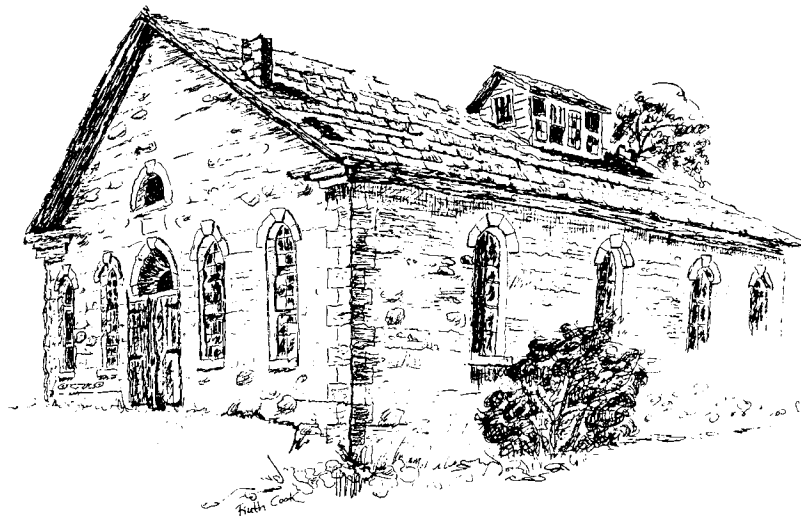


# Historic Hamilton



**Hamilton Turn Halle**

**1867**

HAMILTON

*Settled by Irish immigrants, "New Dublin" was renamed in 1847 after William S. Hamilton, son of Alexander, spent the night here in what became the first stagecoach stop between Milwaukee and Green Bay (1848). Settled before Cedarburg, Hamilton retains some original buildings including Concordia Mill (1853) and Turner Hall (1867) built by Edward H. Janssen, later Wisconsin State Treasurer. His home also remains.*

*Legend State Historical Marker  
Hamilton*

*Dedicated to the spirit of those people whose lives remain unknown and forgotten in the passing of time;*

*Whose faith in tomorrow was built on the vision of today's dreams;*

*Whose tears carried the joy and sorrow of life and brought new meaning to the morning;*

*Whose lives knew the failure of a harvest yet had the courage to plant again, "come spring,"*

*Whose hands were worn and scarred by the labor and work of day-to-day living, yet folded them to pray in silence;*

*Whose sacrifice and courage became foundations for the future that we might know a better day;*

*Whose silent gift is their lives of failure and success in the endless journey of mankind.*

*To this, we owe our heritage.*



October, 1976

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**New Dublin, presently known as Hamilton,**

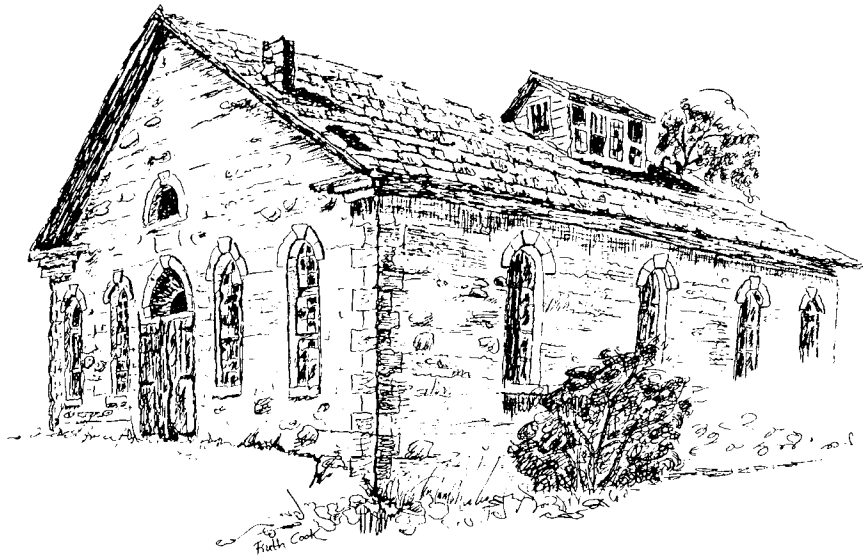
was established in the early 1840's. It was primarily settled by the Irish who were looking for a new start in life. They found the countryside similar to their homeland, Ireland. Prior to that, in the mid 1830's, the Green Bay Road had been established as a direct route between Milwaukee and Green Bay. Due to the fertile land and proximity to Cedar Creek, it soon became a community in its entirety. Eventually, it became a welcomed "rest-stop" for travellers along the Green Bay Road.

