documentation Page 61

**Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshie County, Iowa**

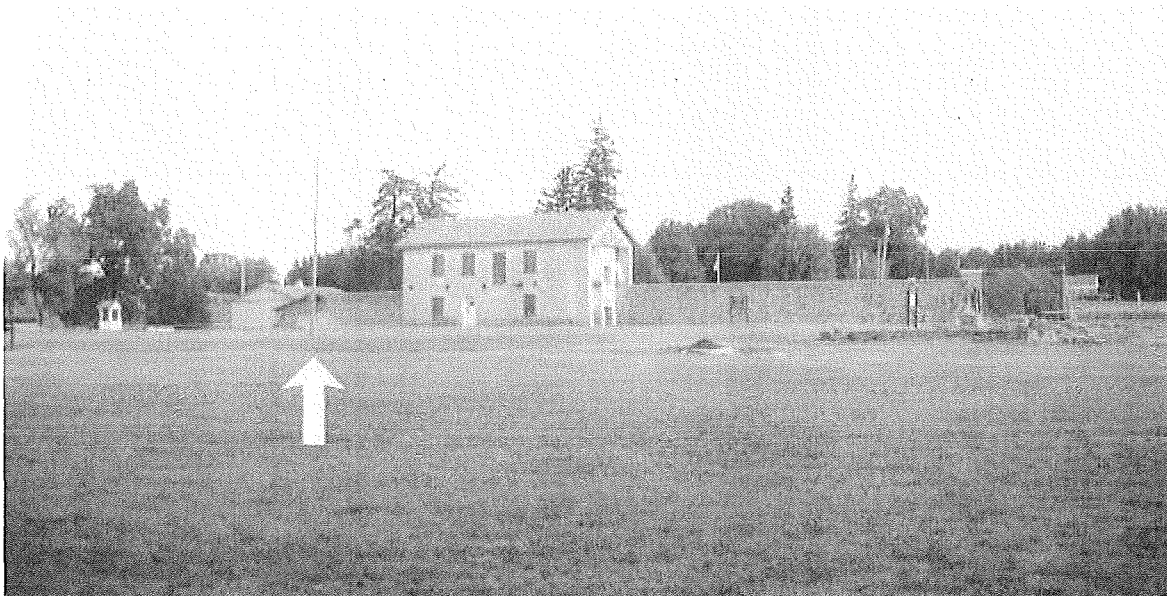


Figure 28. Photograph of Modern Flagpole in 2007, facing northwest. Arrow points to flagpole. Note Contributing Structure # 1 (North Barracks) in background and Contributing Structure #3 (Stone Wall) extending to the east and west of the Barracks (on file, Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist, Iowa City).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Additional Documentation Page 62

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa



Figure 29. Photograph of Garage in 2006 (cropped from Whittaker 2006d:115).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Additional Documentation Page 63

**Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa**

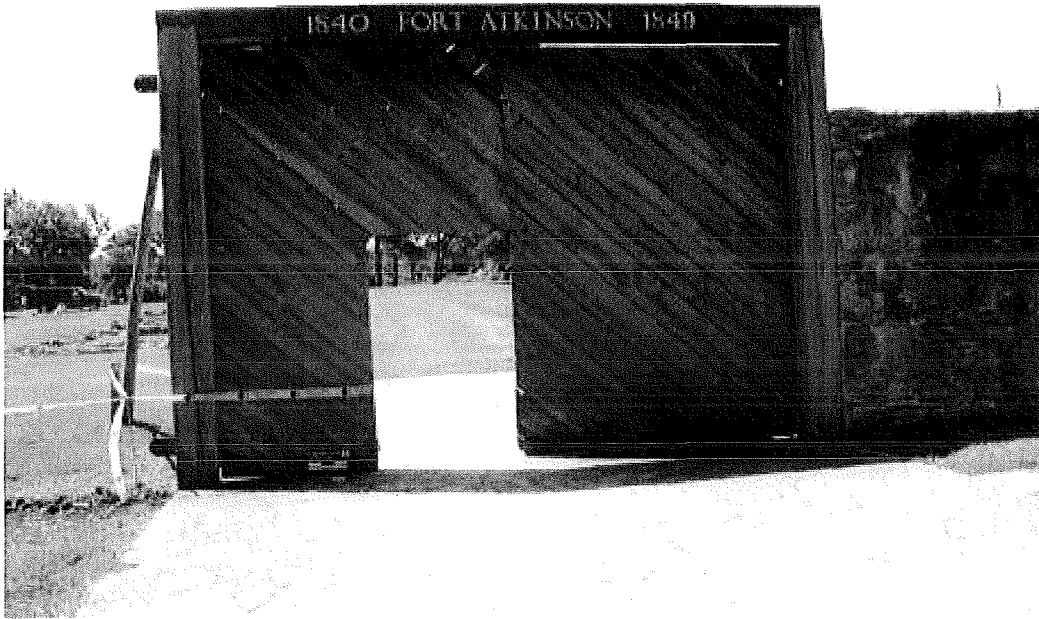


Figure 30. Photograph of Gate in 2006, facing South (from Whittaker 2006d:117).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Additional Documentation Page 64

**Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winnebago County, Iowa**



Figure 31. Photographs of Stockade Reconstruction in 2007, during the annual Rendezvous. Upper: facing southwest, toward the Powder Magazine (Contributing Structure #1). Lower: facing west, along the south wall of the Palisade, toward the Southwest Blockhouse (Contributing Structure #2). Foundations are those of the South Barracks (originals on file, Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist, Iowa City).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 65

