

# TOWN OF DUNN BICYCLE TOUR GUIDE

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Significant contributions to this booklet were obtained from the Town of Dunn Bicentennial tour booklet: "Rural America Revisited", the book "City of the Second Lake, A History of McFarland Wisconsin", the "Town of Dunn Land Use Plan" and the "Town of Dunn Open Space Preservation Handbook" in addition to the presently unpublished "Town of Dunn Park and Open Space Plan". We are deeply appreciative to the numerous authors of these publications and to the Dunn Town Board for their continued support.

Town of Dunn Park Commission  
Wesley J. Licht, Chairman  
Spring, 1983

## INTRODUCTION

In 1848, the year Wisconsin became a state, the Town of Rome was divided into three towns one of which was to be called Dover. Through an error by an assembly clerk, the name was misread and it was recorded as Dunn.

The Town of Dunn is bounded by two large lakes, Waubesa & Kegonsa which are linked by the Yahara River. It also contains several smaller lakes and streams. These waterways are cradled among drumlins deposited during the glacial movement many years ago. Because of these exquisite environmental features, the town is home for a wide assortment of fish and wildlife including the ornate box turtle, beaver, whitetail deer and sandhill cranes in addition to all species of waterfowl that traverse Wisconsin. With such an abundance of scenic areas and wildlife it is little wonder that the Town of Dunn has one of the largest concentrations of Indian village sites and effigy mounds recorded in the state.

The same features that attracted early Indian

inhabitants also led to colonization by early settlers. The architecture and other mementos of the early settlers are still evident today as one travels through the town. These assets contribute generously to a way of life that has made the Town of Dunn a special place to live in or visit. In June, 1979, the town's residents overwhelmingly adopted a nationally acclaimed "Land Use Plan" to preserve these essential features. The "Town of Dunn Open Space Preservation Handbook" published at the same time both provides a detailed analysis of Dunn's numerous assets and details the tools available for their preservation.

Dane County's road and highway network is distinctive in Wisconsin because of its relatively large size and numerous improved local roads. Besides linking urban population centers, the excellent roadways serve as an arterial lifeline for dairy trucks and other agricultural vehicles. The town currently has approximately 74 miles of roads.

With the exception of Highway 51 and County Highway B, all roads in the town are considered most suitable for biking. Maps of other roads within Dane County suitable for bicycling are available through the Dane County Highway Department. These maps plus other available literature such as a "Guide for Bicyclists", may be obtained and stored in the appendix sleeve provided herein.

With the rapidly expanding interest in bicycle touring, the Town of Dunn frequently hosts bicycling groups and individuals from the surrounding urban areas of Madison, Oregon, Stoughton and McFarland in addition to resident cycling enthusiasts. Since bicyclists vary tremendously in their cycling skills, stamina and interests, this booklet is designed so that its users may customize a bicycling experience to meet their individual needs. For example, those interested in a combination camping and bicycling excursion may design a route from Lake Farm County Park on Lake Waubesa's western shore through Goodland Park to Babcock County Park on the east shore of Lake

Waubesa at McFarland. Such a route might utilize the town's two Rustic Roads - Lalor and Dyreson. Numerous other routes can be designed to serve as a tour of the historical, cultural or natural sites within the town. Conceivably, such routes could permit the cyclist to step back into history while following the paths of the early Indians, the Northwest Territories stagecoach or even the present day Syttende Mai marathon route. Furthermore, as the seasons change so too will the complexity of native plant communities and incidence of migratory birds and butterflies. The above are merely a few examples of the many available potential routes. You design routes that are of interest to yourself.

The Park Commission has produced this "Bicycle Tour Guide" to help you to experience more fully the unique historical and geological past and outstanding present-day natural features of the town. We sincerely hope that you have an enjoyable and safe bicycling experience in the Town of Dunn.

## POINTS OF INTEREST

1 Over 100 years ago Chris Uphoff, a German immigrant built this brick home with arches over windows and a round bull's eye window under the peak. This Picturesque architecture was common in the 1860's and 70's.

2 Only a well remains in the corner of this field where the Waubesa Beach School once stood. The building burned in the 1930's.

3 These long, narrow tapering hills are drumlins, which were made by the glacier more than 10,000 years ago and parallel the movement of the ice mass. Composed of an assortment of rock material, they are often topped with oak and hickory woods since cultivation is not practical.

4 An English immigrant, George Hamilton, built this large home with stone quarried on the farm near the lake. Adam Gram, a Swiss immigrant, bought the home in 1870. Though vacant, the house was busy during prohibition days. A raid by federal agents revealed a still and corn mash in

copper vats that had been stolen from a nearby cheese factory.

