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HISTORIC  
MCFARLAND

*A*  
*Walking*  
*Tour*

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On July 3, 1856, William H. McFarland purchased eighty acres of land from Mr. and Mrs. James B. Waller, land that was to be the site of the future village of McFarland. Mr. McFarland was hired by the Milwaukee and Mississippi Railroad to buy land between Madison and Stoughton and to build a depot.

By October, 1856 a village had already been platted, and Mr. McFarland began selling lots for \$5. Slowly, people moved to McFarland and started to build homes and businesses.

Many of those early buildings no longer exist but it is surprising to note that McFarland does have at least thirteen homes that are over 100 years old. Sixty homes and businesses built between 1857 and 1930 are listed in this booklet, providing the date they were built, history of ownership and architectural styles.

The purpose of this booklet is to promote an awareness of McFarland's unique character and to initiate concern for historic preservation. Some may say that McFarland does not have any historic or valuable homes or areas to preserve. It is true that McFarland does not have buildings of state-wide historical importance, massive Victorian mansions or other architectural marvels. McFarland does, however, have homes and businesses that make up our unique character and appearance which are important parts of our community's identity.

The goal of historic preservation is not to recreate history but to preserve the integrity of older homes, buildings and neighborhoods in an attempt to protect the village character. For this to be accomplished, historic preservation must be integrated into the planning process of the village.

As you go on this walking tour, please keep in mind that it is a tour of the exterior of the homes and buildings. Please respect the rights and privacy of the owners by staying off of their property.

We suggest beginning your tour at the park on the corner of Bashford and Exchange Streets with house number 1 or 24. Please use the map in the booklet as a guide.

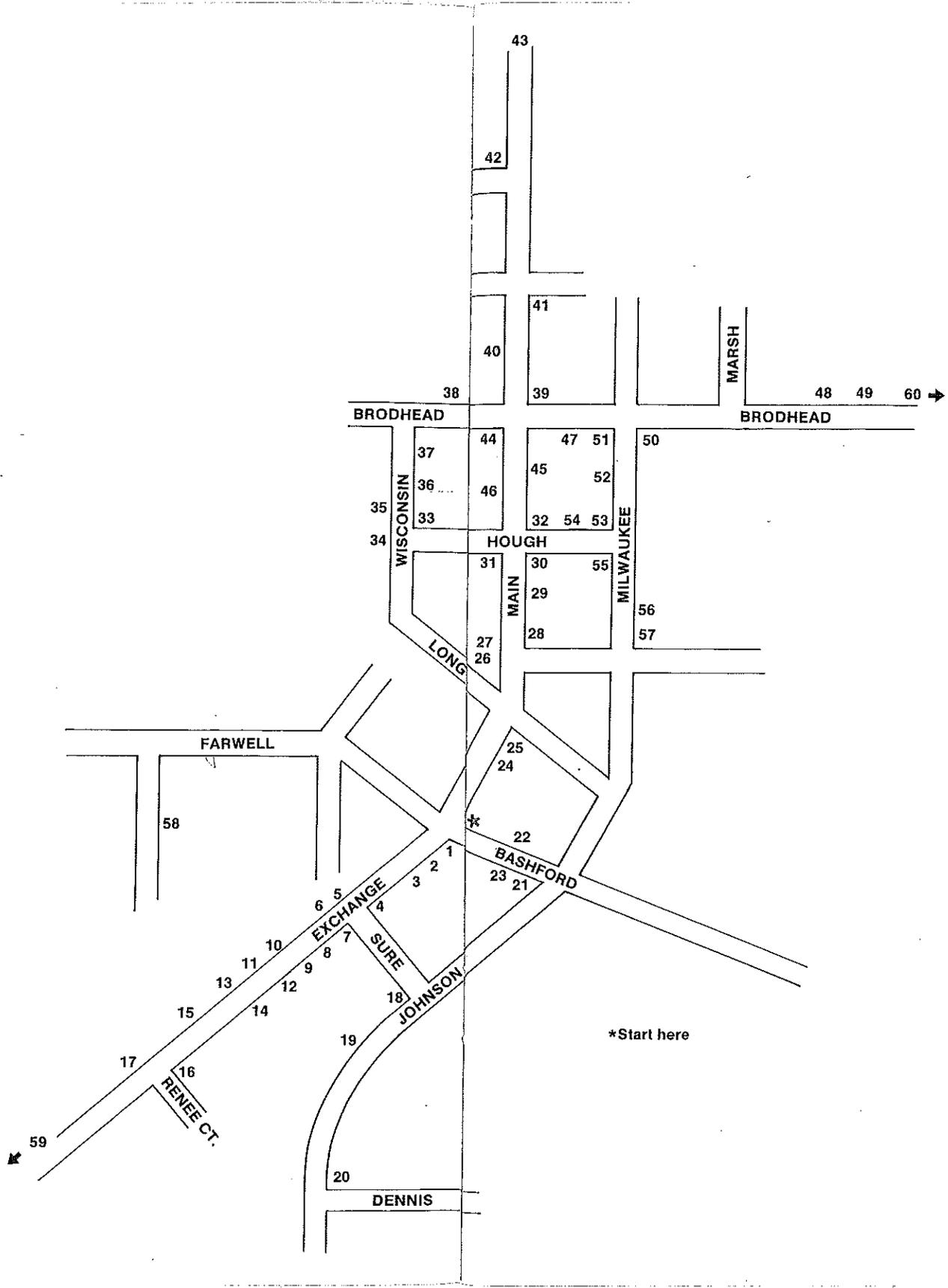
In honor of Dane County's and the Territory of Wisconsin's sesquicentennials and of McFarland's 130th anniversary, the McFarland Historical Society is proud to present, Historic McFarland: A Walking Tour.