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshek County, Iowa

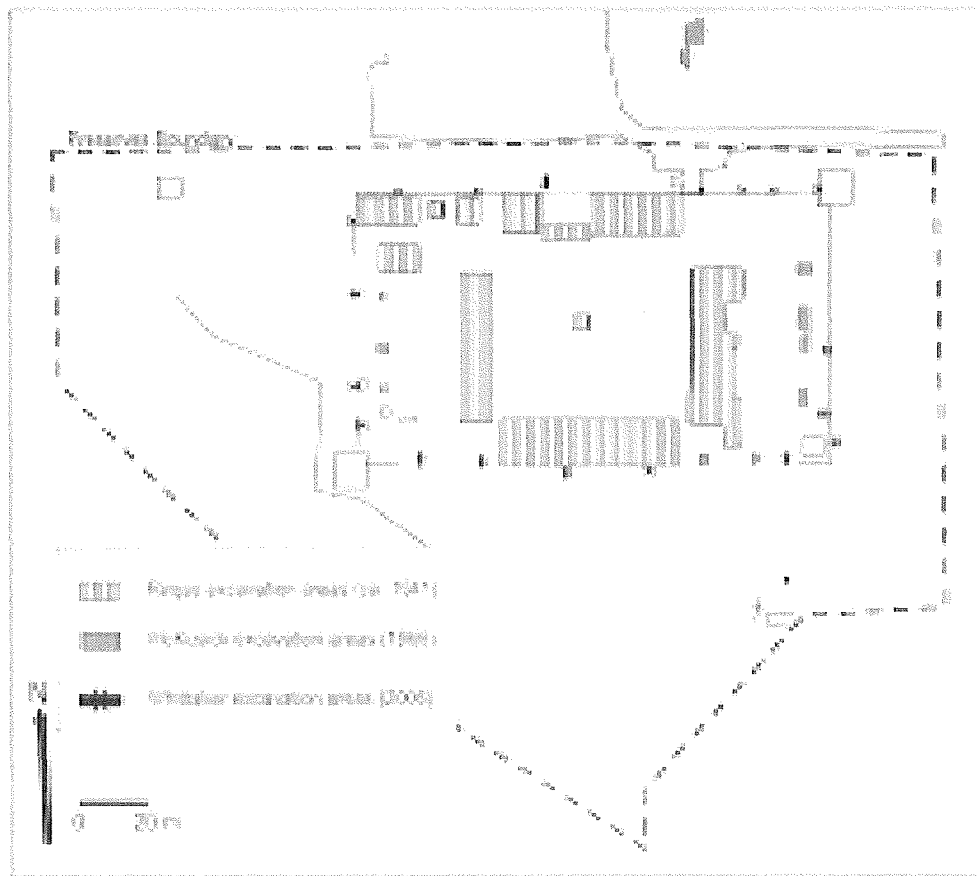


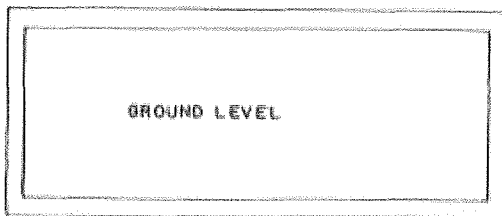
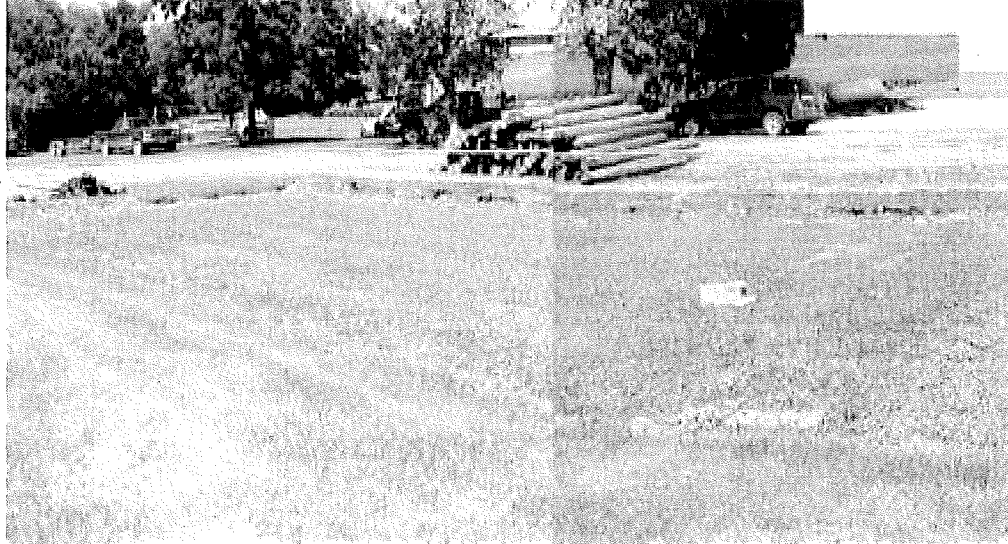
Figure 32. Location of previous subsurface archaeological investigations at the nominated portion of 13WH57, Fort Atkinson.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 66

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa



COMMISSARY (60'X26')



BUTLER'S STORE (36'X22')

THE BUILDING LINES REPRESENT WALLS AND FOUNDATIONS RECONSTRUCTED MOSTLY FROM THE ORIGINAL RUBBLE. THE FOUNDATIONS AND WALLS 1'-2' THICK.

Figure 33. Photograph of Commissary in 2006. Facing northwest (from Whittaker 2007:108) and McKusick's (1966) map of Commissary and Sutler's Store.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 67

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa



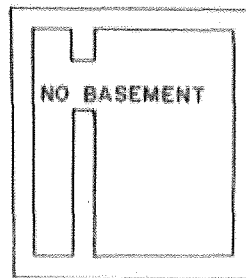
Figure 34. Photograph of Sutler's Store in 2006. Facing northeast (from Whittaker 2007:109; photo courtesy Doug Jones, State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 68

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa



GUARDHOUSE (24' X 16')

Figure 35. Drawing and photograph of Guard House. Lower:: McKusick's 1966 map, cropped to show only Guard House. Upper: facing north (from Whittaker 2007:107). Buildings in background are within the Site 13WH57 boundaries, but outside of the nominated (State-owned) area (all originals on file, Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist, Iowa City).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 69

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa



Figure 36. Photograph of East (Officer's) Barracks in 1941. Facing northwest. Note North Barracks (Contributing Building #3) in background (original on file, Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist, Iowa City; reproduced from Whittaker 2007:57).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 70