In 1847, the community of New Dublin became Hamilton. The exact circumstances causing this change are unknown. However, the tale is told that William S. Hamilton, relative of Alexander Hamilton, frequently visited the area during his travels. He established friendships there and when a name change was considered, the change from New Dublin to Hamilton was agreeable to its residents.

By 1848, Hamilton had a post office, general store, blacksmith shop, shoemaker and a sawmill. The first sawmill was torn down and a stone grist-mill was constructed in 1853. This building, the Concordia Mill still remains.

Hamilton continued to prosper until 1870. At this time the railroad was built into Cedarburg, and thus drew industry away from the Hamilton area.

A quaint and serene setting still exists in Hamilton today. Many of the old buildings remain and the flavor of 130 years of history can still be savored. In 1974, Hamilton was listed as a Historic Site by the Wisconsin State Historical Society. In 1976, Hamilton was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Both listings are a great honor to be bestowed upon a single community.



**Turn Halle**

Hamilton's treasure, the Turn Halle, today lies in danger of crumbling. If its walls and beams could talk an enthralling story would result. Impossible! But today we do have the opportunity to bring about the restoration of a monument whose diverse uses provide us today with a picture of the past.

The Turn Halle was built in 1867 by William Janssen for the Turnverein Society after the Hamilton group split off from the Cedarburg chapter. The walls and roof remain from that date but an upper floor and cupola were added a few years later while the village flourished. The ground floor was used for various recreational activities, the upper floor for dining, dancing, and concerts.

However, activities of the Turnverein so diminished by the late 1870's that the building was leased to Andrew Bodendorfer, owner of the Concordia Mill to store grain. In 1887, Bodendorfer remodeled the upper floor to again have it used for dances while he continued to use the ground floor for storage. The noted Weber band played for the grand opening but few dances followed in Hamilton. Bodendorfer later lost thousands of dollars when water ruined grain stored in the Halle.

Then in 1892, the very prosperous Bodendorfer, involved in numerous enterprises in Cedarburg and Hamilton, began the Excelsior Shoe and Slipper Company in the Turn Halle. With several members of the Schleifer family involved in the operation, the business steadily increased until in the early 1900's a new and larger home had to be found in Cedarburg. While shoes were made on the ground floor, they were worn on the upper floor as the 1890's saw another lively revival of the waltz and polka in Hamilton.

When the Halle was no longer necessary for storing grain, others saw that it

could be utilized as a site for making cider and as late as 1939 apples were pressed there.

The Halle is a field stone structure with courses tooled in the mortar. A semi-circular window is over the door. Architectural trim consists of stilted round-arches with keystones over the windows, and quoins, all made of smooth-faced ashlar. A balcony comprised the second floor, and a long bar ran the length of the building on the main floor. A plastered arched ceiling formed a canopy under the roof.

In the yard behind the Halle, there is an outcropping on Cedar Creek where couples could walk and appreciate the view.

Today, the Halle is silent but it is not difficult to envision the activity of former days. The wooden steps are worn where ladies and gents ascended to dance. The remnants of wooden apple barrels lie strewn on the floor. But the roof is caving-in, the walls deteriorating, the dance floor rotting. An invaluable community treasure stands in urgent need of help.