Ron Larson  
July, 1986

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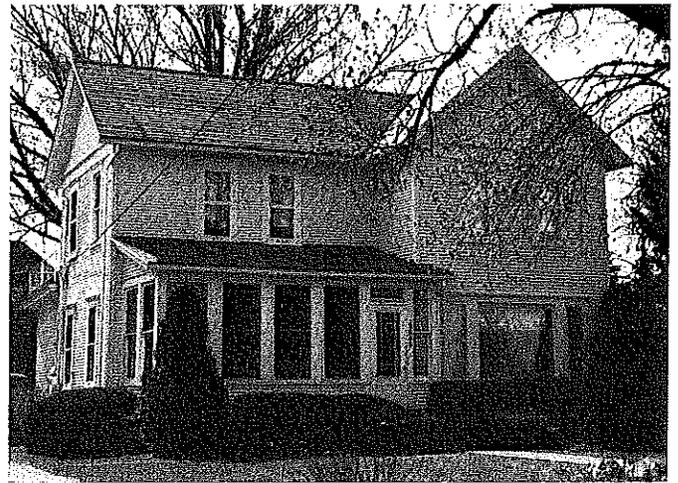




1 — 6003 Exchange St.

Larson House 1898

A very beautiful example of Queen Anne architecture with fine ornamental work on the front gable and front porch. Built for E.N. Edwards in 1898 but sold in 1901, to Tollef Olson (Fosheim) who lived here for ten years. The John Larson family bought the house in 1911, spending the winters here and the summers at a cottage on Lake Waubesa. The house remains in the Larson family.



2 — 6007 Exchange St.

Dyreson House 1898

This vernacular gabled-ell style house was built by Theo Edwards shortly after his brother, E.N. Edwards, built the house next door. The original portion of the house consisted of only two rooms. The second floor and an additional lower room were added at a later date.

The house was sold to Oscar Johnson in 1903 and then sold to David Dyreson in 1911. The house remains in the Dyreson family.



3 — 6009 Exchange St. **MacLachlan-Larson House** c. 1895

Probably built in the mid-1890's by either Sjur Johnson, Freeman Eighmy or Peter Kurtz, all owners of this property during the late 19th century.

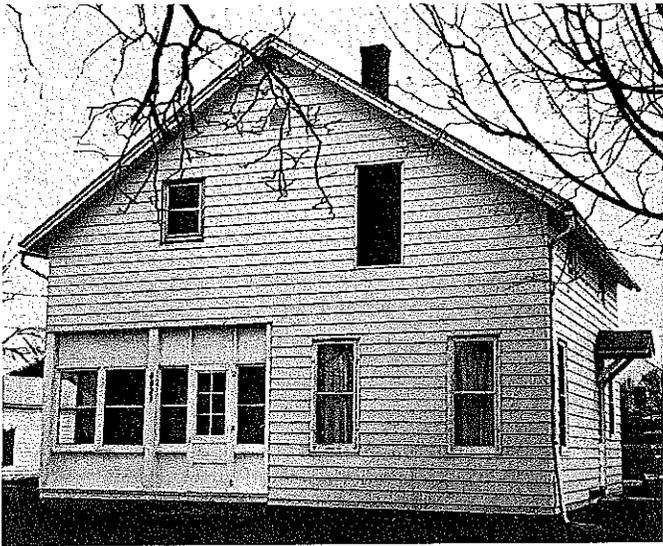
By 1899 Dr. William MacLachlan was living here and operating his doctor's office out of his home. MacLachlan had the left portion of the house added in order to expand his office space.

Arnold and Ruby Larson became owners in 1944.



5 — 6016 Exchange St. **Oscar Johnson House** 1908

Built for Oscar Johnson, a well-driller, in 1908. This house is an example of the vernacular Queen Anne/ Cross Gabled style.



4 — 6021 Exchange St. **Hugh MacLachlan House** 1899

Built for Hugh MacLachlan, father of Dr. William MacLachlan. This vernacular style home dates back to 1899.



6 — 6104 Exchange St. **Midthun House** 1922

This vernacular style house was built in 1922 for Ole Midthun when he retired from farming and moved to town. The Midthun's lived here until the 1940's. Originally, the exterior was stucco.



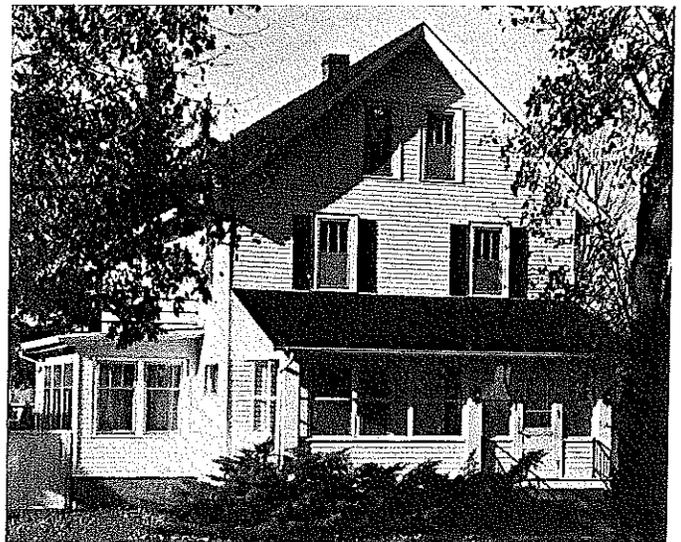
7 — 6103 Exchange St. Theodore Edwards House 1901  
 This vernacular Queen Anne was built in 1901 by Sjur Johnson. Theo Edwards bought the house in 1911 and it remained in the Edwards family until the 1960's.