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

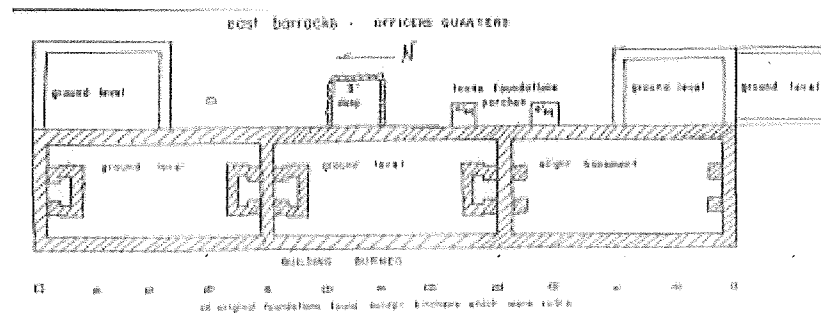
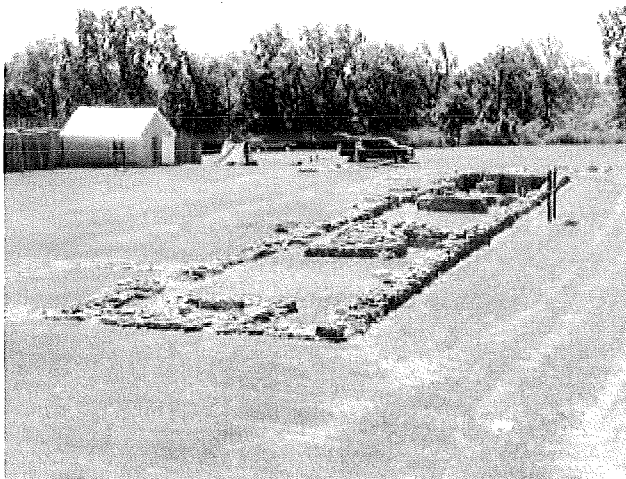
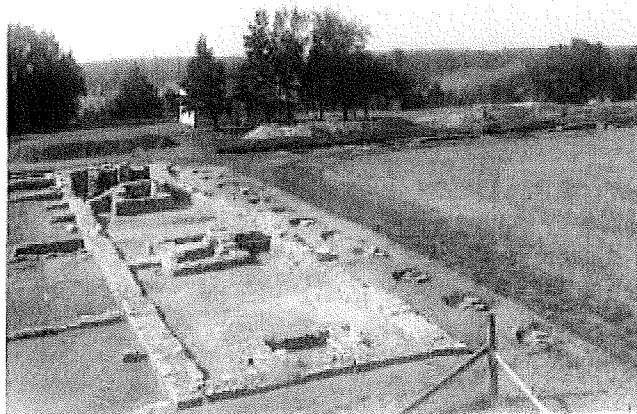


Figure 37. Photographs and drawing of East (Officer's) Barracks. Upper: facing south-southeast around 1941. Middle: facing south-southwest in 2006; note Powder Magazine (Contributing Building #1) on left (reproduced from Whittaker 2007:58, 60). Lower: McKusick's 1966 map, cropped to show only East Barracks (all originals on file, Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist, Iowa City).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 71

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa

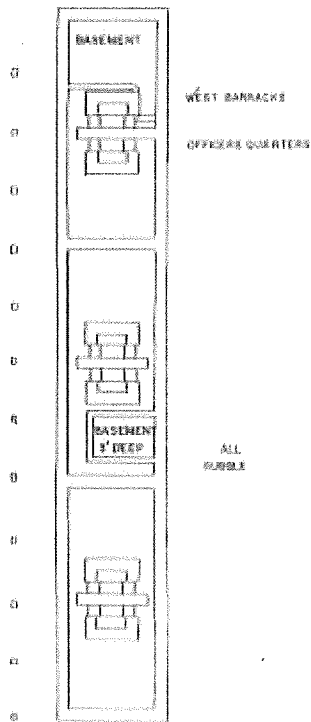


Figure 38. Photographs and drawing of West Barracks. Upper left: facing north around 1941. Upper right: facing north in 2006 (reproduced from Whittaker 2007:97, 99). Lower: McKusick's 1966 map, cropped to show only West Barracks (all originals on file, Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist, Iowa City)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 72