In May of 1976, the Turn Halle was purchased by the Cedarburg Town Board for one dollar from Mrs. Adelaide B. Miller. The responsibility for restoration was then delegated to the Town of Cedarburg Landmarks Commission to begin the process of restoration.



**Janssen House**

The limestone farmhouse north of the Turn Halle was once the Home of Edward Janssen. The house was built in 1854, and has been restored by the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Miller. The front door of the house is cut from a solid piece of pine and a black walnut stairway leads to the second floor. The beams are made of solid oak and the laths are hand-hewn. The stone outer walls measure 24" thick and pine planks make the wide floor boards. At one time the grounds around the building included what was known as "formal gardens," a large variety of orchard and native trees.

### Hookanson House

The Hookanson House was built of fieldstone no later than 1861. It was probably built by a man by the name of Schroeling. It is similar in construction and design to the tavern next to it. Leo's Tavern is built of quarried stone in front but of fieldstone on either side. It was built no later than 1861.

### Dietrich Half-Timber House

The Dietrich House is thought to be a half-timber building with loose rubble fill between the timbers. It is believed the north end of the house is the oldest section. Another section is said to be part of an out-building from the site of the rest-stop or way-station which was located where the park is now. It was moved and added to the original house. To the west of the house is a fieldstone structure in good condition. The north end was a smokehouse and the south end was for butchering. The chimneys are still intact. The barn and other farm buildings have been there since the turn of the century. The small stone building is a milkhouse.

### Hamilton Park

The Wisconsin State Historical Marker and a flag pole monument are situated on an acre of land which was donated by Edward and Emily Dietrich to the Town of Cedarburg for use as a park. The flag pole and base were erected by the Cedarburg Town Board. It has become an attractive wayside stop, recapturing the essence of by-gone days when the site was a stagecoach stop.



### HINZ (STONE – ITALINATE)

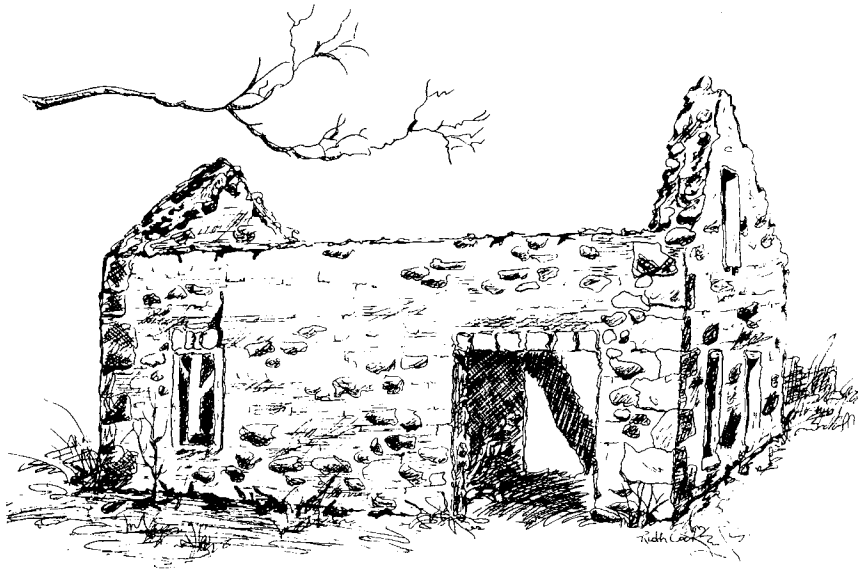
The Schwalbe home is called a stone Italinate House and was built around

1869. The earliest owner was a man by the name of Charles Hinz, who was a harness maker and had his shop across the street from his home. Two similar houses are located in the Cedarburg area. One is on East Hilgen Street and the other, the Gallun House, built by E. Stalhmam, on Bridge and Columbia. In a back addition of the Schwalbe home are two huge bake ovens, one on top of the other, and a smoke house on the top of the ovens. It is all one unit with flues coming out of one chimney. A barn with a stone first floor is directly in back of the house.