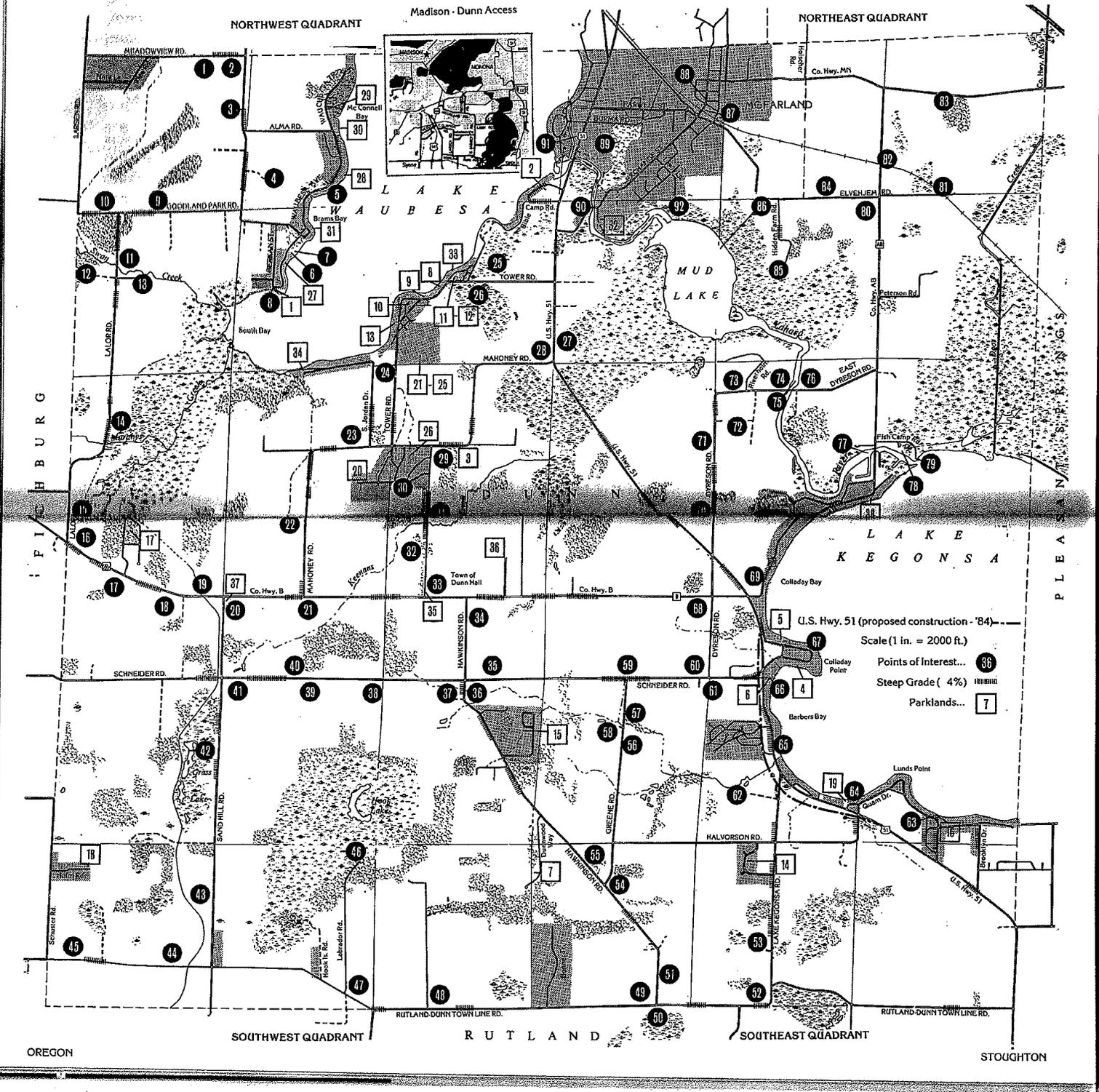
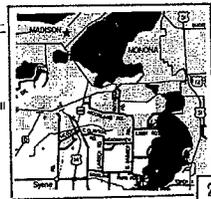
5 Originally Christy's Tavern was a hotel, and there was a dance floor in the square white building near the tavern. During the "roaring '20's" boat service on the lake brought patrons to this popular night spot.

6 Goodland Park was named after Walter Goodland, Governor of Wisconsin from 1943-47. Lake Waubesa is an Indian name meaning Swan Lake, chosen by state legislators in 1855. Early surveyors knew it as Second Lake.

7 Three Indian mounds can be found in Goodland Park between the shelter house and the white house at the top of the hill. Look for two long ridges running toward the lake and a shorter ridge between them, nearer the roadway. These are burial mounds built more than a thousand years ago by an early effigy mound culture. These mounds are linear in shape. Others were constructed in the shape of

NORTHWEST QUADRANT NORTH EAST QUADRANT

Madison - Dunn Access



Scale (1 in. = 2000 ft.)  
Points of Interest... 36  
Steep Grade ( 4% )  
Parklands... 7

OREGON RUTLAND SOUTHWEST QUADRANT SOUTH EAST QUADRANT STOUGHTON

animals or in a conical shape. Effigy mounds are unique to southern Wisconsin and a few neighboring states.

8 Lake Waubesa has excellent sportfishing as panfish, walleye and northern pike take advantage of its abundant spawning areas. Extensive wetland vegetation with large springs make South Waubesa Marsh one of the most valuable in Dane County.

9 These rosebushes and other shrubs attract flocks of migrating birds and other wildlife to their fruits. Bur oaks with their gnarly branches and thick, corky bark provide additional habitat.

10 This building was once a cheese factory, a co-operative business set up by local farmers, called the Swan Creek Cheese Company. It was from this building that the notorious copper kettles were stolen (see #4).