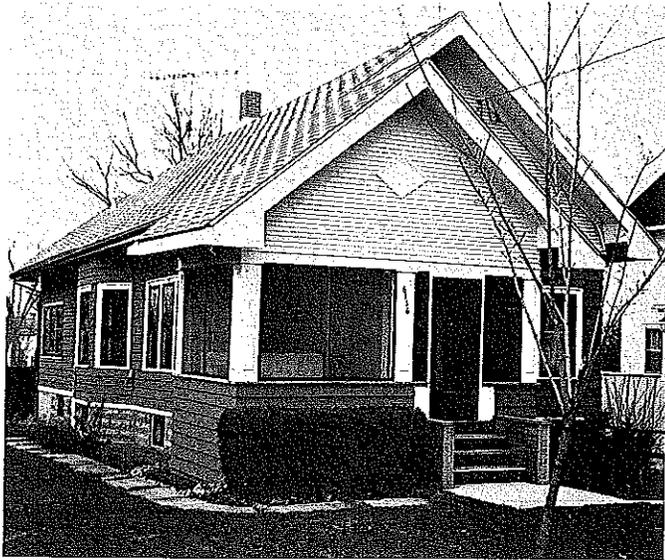
9 — 6111 Exchange St. Elver House 1903  
 Theresa Elver had this house built in 1903 and lived here until 1923 when she sold the house to Ole Olson. The Olson's owned the house until the mid-1940's. Since then the house has been owned by Mr. & Mrs. Christ Brandt, Ethel Martin, and Larry & Debbie Nygaard.  
 A vernacular design, this house did feature ornamental work on the front gable at one time. A detail which is still evident is the small cube work (dentils) under the front porch eave.



8 — 6107 Exchange St. Moe House 1915  
 Built in 1915 for Thomas Moe, this house is a fine example of the American Four Square style which was popular from 1900 to 1920. Usually two stories, this style also featured a large one story porch spanning the entire front, dormers and a hipped roof.  
 The house remained in the Moe family until the late thirties when Tilda Ellestad became owner. She owned the house until the 1960's.



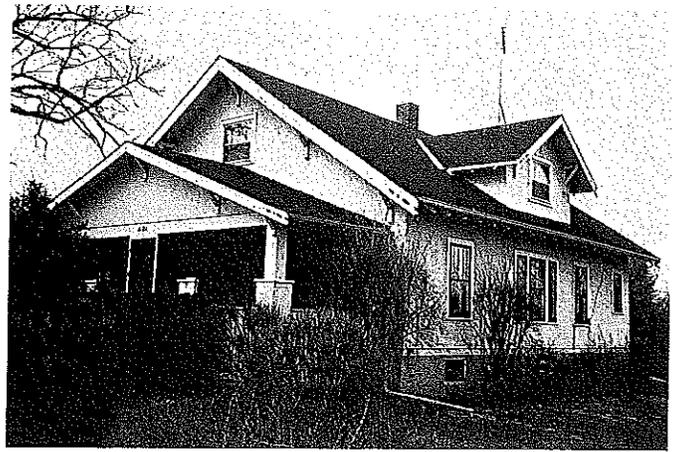
10 — 6112 Exchange St. Elvehjem-Kalnes House 1916  
 Built by O.J. Elvehjem when he retired from farming and moved to town. This well built vernacular style house features a large front screenporch and a sun porch on the southside.  
 Iver and Anna Kalnes and family moved here in 1934, eventually buying the house in 1947 from Conrad Elvehjem. It remained in the Kalnes family until 1968.



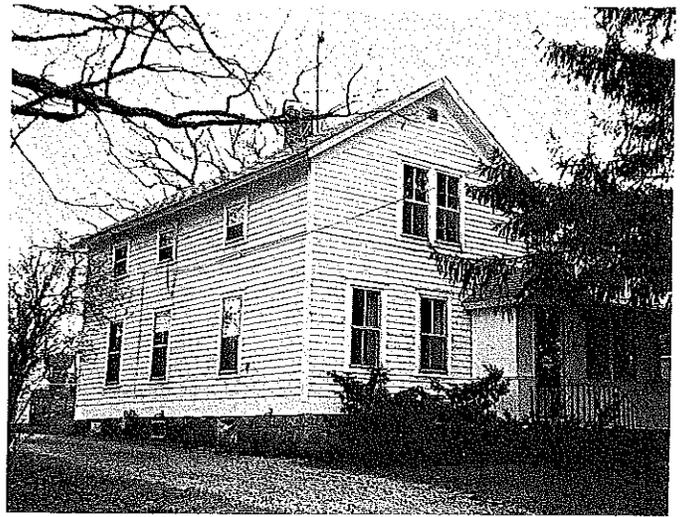
**11 — 6116 Exchange St.                      Edwards-Vick House 1917**  
 Built for Mrs. G. Edwards in 1917, this house is an example of the Bungalow style. The house was sold in 1928 to Homer Vick, then president of the McFarland State Bank. It remained in the Vick family until the mid-1960's.



**12 — 6115 Exchange St.                      Henry House 1911**  
 A vernacular Two Story Cube style, this house was built in 1911 for H.R. Henry. It remained in the Henry family for over thirty-five years. Mary Ottum owned the house from the late thirties until the mid-1950's.