### Schultz House

The Melvin Schultz House, located on the east side of Green Bay Road, consists of a stone and wood frame structure. The original stone portion of the east side of the building consisted of a kitchen or living area with an adjacent pantry and wash room. Tax records indicate that the original stone structure on the property was built around 1859, the property being owned by a man named Eggert Lau. The wood frame section of the house was added later.



**Apothecary Shop**

The Apothecary Shop or Lindner's General Store was built sometime between 1860-1864. Mel Schultz relates that this fieldstone structure, north of his home was a General Store before and after the Civil War. It was operated by a man named Herman Lindner, a German immigrant and a bachelor. Civil War troops who were discharged after hostilities, had to make their way north of Milwaukee on foot or horseback. These soldiers stopped at this store for their needs and continued on. When Mr. Lindner died, there was no family or heirs to take on the property and it fell into a state of neglect and ruin. Approximately, three years ago the crumbling stone walls were repaired through the efforts of Dave Uihlein, a Hamilton resident. Patches of plaster remain on some of the interior walls and some of the wood window frames remain in place.

**Bartel Farm**

The Bartel farm house originally was of wood and frame construction, with a fieldstone addition. The frame section was replaced by the split fieldstone within the last fifty years by Arthur Bartel, who split all the stone for the building. A few feet away from the house are the walls of a stone smokehouse and summer kitchen which was all one building. Mr. Bartel had a large collection of Indian arrowheads and axes which he had found on this property and along Cedar Creek, relics of Wisconsin's native Indians.

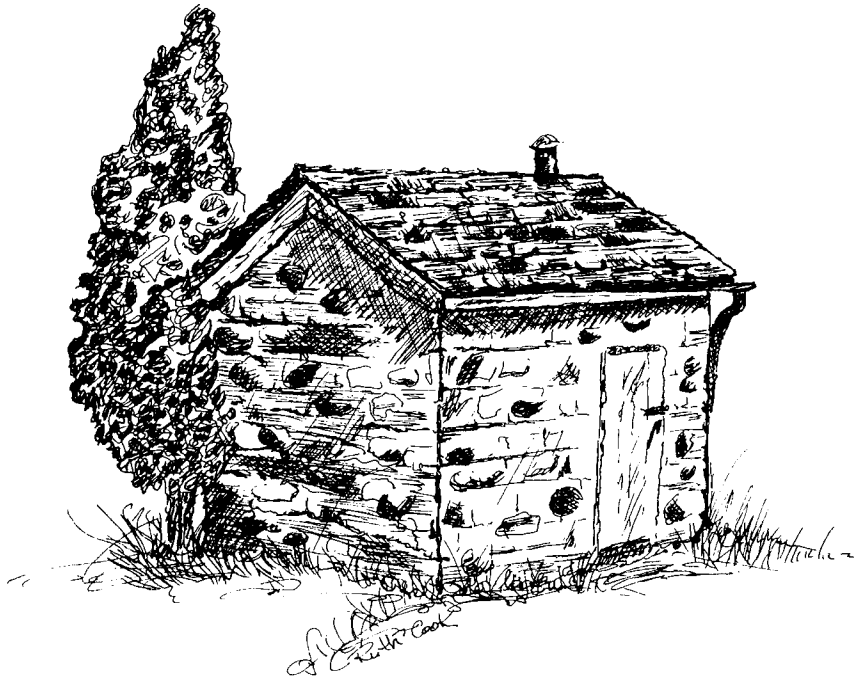


**Beverung Stone Frame House**

Records indicate that the stone and frame house owned by the Beverung's was built no later than 1859. An artesian well bubbles up from the floor of the basement of this building with clear, cold water. Tax records indicate that the frame addition could have been added about 1878. The oldest portion of the building, a two story stone structure, was built during the ownership of Charles and Charlotte Kauffung.