11 Abundant wildlife around Swan Creek which feeds Lake Waubesa includes sandhill cranes, deer, red and gray fox, and Blanding's turtles. Lalor Road

was designated Rustic Road R19 by the state in 1981 for its special scenic and historic qualities. Runners use this roadway for the annual Madison to Stoughton Syttende Mai marathon.

12 This is one of the town's oldest homesteads. In 1846 President Polk signed the deed for the land sale from the government to Irish immigrants, William and Amelia Fox Lalor. William became a community leader in politics and business.

13 The present house was built in the 1870's by William Lalor, Jr. who was born and raised in a log cabin across the road.

14 Many prairie plants such as big blue stem, prairie dock and yellow coneflower bloom along this roadside. These natives are reestablishing themselves due to reduced mowing. Additionally, the Town of Dunn Park Commission aided by interested residents has replanted some native species in plots such as this one.

15 The Waubesa wetland as viewed to the northeast from Lalor Road includes more than 400 acres fed

by springs and 2 major streams. This extensive marsh is home for a large variety of wildlife including cranes, herons, muskrat, mink and many species of ducks. It is also the spawning area for many of Lake Waubesa's fine gamefish.

16 This hill was named Preacher's Hill because Pastor Harris, who was a minister in the Village of Oregon for many years, lived in the white house at the top. At the base of the hill are several large springs which flow at a rate of over 2,000 gallons of water a minute. Indians camped at these springs, and later the Janesville to Madison stagecoach line came across the hillside above the springs.

17 This is the original homestead of Walter Moody Dick, a Scottish immigrant who came to Wisconsin in 1849. The small white house with pillars is an example of Greek Revival architecture.

18 This is the century-old home of early settler George Melville of New York, which replaced an original log house. Outbuildings behind the house were used by his sons for a blacksmith shop, a smoke house and a sorghum-processing mill.

19 Treated waste water from Madison's sewage plant is carried in Badfish Creek to the Rock River. This bypass protects Lake Waubesa and Lake Kegonsa from additional pollution.

20 Several early settlers are buried in the town's cemetery including A.L. Dan and Robert Penewell, who died in the Civil War. On Memorial Days in the 1900's, school children marched in a group from nearby Oakside School to decorate the graves.

21 For a total cost of \$800, H. J. Smith, a carpenter from the Village of Oregon, built the Oakside School in 1868.

22 Wheat was the primary crop on the beautiful farmland of Dunn until about 1870, when cinch bugs began to devastate the crops. Area farmers then turned to dairying, raising livestock, and cultivation of corn and tobacco. In the 1980's these agricultural activities still continue.

23 About 1856 a prosperous farmer named William E. Sherlock built this house. Part of the house contains original log construction. Picturesque

Victorian additions were made in the 1860's and 70's.

**24** In the early 1900's the rich farmland bordering Lakes Waubesa and Kegonsa was platted for residential sale. Very soon the shorelines of both lakes were dotted with summer cottages. Most were built by residents of neighboring towns like Madison or Stoughton, but some came from as far away as Rockford or Chicago. Since the 1950's most of the summer cottages have been converted to year-round residences.

**25** Large marsh areas like this are prime spawning grounds for northern pike and provide excellent habitat for small furbearers and countless birds. Undoubtedly they attracted people to the area long before the European settlers arrived. Now they help make the town an important recreational area.

**26** Early settlers found a Winnebago settlement in this area. Often settlers borrowed Indian methods for raising crops, preparing food and tapping sugar maples along the lakeshores to boil the sap down into syrup and brown sugar.

**27** Imbrecht Johnson built this home, possibly the oldest in the town, with an architectural design which predates the Civil War. Its particular brick construction is of a colonial type with Greek Revival features. It is currently being covered with artificial stone.

**28** The residence on the right was formerly the second Town Hall, moved from the corner of Keenan and Mahoney Roads. (Site 29)

**29** The second Town Hall was once located here. It was moved to become a private residence on Hwy. 51. (Site 28)

**30** Early settlers discovered that this hillside was ridged with Indian mounds just as mound groups were found scattered on hillsides surrounding lakes all over the town. A 1914 survey revealed 42 such groups and evidence that many more had been plowed into farmland.

**31** Originally there was one large Allison home located on the east side of the road, but the small house now on the west was cut apart from the bigger

house and moved across the road to become the new home of a young married son.

**32** The large, white Victorian house with green shutters was built in 1863 by George Keenan, an Irish immigrant. He supplemented his farm income in 1849 by walking 12 miles into Madison to work as a shoemaker.

**33** The Dunn Town Hall stands in the approximate center of our 36 square mile town. It was constructed in 1931 by a former Norwegian shipbuilder named Sorenson. The first settler in the Town of Dunn was Alvah W. Wetherby. In 1843 he brought his family to settle on a farm near the site of the present Town Hall.

**34** It's interesting to note that the western half of the Town was settled almost exclusively by settlers from the eastern United States or from Ireland. Homesteads in the eastern part of Dunn were Norwegian in origin or purchased from earlier settlers by Norwegian immigrants.

**35** Michael Lally lived for a number of years near

Boston after emigrating from Ireland and then settled this homestead in 1859. The house, with its many-gabled roof, was built in the late 1800's.