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winnebago County, Iowa

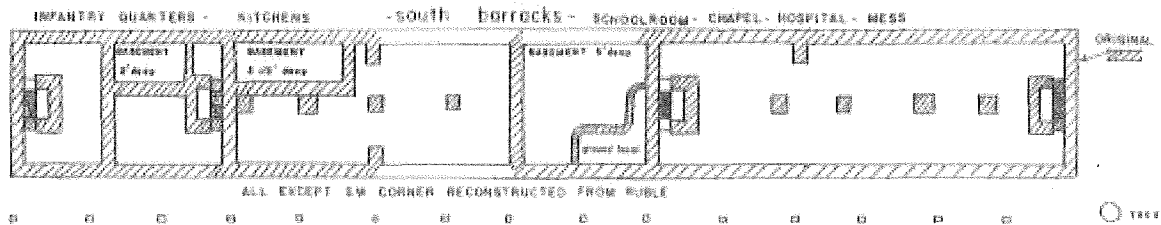
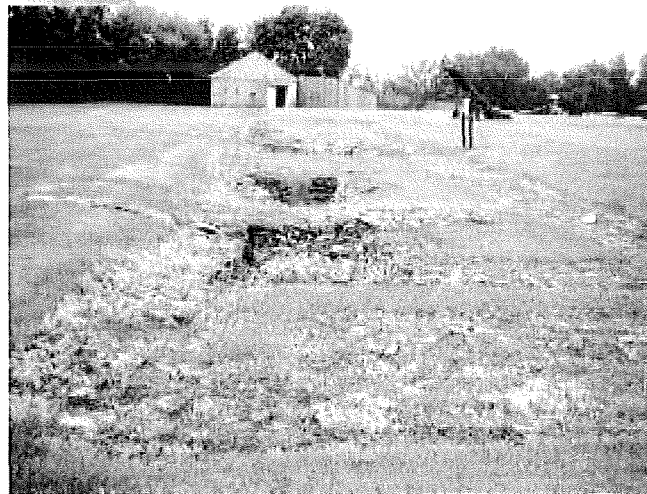
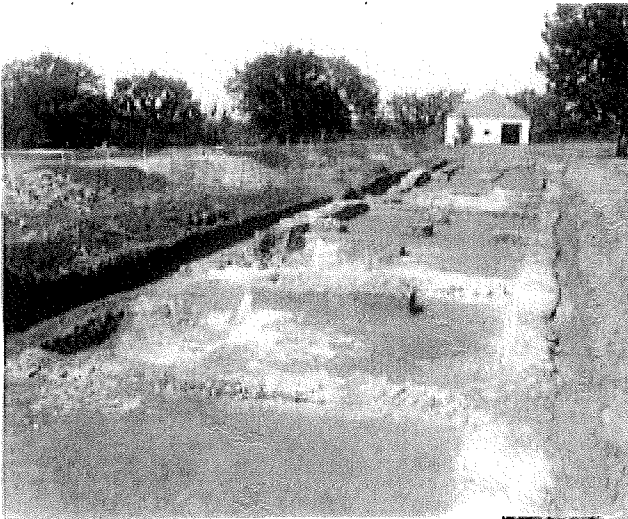


Figure 39. Photographs and drawing of South Barracks. Both photographs facing west. Left: around 1941. Right: in 2006 (reproduced from Whittaker 2007:79-80). Lower: McKusick's 1966 map, cropped to show only South Barracks (all originals on file, Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist, Iowa City)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 73

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshek County, Iowa



Figure 40. Photograph of one of the privies identified by McKusick in 1966. Bob Alex excavating McKusick's southwesternmost privy (see Figure 27), facing southwest (original on file, Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist, Iowa City; reproduced from Whittaker 2007:110). Today, these privies appear as slight depressions, but otherwise covered in grass.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 74

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa



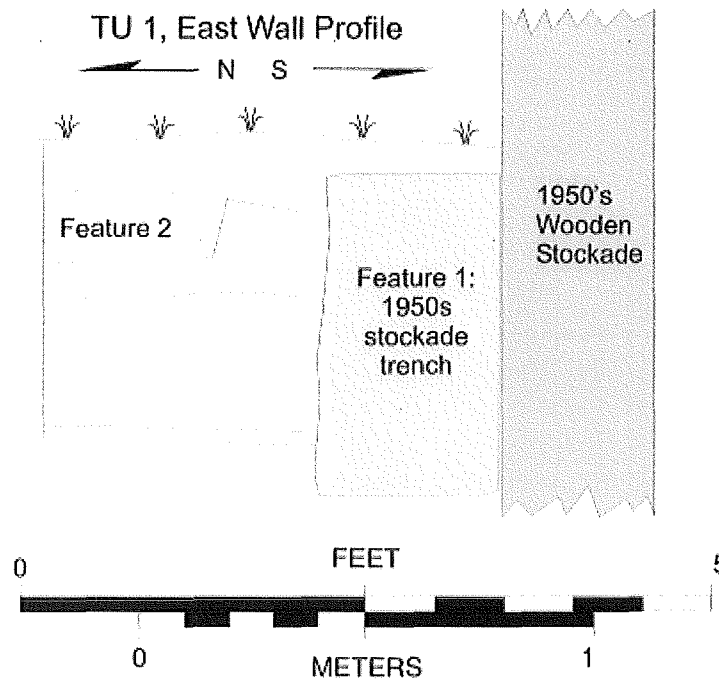
Figure 41. Photograph of southernmost privy foundation identified in 2006. Facing north (cropped from Whittaker 2007:57).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 75

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa



Feature 2 fill of very dark grayish brown (10YR 3/2) sandy clay loam; many limestone; common historic artifacts.