**Ladwig House**

The original section of the Ladwig House was built in 1847, being possibly half-timber or of log construction. It consisted of a downstairs kitchen and an upstairs bedroom with walls plastered in an uneven fashion. It is believed that the house was built by a man named John Henry Christian Ranken. He lived there a short time and then sold it to a man named Schleifer. It is rumored that moonshine was made in the basement of the house during prohibition.



**Smokehouse**

The small stone smokehouse, located on the Louie Koehn property is representative of the smaller out-buildings which make Hamilton unique and attractive. It is a companion building which served a purpose of food preparation in the day-to-day living of the people of the early community. Mrs. Louise Koehn, a Hamilton resident, tells how her grandmother, as a little girl, relates how Indians canoeing down Cedar Creek would stop to steal hams from the smokehouse and that no one tried to stop them. The smokehouse was originally part of the Ranken, now Ladwig, property.

**Cheese Factory**

An 1887 copy of the Cedarburg News tells us that, "the Hamilton Cheese Factory is being opened at the end of the month. Daily delivery to the factory will be 3000 pounds of milk." The building was built about 1859 and is presently owned by the Eugene Keehn family.



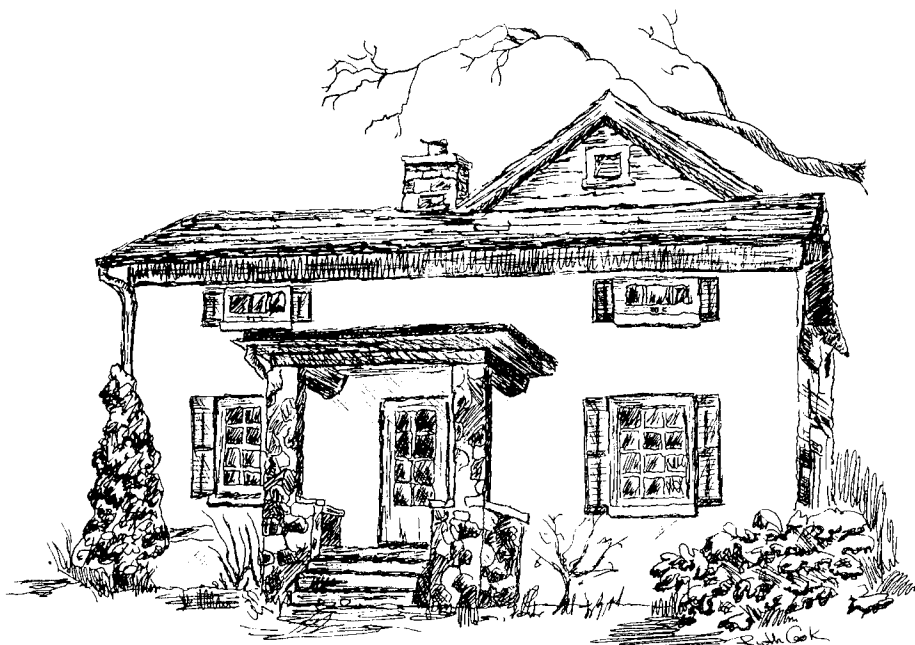
**Concordia Mill**

A saw mill once operated on the site of the Concordia Mill. Earliest records show that Valentine Hahn built the saw mill, race, and dam. In 1847, he sold it for \$1200.00. There were several transactions of sale of the property. The saw mill changed hands and was eventually purchased by William Gaitzsch, one of the partners in the founding of the Concordia Mill. The saw mill venture proved unprofitable and a partnership was formed with William Gaitzsch and Edward and Theodore Janssen, in the building of the Concordia Mill. Theodore and William died thus leaving the mill in the ownership of Edward. It was later sold to Andreas Bodendorfer for \$10,000.00 in 1861.