**36** The southeast corner of this intersection was the site of our first Town Hall.

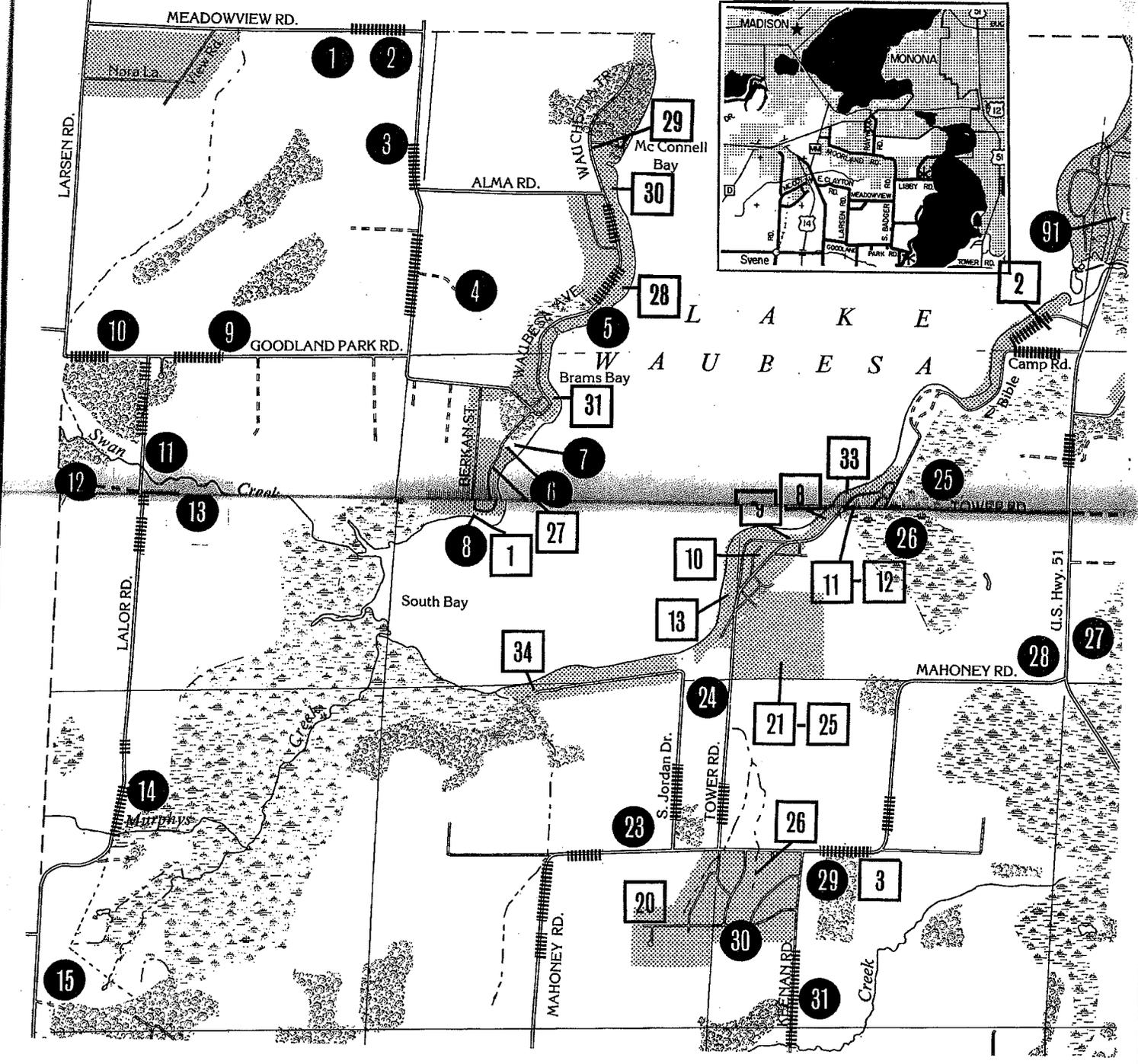
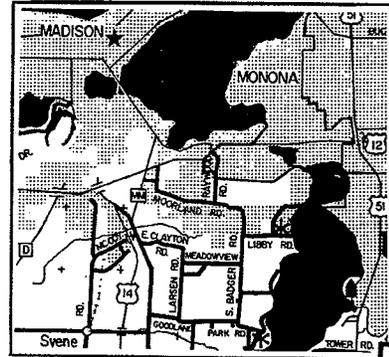
**37** One of the highest places in Dunn is the hill directly south of the intersection, formed from the moraine pushed south by the glacier before it receded more than 10,000 years ago. Public access to this vista and on to Hook Lake follows the fence line beyond the farm driveway.

**38** In 1853 William and Lucinda Manson and baby son Samuel came from Malone, New York and purchased this farm from Calvin Farnsworth, an early land speculator who sold to prospective farmers. In 1858, when Schneider Rd. was laid out, they constructed the main wing of the present home.

**39** James Keeley, an Irish immigrant, purchased 80 acres from Henry Farnsworth in 1851. A nephew, James, bought the farm in 1879 and lived in a log

# NORTHWEST QUADRANT

# Madison - Dunn Access



house until the present home was constructed in 1897.