**13 — 6120 Exchange St.                      Ottum-Olson House 1916**  
 A fine example of the Bungalow style with stucco veneer. An interesting detail is the exposed rafter ends. Built by Albert Harrison of Cottage Grove for Napoleon Olson, McFarland blacksmith. Olson's brother, Julius, built a similar house in 1915 at 5707 Wisconsin St. The lumber for this house came from the Brittingham & Hixon lumber yard in Cottage Grove. Charles Anderson bought the house from Olson in 1922 but sold it the following year to T.I. (Bert) Ottum. Erling and Alice Olson bought the house in 1954.



**14 — 6123 Exchange St.                      Ausen House c. 1900-1905**  
 This house was probably built around the beginning of the 20th Century by Thomas S. Ausen. Records also show his name being spelled Aasen or Ansen. The Ausen's owned the house until 1920 when H.P. Hanson became owner. The style of the older portion of the house is possibly Greek Revival.



15 — 6128 Exchange St. Skare House 1903

Built by Henry Skare, this house is a fine example of a small scale Queen Anne. The fish scale siding and ornamental work on the front gable and porch are beautiful examples of this style. The house has kept much of its integrity with very little alteration work.

This is the only house on the walking tour that has had only one family ownership.



16 — 6139 Exchange St. Tollef Lewis House c. 1900

Tollef Lewis built this house around 1900, moving his family from their first house at 6303 Exchange St. Lewis was a farmer but also was a well respected businessman, combining barbering, undertaking and furniture sales in his building at 5902 Main St.

This house is a vernacular Queen Anne which has been altered over the years. The original exterior was a yellow stucco.



17 — 6142 Exchange St. Siggelkow House 1901

McFarland's most impressive example of Queen Anne architecture, complete with a round turret, steep and multiple roofs and open gables. The original siding was shingle covering, reflecting the Shingle Style which was popular during 1885-1902.

E.N. Edwards, needing a larger home, had this one built, but sold it in 1904 to Frank Siggelkow who owned it until the 1940's.



18 — 5307 Sure St. Christopher House 1903

This vernacular style house was built in 1903 for C.B. Christopher. The original house was smaller with a few rooms being added in the back at a later date.

The owners of the house include Elmer and Selma Ottum, 1920-1948; John and Gunda Johnson, 1949; and Roger and Alice Edwards, 1950- .



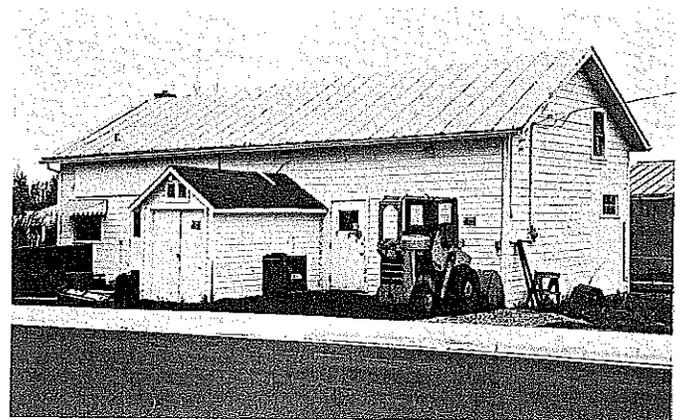
19 — 6114 Johnson St. **P.J. Ottum House** 1903  
 Built in 1903 for P.J. Ottum, this vernacular style house remained in the Ottum family until the early 1950's. P.J. Ottum was a farmer and probably built this house when he retired.



21 — 5411 Bashford St. **Theodore Edwards & Son Office.** c. 1900  
 This office was built around the turn of the century, shortly after E.N. and Theo Edwards started their farm implement and hardware business across the street. In the early years the building served as a combination office and harness shop which explains the two front doors. Roger Edwards continued the family business until 1976.



20 — 6123 Johnson St. **Johnson House** c. 1875  
 Built around 1875 by Sjur Johnson, a farmer and landowner. Christ Johnson bought the house and farm in 1910 and it remained in the Johnson family until 1976.  
 This vernacular style farmhouse has hints of Greek Revival and Italianate architecture, a common look for rural houses during 1850-1880. One pleasing aspect of this house is that it has kept much of its original appearance for over 100 years.



22 — 5410 Bashford St. **Theodore Edwards & Son Warehouse** c. 1890  
 Originally built as a tobacco warehouse, the Edwards brothers bought this building in 1896 to be used as a warehouse for their farm implement and hardware business. The building still has its original roof, made from Swedish steel.

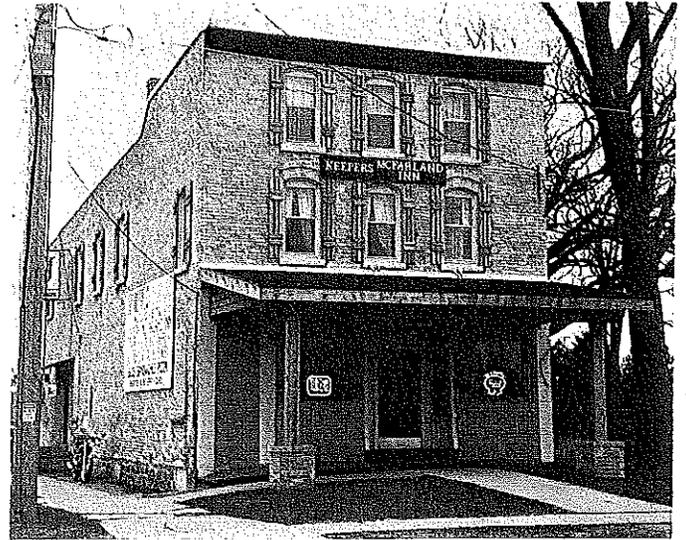


23 — 5407 Bashford St. **Blacksmith Shop** c. 1910  
 Built of cement blocks for Oscar Johnson around 1910 for use as a blacksmith shop. Brothers Julius and Napoleon Olson operated the shop until the late 1920's when they went out of business due to the advancement of the automobile.