The grist mill is a squarish structure built of stone. It has small paned windows. The entire inside walls are plastered over in an uneven fashion. There

are deep window jambs built at an angle with the lintels being of hand-hewn oak timbers. All timbers on the inside are of oak and most show the chop marks of the adze. The lintel over the doorway indicates that the mill was built in 1853.

A fieldstone out-building abutts the mill property to the south. Its original use or date of construction are unknown at this time.

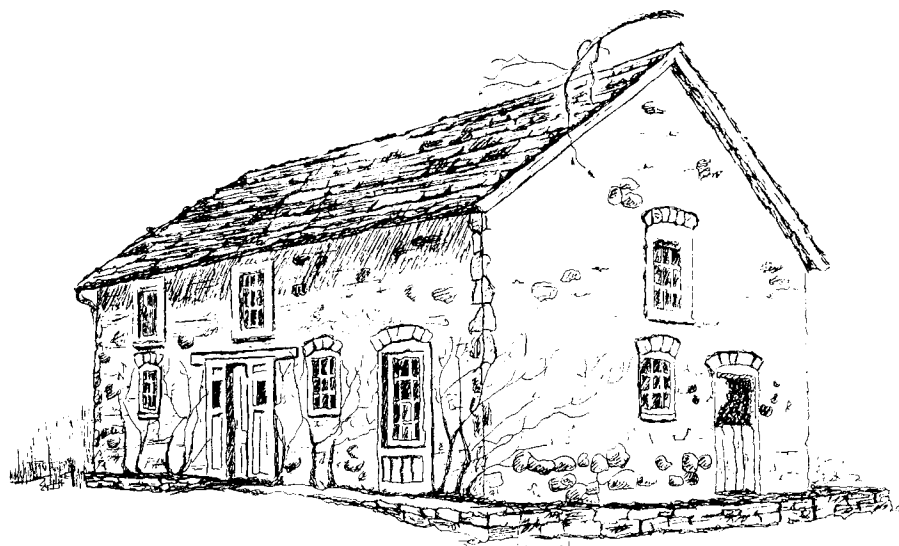


**Kronschnabel House**

The original section of the Kronschnabel Home was built in 1850 by John Holstein. Four narrow shuttered windows were across the front of the house. The building is brick with a stucco over-layer. There are two rooms up stairs and two rooms down. The second portion of the house was built in 1883 by Helmuth Gilow. The original false wood-graining is still in tact in the upstairs portion of the house. It had two bedroom upstairs, a large kitchen down, a pantry, and two summer kitchens. One window in the summer kitchen still has the original glass.

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A picturesque sight is the dam on Cedar Creek, just below the mill race. The dam was built in 1847 by Valentine Hahn. Abstracts to the present day allow the owner of the dam the privilege of taking gravel and stone along the banks of the creek to repair the race and the dam.