**40** Sixteen Indian families camped in the woods north of the road each winter during the 1870's and 80's. They stored their wigwams in Keeley's barn each spring before heading north for the summer. Once an Indian baby was accidentally stepped on by a visiting white man. The baby died, and the Indians never returned.

**41** Keenan Creek, named after early immigrant George Keenan (site 32) starts here in open water and marsh. It winds about 4.4 miles before passing under Hwy. 51 into Lower Mud Lake.

**42** Grass Lake is one of the few deep water marshes found in Dane County. Its open water and variety of vegetation attract many surface-feeding and diving ducks during migration, and provide good nesting sites for marsh birds, wood ducks, pie-billed grebes, green herons, black terns and occasionally the gallinule.

**43** Small kettle-hole marshes are found just west of

here, formed when blocks of ice were left buried in an accumulation of glacial rock and soil by the retreating glacier. The blocks of ice slowly melted away, leaving a depression which became a marsh area.

**44** This Picturesque brick home with heavy oak beams was constructed in 1863 by Orrin Grout, a settler from Vermont. Next door was another of the town's six country schools, now remodeled for a private residence.

**45** In 1846 Egbert Bennett came from New York to the Wisconsin territory and purchased land - now the center of Oregon. Ten years later he bought 80 acres in Dunn. People came from two miles away to draw water from his springs.

**46** Hook Lake is a fine example of a kettle-hole lake, situated about 300 feet higher than Lakes Waubesa and Kegonsa in very hilly terrain. A classic example of a bog and shallow marsh several hundred acres in size, it has only a small area of open water. A mat of vegetation grows over the water supporting

tamarack trees, blueberry and other thick-leaved bushes, cranberry, and sphagnum moss. The soft water condition of this remarkably undisturbed wetland is rare in southern Wisconsin. A glacial deposit forms an island in the lake.

**47** At age 22 Joseph Walsh emigrated from Ireland, first to Vermont and then Wisconsin, establishing this farm in 1851.

**48** The continuous ridge of hills on the north represents the furthest reaches of the last glacial period and are part of a long line of terminal moraines crossing Dane County from the northwest to the southeast just west of Madison. They consist of large gravel deposits pushed in front of the advancing glacier. South and west of the moraine is the "driftless" or unglaciated region.

**49** First deeded in 1848 to William Woodward, this farm was purchased in 1866 by James Criddle. The center part of the present home is thought to be from one of the original homesteads.

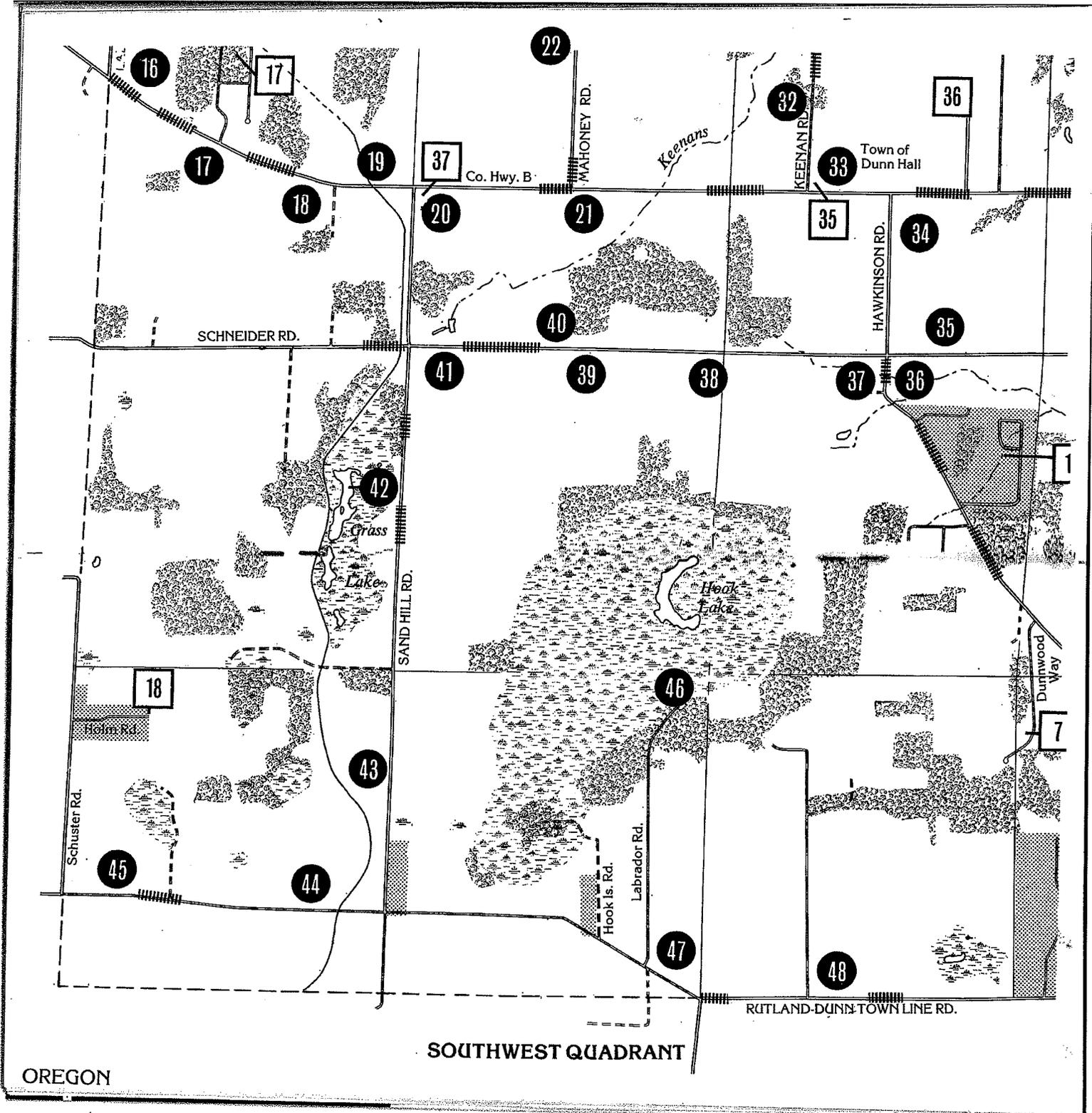
**50** South of this intersection is Island Lake, located