24 — 5923 Exchange St. **McFarland House** 1857  
 McFarland's oldest home. Built by the village founder, William H. McFarland, for use as a family residence and hotel. A third floor hall was used in the early years for Saturday night dances and Sunday morning church services. The vernacular Italianate style house remained in the McFarland family until the 1960's.

*ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 OF HISTORIC PLACES*



25 — 5915 Exchange St. **Evans Store** c. 1895  
 This vernacular Italianate style building was used as a general store until the 1930's. Ole and Egil Evans started the business around 1895. Harald Smedal joined the business in 1912, eventually becoming sole owner. During the early 1930's the building was rented for the post office. John McFarland bought the building during the later part of the 1930's, turning it into a tavern.



26 — 5910 Main St. **Ole S. Olson Building** 1897  
 Built by Ole S. Olson in 1897, this building was partitioned into two sections for the first forty years. It has been the site for many businesses, including dry goods, groceries and hardware. The Olson Building has a Neo-Classical style with keystone arch windows and Italianate hood moldings. The wood siding is a later addition.



27 — 5902 Main St.

Tollef Lewis Building c. 1897

Built around the same time as the Ole S. Olson building. It is also very likely to have been constructed by the same builder since both share similar features. This building is also a Neo-Classical Revival style.

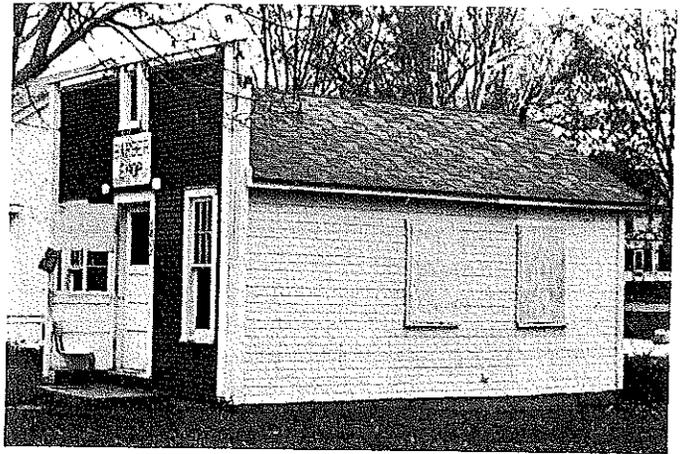
Tollef Lewis operated a furniture business here as well as a barber shop and undertaking business.



28 — 5819 Main St.

Ed Reed Building c. 1900

Built around the turn of the century by Ed Reed. A variety of businesses occupied this building, including a grocery store, meat market and pharmacy. The features of this building reflect the Classical Revival style.



29 — 5807 Main St.

Ole Olson Carpenter Shop 1902

This building was built by Ole Olson and used as a carpenter shop. Originally, Olson's home stood here with the shop located at the back of the lot. Homer Vick was the owner in 1922 when a fire destroyed the house. The shop was moved to its present location by Les Larson during the 1940's and was used as a barbershop. Hugo Indra has been operating his business here since 1956.

The shop has a Broom-Town front, a characteristic which, when viewed from straight on, makes the building appear larger.



30 — 5803 Main St.

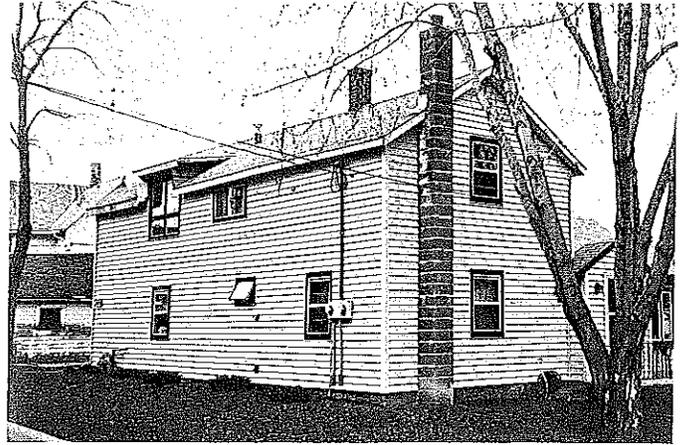
Nelson-Helmke House 1861

Built for Thomas & Julia Brown, this vernacular Greek Revival style house was originally a small, rectangular dwelling. Additions took place during the ownership of A. Thompson, 1871-1897, and Ole N. Nelson, 1900-1936. In 1920, this house became the first in McFarland to be wired for electricity.

Mary Lyster Nelson was the owner from 1936-1944, followed by Dorothea Nelson Helmke, 1944-1978. The house remains in the Helmke family.



**31 — 5802 Main St. Ellison-John Shetter House c. 1863**  
 Probably built in 1863 for Elid Ellison, this house contains subtle features of the Greek Revival style. The house is very symmetrical and orderly, especially noted by the placement of the windows. The low-pitched roof also is characteristic of the Greek Revival style. John Shetter became the owner in 1868, selling to Andrew Sanderson in 1884. Other owners include: William Crooks, 1890-1899; Lawrence Dolan, 1900-1904; C.A. Kanouse, 1905-1919; Hans Sperle, 1920-1957; Gayhart and Pat Swenson, 1958-. The house also was used as a hotel during the turn of the century.