Figure 42. Side view profile of Builder's Trench, depicted here as Feature 2 on left side (cropped and modified from Whittaker 2007:48).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 76

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshisek County, Iowa

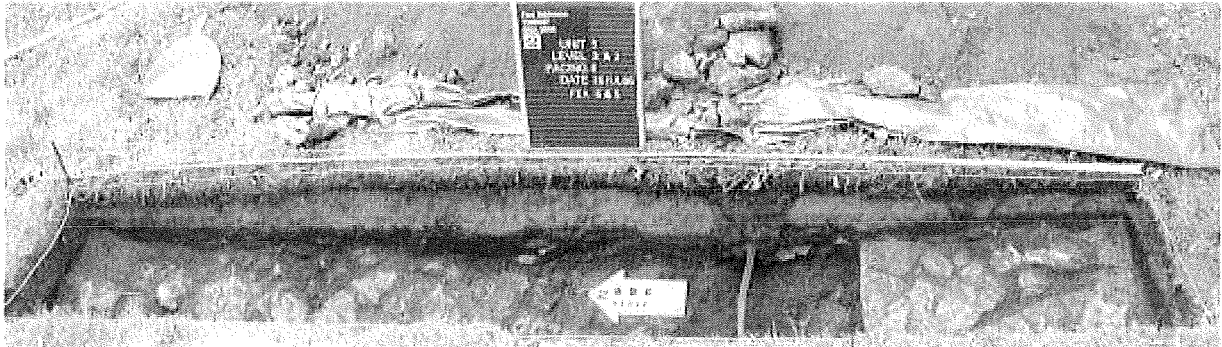


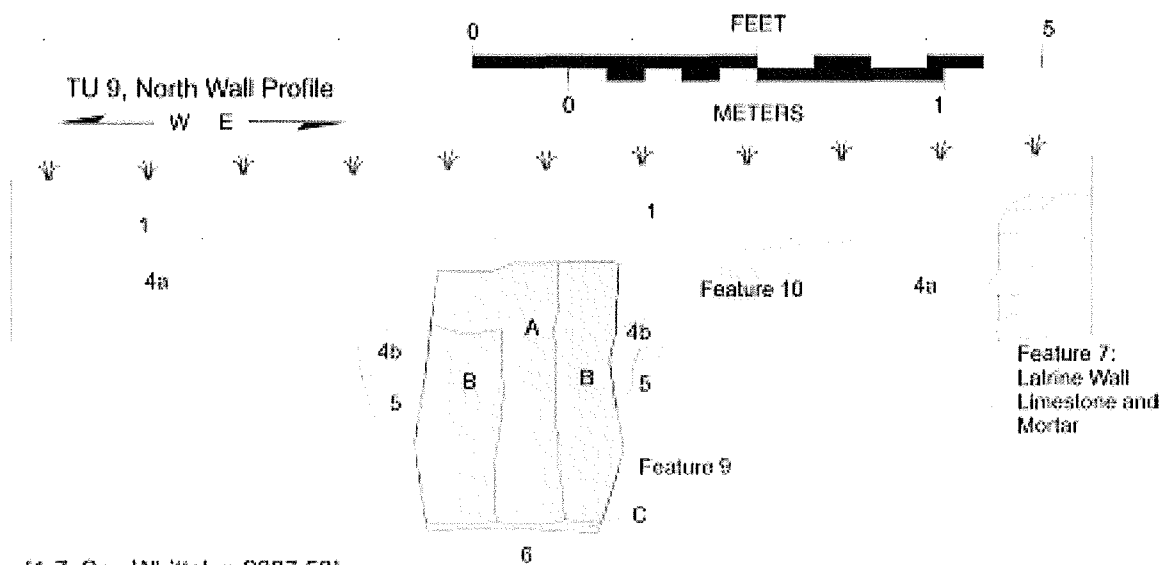
Figure 43. Photograph of unknown function fort-related foundation. Facing east. Closely laid limestone on far right, rubble in remainder of unit (cropped from Whittaker 2007:51).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 77

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshek County, Iowa



[1-7: See Whittaker 2007:53]

Feature 9:

A: Fill of very dark grayish brown (10YR 3/2) mottled with dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) silty clay; sticky and tight.

B: Fill of dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) mottled with brown (10YR 4/3) silty clay loam and sandy clay loam; many large limestone and gritty sand.