in the Town of Rutland. A three acre island in the center once supported a thick stand of fine rock maple trees. They were cut to end a series of arguments by several neighbors, each claiming ownership. A dozen Indian mounds once existed on the northern part of the island. Part of the lake area near the road is a Department of Natural Resources Conservancy area.

**51** This farm was originally homesteaded in 1870 by Hans and Christine Hawkinson, both from Norway. Great grandson Lloyd now lives in the large farmhouse built for his grandparents in 1892. The old Hans Hawkinson cabin was moved to become the central part and upstairs office of Halverson's Restaurant on Hwy. 51.

**52** On January 25, 1849, Ezekiel Eminos purchased 40 acres from the United States Land Office for \$5.00 an acre. David Utter purchased the farm in 1876. The old home, built around 1850, has been extensively remodeled.

**53** Ole and Gunil Berge emigrated from Telemark, Norway, and built this home sometime before 1875.



SOUTHWEST QUADRANT

OREGON

**54** About 100 years ago Hawkinson Road was the old stagecoach route winding through the valleys connecting Madison and Janesville. Before Wisconsin's 1848 statehood the road was called the Janesville-Madison Territorial Road. Later it was known as Tusler Road, after James Tusler, one of Dunn's early settlers.

**55** This site is the homestead of James Tusler, a very early settler who was active in town politics.

**56** One of Dunn's early schools, Lakeside was also known as Colladay School and later Green School. Lakeside School closed in 1959.

**57** When Wisconsin was still a territory and Indian Wars were raging, a detachment of the Army in pursuit of Black Hawk, chief of the Sauk and Fox, camped in this area near Green Creek. Here for several days, they felled trees to corral their horses. Following Black Hawk's defeat in 1832, settlers moved westward to this area, establishing farms and villages.

**58** Asher Green, one of Dunn's earliest settlers, lived in a two-story log house on this site with his wife, the former Amanda Soule, Dunn's first school teacher. In 1848 Green walked to California with a 22 pound gun on his shoulder. He built this frame house upon his return after a successful search for gold.

**59** Many Penewell families settled along Tusler Road (Hawkinson Road). A Norwegian family, the Offerdahls purchased the farm in 1898 from J. Penewell, Jr.

**60** Before Hwy. 51 was constructed, Dyreson Road was the main thoroughfare into McFarland. This beautiful country road has been designated as Rustic Road R20 in recognition of its scenic and historic character.

**61** Originally John Sampson homesteaded here in 1855. Stener Lewton, from Telemark, Norway, purchased the wooden eight room frame house and covered it with stucco. In 1925 it was covered with some 50 truck loads of rocks from a Rutland-Dunn Townline quarry.

**62** This home of early Picturesque style was built in 1860 by Stener Halverson who emigrated from Norway to Milwaukee in 1845. The home was built with bricks made from clay found on the farm and fired in a kiln just north of the house.

**63** Long time residents of Dunn will remember the vacant lot adjacent to the boat launch as the site of Amundson's Pavilion, active from the early 1900's through the depression years. It was also listed as Beach Avenue Pavilion in a 1919 advertisement. For 25¢, summer residents and visitors along the lake could dance to live music on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday nights. Ed and Art Amundson, proprietors, also ran a local grocery (Green's Store) out of the pavilion.

**64** Since the turn of the century families from communities in southeast Wisconsin built and used simple frame cottages along this part of Lake Kegonsa for summer vacations. In some cases, clusters of cottages known as camps indicated where families were from. East along the shoreline from Rock Elm Park at this location was Lund's