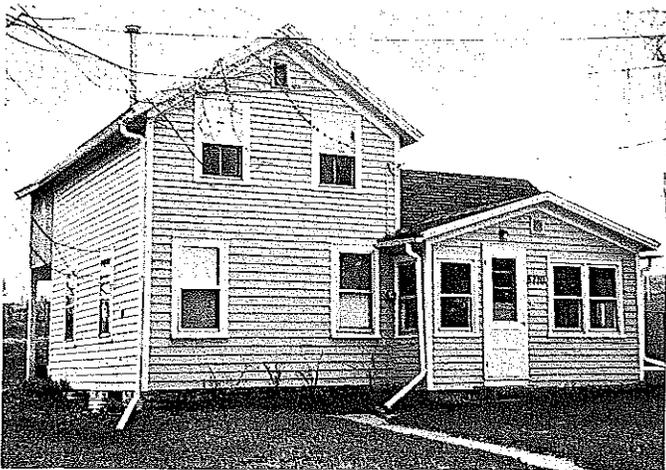
**33 — 5302 Hough St. Thompson House 1901**  
 Built for T.C. Thompson in 1901 and remained in his family until 1923. Fred Thatcher was owner of this vernacular gabled-ell house from 1924 until the 1940's.



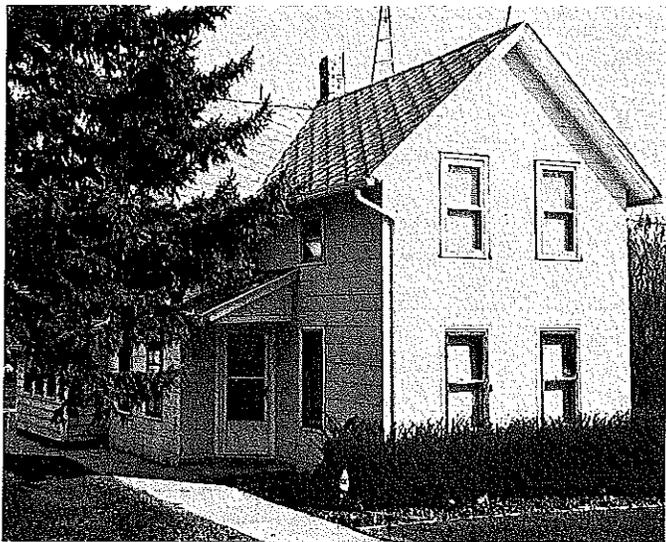
**32 — 5715 Main St. Freeman Eighmy House I c. 1865**  
 Possibly built in the mid to late 1860's by either John Nelson or Freeman Eighmy. Eighmy lived in this vernacular side-gabled house from 1868 until 1896, when he moved to the new house he built at 5416 Main St. Eighmy was an important McFarland businessman. The house remained in his name until 1916, when Stener Thompson became the owner. The Thompson's owned the house until the 1940's.



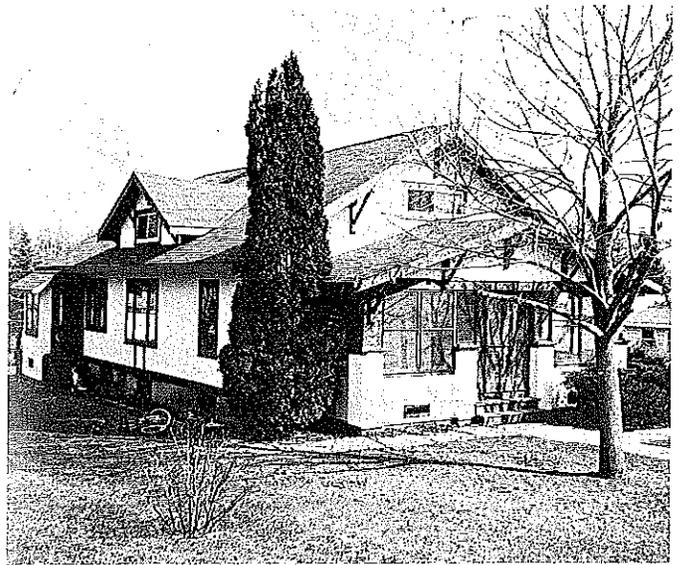
**34 — 5714 Wisconsin St. O.T. Olson House 1890**  
 An excellent example of an unaltered vernacular gabled-ell style house. The exterior of the house probably looks the same as when O.T. Olson lived here. Built in 1890, Olson, a bachelor, lived here with his mother. He was McFarland's depot agent.



35 — 5710 Wisconsin St. **Moen House 1893**  
 This vernacular gabled-ell house was built in 1893 for Elizabeth Moen. Since then there have been several additions to the house, most notably the front entry.



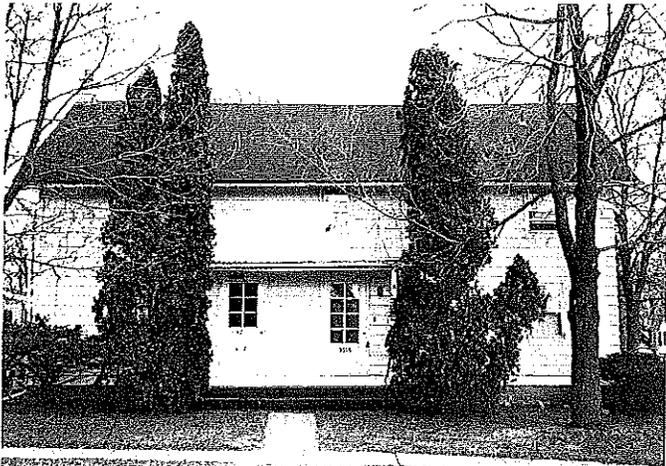
36 — 5711 Wisconsin St. **J. Hanson-Helgerson House 1902**  
 John Hanson had this house built in 1902 and owned it until the 1930's at which time Edwin Helgerson became owner.  
 The style of architecture is a vernacular front gabled.