Figure 44. Drawing of original stockade wall trench, shown here as "B" in Feature 9. "A" represents the location of the 1950s stockade reconstruction (cropped from Whittaker 2007:53). The "Latrine Wall" is one of the two privies identified by Whittaker. "Feature 10" was non-cultural.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 78

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiek County, Iowa



Figure 45. Photograph of probable fort-era root cellar. Facing west (cropped from Whittaker 2007:62; composite image).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 79

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshie County, Iowa



Figure 46. Photograph of houses once present at the fort site. Upper: Behrens' house, facing north (from Anonymous ca. 1900). Lower: James house, facing southwest (photo courtesy of Mary Moser, Fort Atkinson; both photos cropped from Whittaker 2007:112, 114).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 80

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winnebago County, Iowa

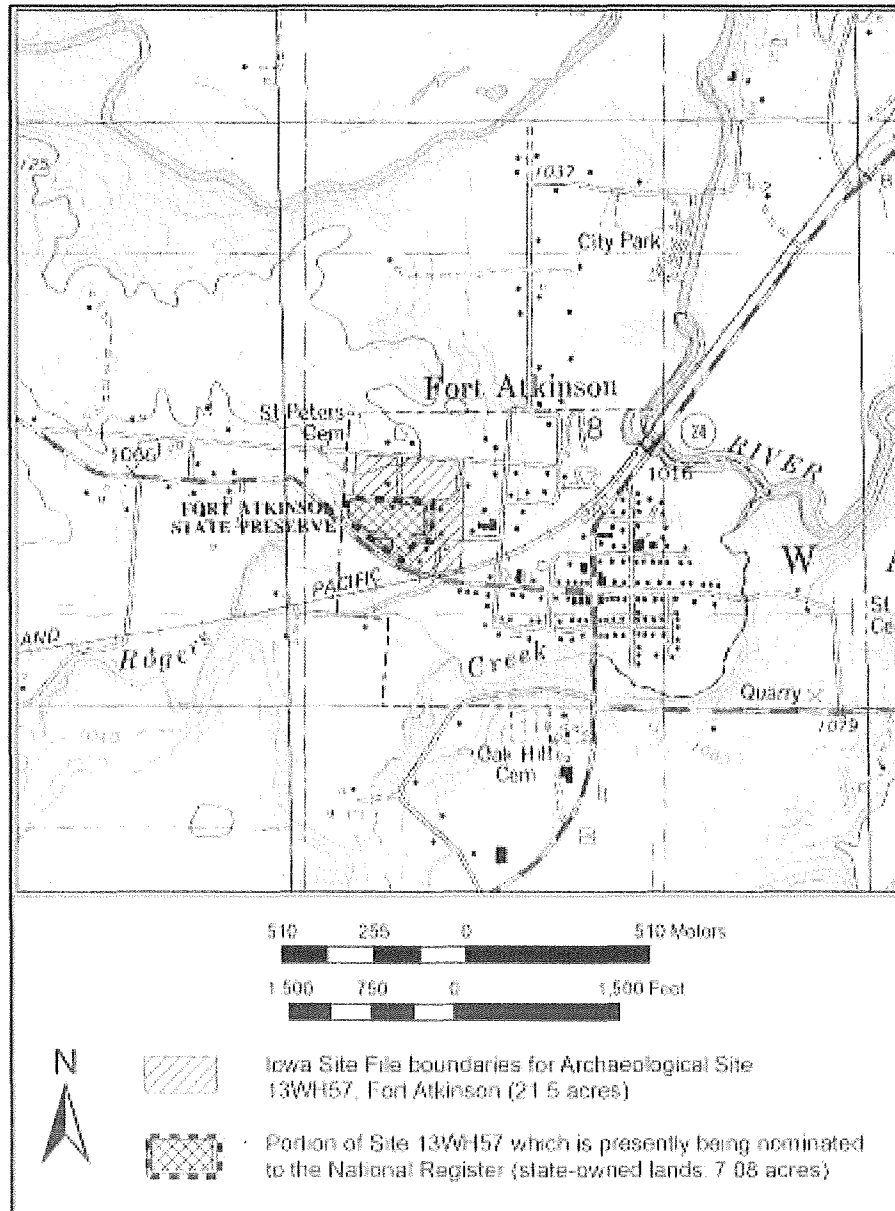


Figure 47. Map depicting the location of the entirety of Site 13WH57, Fort Atkinson, and the nominated portion of the site (from USGS Fort Atkinson 7.5' quadrangle 1981).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 81

Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winneshiiek County, Iowa

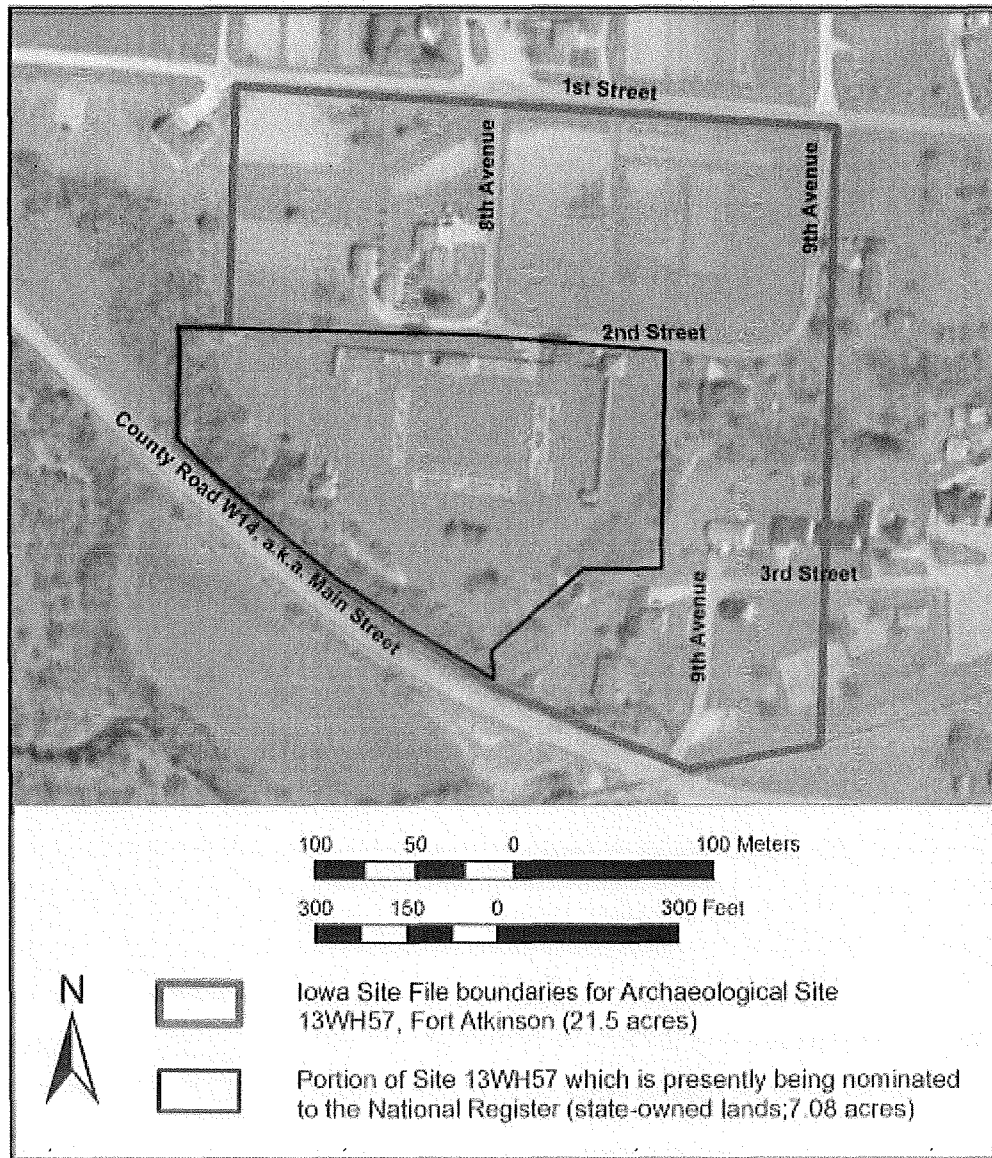


Figure 48. Map depicting boundaries of the nominated portion of Fort Atkinson and other, unnominated portions of the Fort which may be nominated at a later date, pending landowner approval (base aerial photograph from Iowa DNR 2002).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Additional Documentation Page 82

**Fort Atkinson Historic District
Winnebago County, Iowa**



Figure 49. Map depicting boundaries of the nominated portion of Fort Atkinson, highlighted, as shown on city plat (from Schneidercorp 2008).