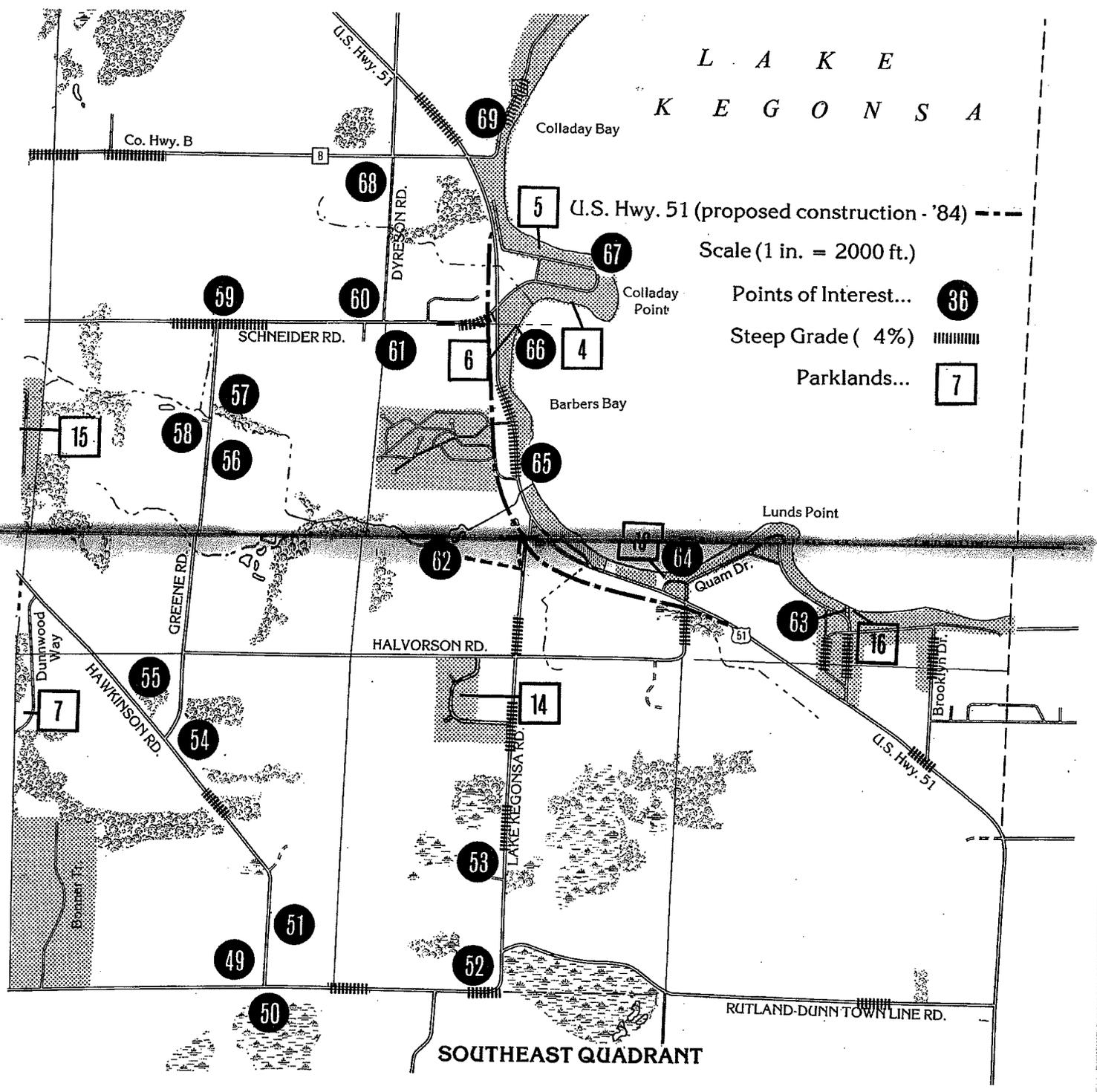
Point, Brooklyn Camp, Camp Columbia, Evansville Camp and others. Folks often arrived by train at a depot on the Nickel's farm in Pleasant Springs east of the lake and traveled by horse and buggy to their cottage site.

**65** A huge ice house once stood along the lakeshore at the base of Barber's hill. Ice cut from Lake Kegonsa was buried in sawdust and stored for summer use.

**66** "Kegonsa" is an Ojibwa word meaning "little fish". It refers to the fact that the Winnebago Indians considered the outlet of this lake a good fishing ground. "First Lake" and "Fish Lake" were former names. The 2700 acre glacier-formed lake officially became Lake Kegonsa in 1855 when the state legislature adopted Indian names for the four area lakes.

**67** William Colladay and his wife Mary Ann Kirk Colladay came to Dunn in the 1840's, the second family to settle here. He obtained work as a carpenter and built many early structures. He held

# L A K E K E G O N S A



U.S. Hwy. 51 (proposed construction - '84) - - - -

Scale (1 in. = 2000 ft.)

Points of Interest... **36**

Steep Grade ( 4% ) 

Parklands... **7**

SOUTHEAST QUADRANT

many town offices and served two terms each in the Wisconsin Assembly and Senate. His youngest son, Charles, developed Colladay Point into a well-known summer resort.

**68** From this view of Lake Kegonsa, one may appreciate the thoughts of John A. Wakerfield, who accompanied troops searching for Black Hawk in 1832. He wrote in his little book, "If those lakes were anywhere else in the country than where they are, they would be considered among the wonders of the world. But the country they are situated in is not fit for any civilized nation of people to inhabit. It appears the Almighty intended it for the children of the forest (Indians)."

**69** In 1914 Dr. W. G. McLachlan, a McFarland physician, surveyed the area for Indian mounds. His interesting maps and information on the mound sites near Lakes Kegonsa and Waubesa indicated a high concentration of activity by the effigy mound culture in the Town of Dunn during the period 300 to 1100 A.D. This mound site located on private property in the woods can easily be viewed from the road.