37 — 5707 Wisconsin St. **Olson-Evenson House 1915**  
 A good example of the Bungalow style featuring a large front porch, wide projecting roof and stucco veneer. Built by Lewis Harrison for Julius Olson, McFarland blacksmith. Edwin Hoesel bought the house in 1924 and sold it five years later to Peter Evenson, operator of the feed mill. The house remained in the Evenson family until the 1960's.



38 — 5306 Brodhead St. **Prentiss House c. 1876**  
 The original portion of this house may have been built around 1876 by Marsh Prentiss. A major addition probably was built around 1898 by John Anderson, giving the house its vernacular Queen Anne appearance. Other owners include Tollef Lewis, Henry Lewis, Harry Moore and J.C. and Caroline Larson.



**39 — 5615 Main St. Methodist Church c. 1880**  
 Built originally as a Methodist Church with a steeple and main entry on the south end (facing Brodhead).  
 The congregation continued until the 1930's when ownership of the building was transferred to T.B. Ottum. Hubert Flugstad bought the property in the mid-1940's and converted it to apartments.



**40 — 5606 Main St. Anderson House 1916**  
 Built in 1916 for McFarland businessman John M. Anderson. At the time he was the accountant for Brittingham & Hixon Lumber Co.  
 This house is an example of the American Craftman style, featuring a simple, yet handsome exterior. This style is known for broad gabled roofs and dormers. An interesting characteristic of the American Craftsman is the line that runs along the exterior of the second floor.  
 This house was quite a showpiece during the Anderson years.



**41 — 5603 Main St. Kleine House c. 1900-1920**  
 Another example of the American Four Square, made popular by mail-order catalogs during 1900-1920.  
 Possibly built by H.C. Kleine, the house remained in his name until the 1940's.



**42 — 5522 Main St. Sjur Olson House c. 1880**  
 This modest vernacular front gabled house was built by Sjur Olson around 1880. The front porch was added at a later date. The lumber for this house was hauled by two horse-drawn lumber wagons from a downtown Madison lumberyard.  
 Olson was a local farmer and tailor. The house remained in the Olson family until 1976.

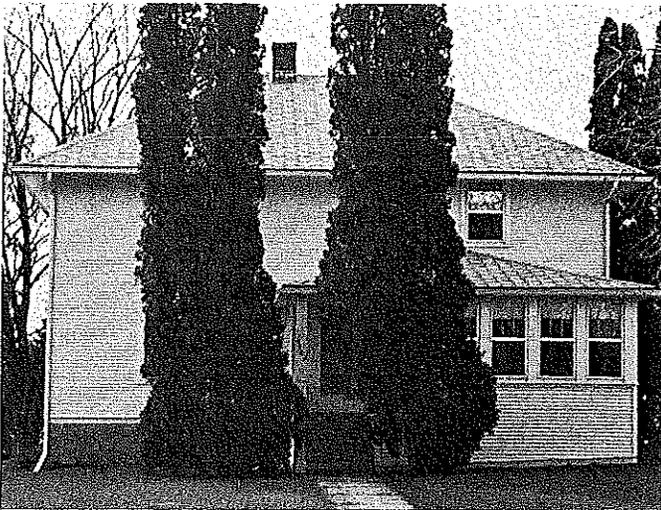


43 — 5416 Main St.

**Eighmy House II 1896**

Built for Freeman Eighmy in 1896. This house is another fine example of Queen Anne architecture, highlighted by the fishscale siding on the exterior of the third floor and the balustrade on the side porch. Eighmy was a prominent businessman in McFarland dating back to the late 1850's. He lived at 5715 Main St. before building this home.

The house remained in the Eighmy family until being sold in 1956 to Willard McConnell.



44 — 5702 Main St.

**Moore House 1921**

This vernacular Two Story Cube style house was built in 1921 for Charles Moore. This style is known for its square proportions and hipped roof. The house remained in the Moore family for over twenty years.



45 — 5707 Main St.

**Henry Shetter House c. 1870**

Built around 1870 by Henry Shetter, an early McFarland landowner. This house remained in his estate until 1916. Since then the house has been owned by several families, including; Hans Sperle, Henry Suetmeier, Herb Peschel, Edual Erickson, Conrad Thompson, Dennis & Carol Gunderson and Todd & Jeanette Martin.

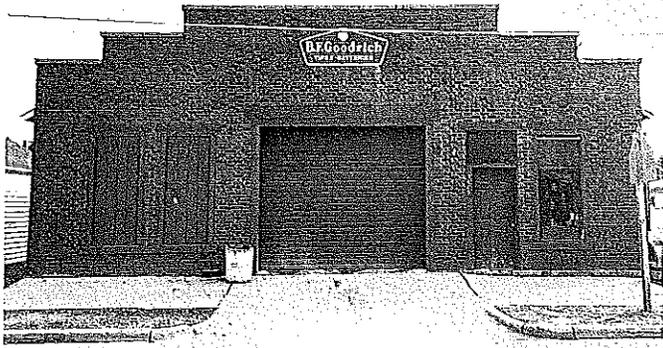
The front stone was a later addition to this vernacular gabled-ell style house.



46 — 5710 Main St.

**Brickson House 1905**

This house has subtle characteristics of the Queen Anne/ Colonial Revival styles. Built in 1905 for P.E. Brickson, it remained in the Brickson family until the mid-1940's.