**Stone Barn**

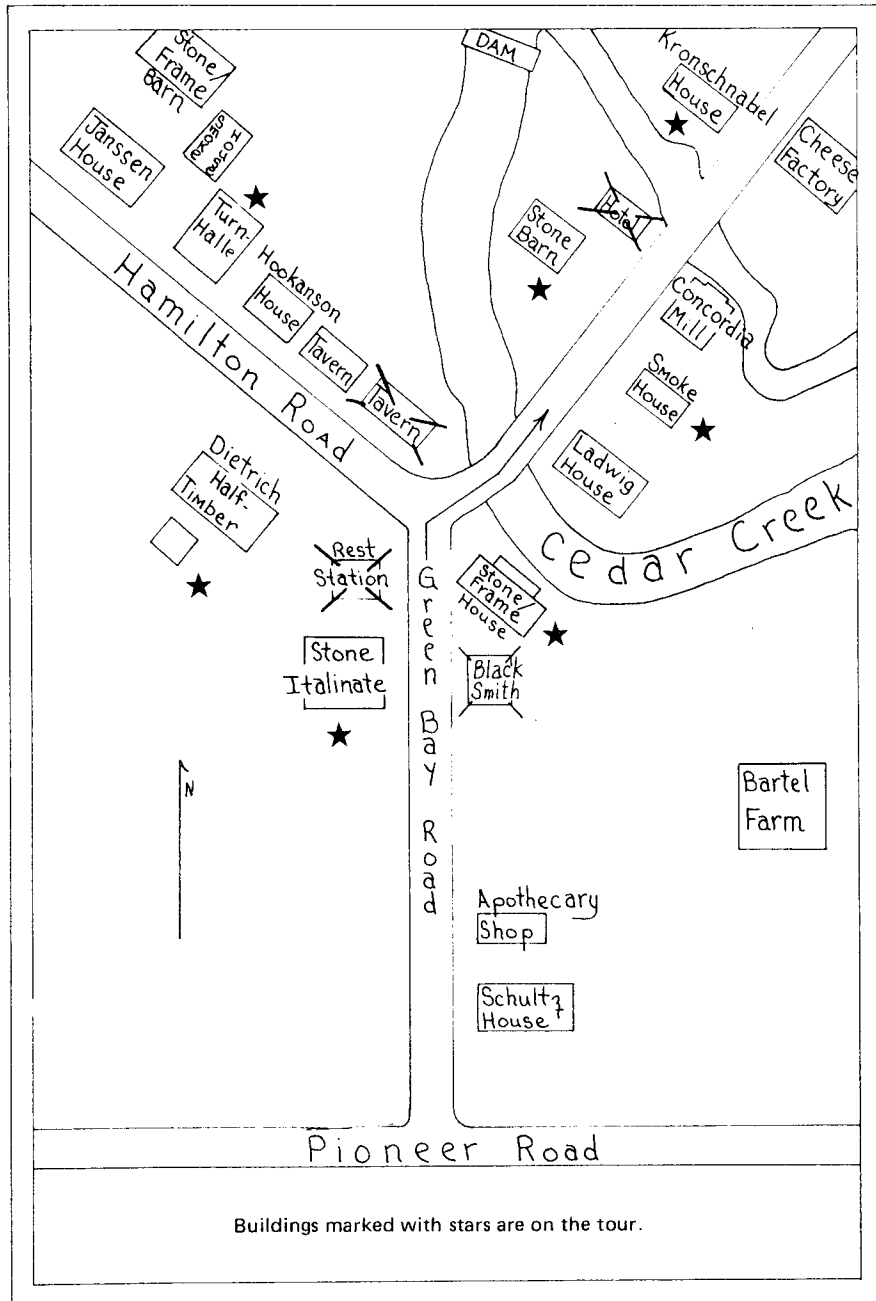
The Hammetter Stone Barn was built in 1861. It was not a part of the mill complex but served rather to stable wild horses or mustangs. These horses were kept as the hobby of the owner of the mill, Andreas Bodendorfer. Hand - forged hinges remind us of the skilled craftsmanship of yesteryear.

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Through the years, some of the original buildings have been destroyed, demolished, or fallen into ruin. Missing from the area is the Big House, as it was called. A twenty-two room house used to house workers from the mill and Andreas Bodendorfer's 19 children. The building of brick construction burned in a fire. Gone also is a tavern and dance hall, and the blacksmith building.

The community of Hamilton has been bestowed a great honor as the recipient of the area's architectural and historical heritage. It now becomes our responsibility to maintain this heritage, now, and for future generations. It is through the efforts of its local people and the support of the Town of Cedarburg Landmark Preservation Program that future restoration and preservation can be accomplished.

# HAMILTON HISTORIC DISTRICT



Buildings marked with stars are on the tour.

 DESTROYED

MAP BY  
T. CAMPION '76

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