47 — 5403 Brodhead St.

Suetmeier-Thompson Garage c. 1918-1920

Built by Henry Suetmeier around 1920 as a gas station and service garage. Other owners included Eudal Erickson, Herbert Peschel and Con Thompson, who owned the business from 1938 until the early 1980's. Gas service was discontinued in the early 1980's.



49 — 5518 Brodhead St.

Patterson House c. 1900

Built around the turn of the century, this house was here before the one at 5508 Brodhead which was built in 1900. A classical revival style house with a fine example of palladian windows in the front gable.



48 — 5508 Brodhead St.

Old Parsonage 1900

The McFarland Lutheran Church congregation had this house built for their pastor, Rev. Realf O. Brandt was the first resident in October, 1900. The exterior of the house combines the styles of Queen Anne and Colonial Revival. Special features include the palladian windows on the front upper story and the porch detail.

The church sold the property in 1955.



50 — 5703 Milwaukee St.

Neeser House 1901

Built in 1901 for John Neeser. This vernacular gabled-ell house remained in his estate until the 1940's. The enclosed front porch was a later addition.



51 — 5702 Milwaukee St. **Jorgenson House 1899**  
 This vernacular style house was first owned by Lewis Jorgenson, (1899-1909). Other owners include:  
 Jennie Ramsey 1910-1913 — Anton Anderson 1914-1920 — Charles Suetmeier 1920-1930's — Abraham Brickson 1930's — Christine Natwig late 1930's-1950's — Henry Tieman 1950's—.



52 — 5706 Milwaukee St. **Drogs vold House 1902**  
 This vernacular side-gabled house was built in 1902 for Carrie Drogs vold. Two interesting features of this house are the strong porch pillars and the two small gables along the front roof known as King-Post Truss. Other early owners included Carrie Bakke, C.M. Larson, Anna Lewis and Charles Suetmeier.



53 — 5406 Hough St. **Lohff House 1906**  
 Built in 1906, this house is a good example of the Two Story Cube style. Hipped roofs and square proportions with very little surface ornament are quite common. However, this house does feature fish-scale siding on the front partial-gable.  
 Mary E. Lohff became the owner in 1912 after buying the house from the Edward Hubbard estate. It remained in her family until the 1940's when Henry Brandt became the owner.



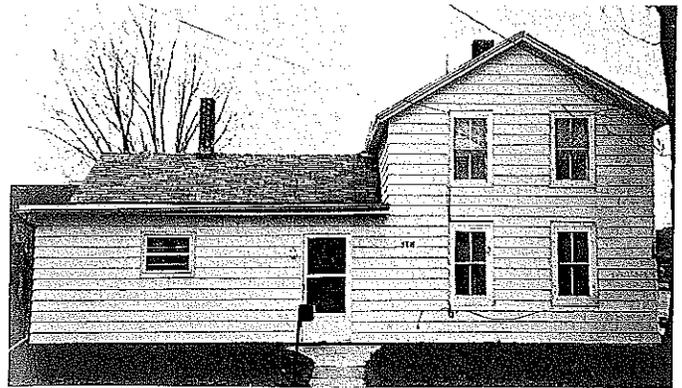
54 — 5404 Hough St. **Loftus House 1905**  
 This vernacular style house was built in 1905 for S.A. Loftus, the first of many to own this home. Other owners include:  
 August Boesel 1908-1913 — T.J. Ottum 1914-1922 — Charles Anderson 1923 — Ole Evans 1924 — Andrew Alsmo 1925 — Clarence Ward 1926-1940's — Anna Thompson mid-1940's-1949.



55 — 5802 Milwaukee St. **M. Hanson House** c. 1890  
 Built around 1890 for Mons Hanson, this vernacular gabled-ell house remained in the Hanson family until the 1960's.



56 — 5813 Milwaukee St. **Bearbower House** c. 1870  
 The original portion of this house may have been built around 1870 by Samuel Torgenson. A major addition was built by John Bearbower in 1892, giving the house its vernacular Queen Anne appearance. John's son, Herold, owned the house from the 1940's until 1974 when it was sold to Guy and Eleanore Seekins.



57 — 5817 Milwaukee St. **Kleth House** c. 1865  
 A portion of this modest vernacular gabled-ell house was probably built as early as 1865, either by Fred Reed or John Anderson. This house experienced several additions and alterations over the years. The front entry at one time probably was an open porch. John Kleth became owner in 1873 and it remained in his name until the early 1940's. Later owners include Albert Sainey and L. Lindstrom.

Houses 58, 59 & 60 are not on the walking tour route. Please view them at your leisure.



58 — 6011 Merrill St. **Larson-Knudtson House** c. 1875  
 Built around 1875 by T. Larson who turned over ownership to George Knudtson in 1877. Other owners included Nels L. Johnson, 1905-1916, and Valdemar Larson, 1917-early 1960's. The style of the house is a vernacular gabled-ell which has been extensively altered.



**59 — 6304 Exchange St. Melvin Lewis House c. 1918-1920**  
Another fine example of the American Craftsman design. Looking like an oversized bungalow, this house has all of the features of this particular style. This stucco exterior house was probably built between 1918 and 1920 for Melvin Lewis, a McFarland farmer.



**60 — 5810 Brodhead St. Holscher House 1875**  
Built by Fred Holscher, the original home consisted of only the right portion, probably without the porch. A major addition was constructed around 1905, giving the house a Queen Anne style. The house remained in the Holscher family until 1976 when it was purchased by John and Barbara Obst, who have restored the house to its early 20th Century grandeur.