**70** Contour plowing and strip cropping are excellent conservation practices used on adjacent farmland. Windbreaks of red pine and spruce planted along the contour of the sandy hillsides also help hold the valuable topsoil.

**71** This residence is located on the site of another of the town's country schools. It was known as the Daley School, Hillside School or Dyreson School and continued operation until 1931.

**72** Most of this area was settled by Norwegian immigrants. Tollef Olson, a prominent farmer in the town, built a log home at the site of the present homestead up on the hill east of here. Another prominent farmer, Knute Daley, who donated land for the school site up the road, built his home at the bend of Dyreson Road.

**73** In 1981 the Town of Dunn Park Commission began the initial phase of prairie restoration on this small plot with the help of interested residents. Further south on Dyreson, native species like coneflower and compass plant grow naturally.

**74** Perhaps the woodlands along the Yahara River reminded the Norwegians of their homeland. Gulbrand and Martha Halverson, emigrants from Norway, homesteaded this place in 1854.

**75** This segment of the Yahara River connects Lower Mud Lake with Lake Kegonsa and is an interesting stretch for canoeing. The area has been a hub of activity for many years. Originally an Indian trail crossed just upstream. Indians used rocks for making a fish weir to catch fish and early settlers used the site for a mill dam. The name Yahara River has superseded Catfish River, the translation of an Ojibwa word.

**76** This homestead was purchased by Ole and Brita Dyreson from William and Charlotte Douglas about 1851. Wooden pegs were used in the construction of the living and dining rooms.

**77** Fishing activity is almost year round on the Yahara River and its lagoons. An excellent warm water fishery, the river provides a good flow of water and rocky bottom substrata for the spawning of

walleye. Crappie and northern pike also spawn in the river.

**78** The Kegonsa Rough Fish Station, run by the old Wisconsin Conservation Department for almost 20 years beginning in the late 1940's, was better known as the Fish Camp. Using four barges and about 4000 feet of seine with lots of rope, eight to twelve employees netted unbelievable amounts of carp, sheepshead and buffalo fish from the four lakes. The fish were kept in fenced "ponds" next to the station, and most were tanked out live by rail to Chicago and New York City. This operation ran for much of the year slowed only by hot weather and ice formation. On weekends the nets were stored on the large reels.

**79** This boat launch facility with restrooms, is operated by Dane County and offers boating and fishing enthusiasts from all over southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois fine access to Lake Kegonsa. The fishing is diverse with largemouth bass, crappie, perch, walleye, bluegill and many rough fish being caught.

**80** This home was built by William Siggelkow and might be one of Dunn's earliest. Hans and Dorteia Anderson Sperle, both from Sogn, Norway, purchased the farm in 1883. The house is an excellent example of the Italianate style of Picturesque architecture, popular in the 1860's to 1880's.

**81** Along this stretch of railway are many native plants adjacent to wetland and prairie, providing colorful blooms from early spring to late fall. Door Creek is just a short hike east along the tracks. It flows southward for about 12 miles, draining about 30 square miles of predominantly agricultural land before entering Lake Kegonsa. Man's intervention in straightening the stream channel by ditching through the center of Door Creek Marsh has increased sediment and nutrient loads carried by the creek and into the lake.

**82** The first depot was built on the northeast side of this crossing in 1855 with the coming of the growing Milwaukee and Mississippi Railroad Co. Two years later the depot was moved one mile west and McFarland was started. Enterprising farmers

shipped wheat, corn, oats and barley by rail during those early years and received important merchandise for homesteading.

**83** Plowing, grazing and other agricultural practices have destroyed many archeological sites in the Town of Dunn. Located on this drumlin is a small mound site featuring a linear mound, a panther and a goose effigy, all showing such damage. The goose effigy, perhaps the only one left in Dunn, is pointed toward the Door Creek Marsh area.

**84** This home built in 1893 was the birthplace and early home of one of Dunn's most famous sons, Conrad Elvehjem. He was a world-reknown researcher in nutrition and biochemistry and president of the University of Wisconsin (1958-62). He commuted to school in Stoughton by "jumping" the freight train which passed through his father Ole's farm, just north of the house.

**85** Ole Skare settled this farm in the mid-1800's after coming from Norway. Nine children were born in the one-room log cabin on the farm. One son,

Albert Skare, maintained his own museum in the old log home. Now the structure and its contents are a valuable part of the McFarland Historical Museum.

**86** The panorama to the southwest of this corner shows Lower Mud Lake surrounded by extensive cattail marshes and occasional upland. Large peat deposits underlie the marsh areas on both sides of this 195 acre lake with the near side being much drier. Shrubs and small trees invade this area which provides excellent feeding and breeding habitat for woodcock and snipe. Drier uplands supporting large oaks and hickories provide perching and nesting sites for predatory birds. These uplands are also rich in Indian history.

**87** The restored residence next to the tracks is the McFarland House. In 1857, William McFarland built this spacious structure which was used as a hotel for early railroad passengers. It was the first home in the Village of McFarland which was an integral part of the Town of Dunn until it separated and incorporated in 1920. William McFarland who came from London, England, when he was fourteen

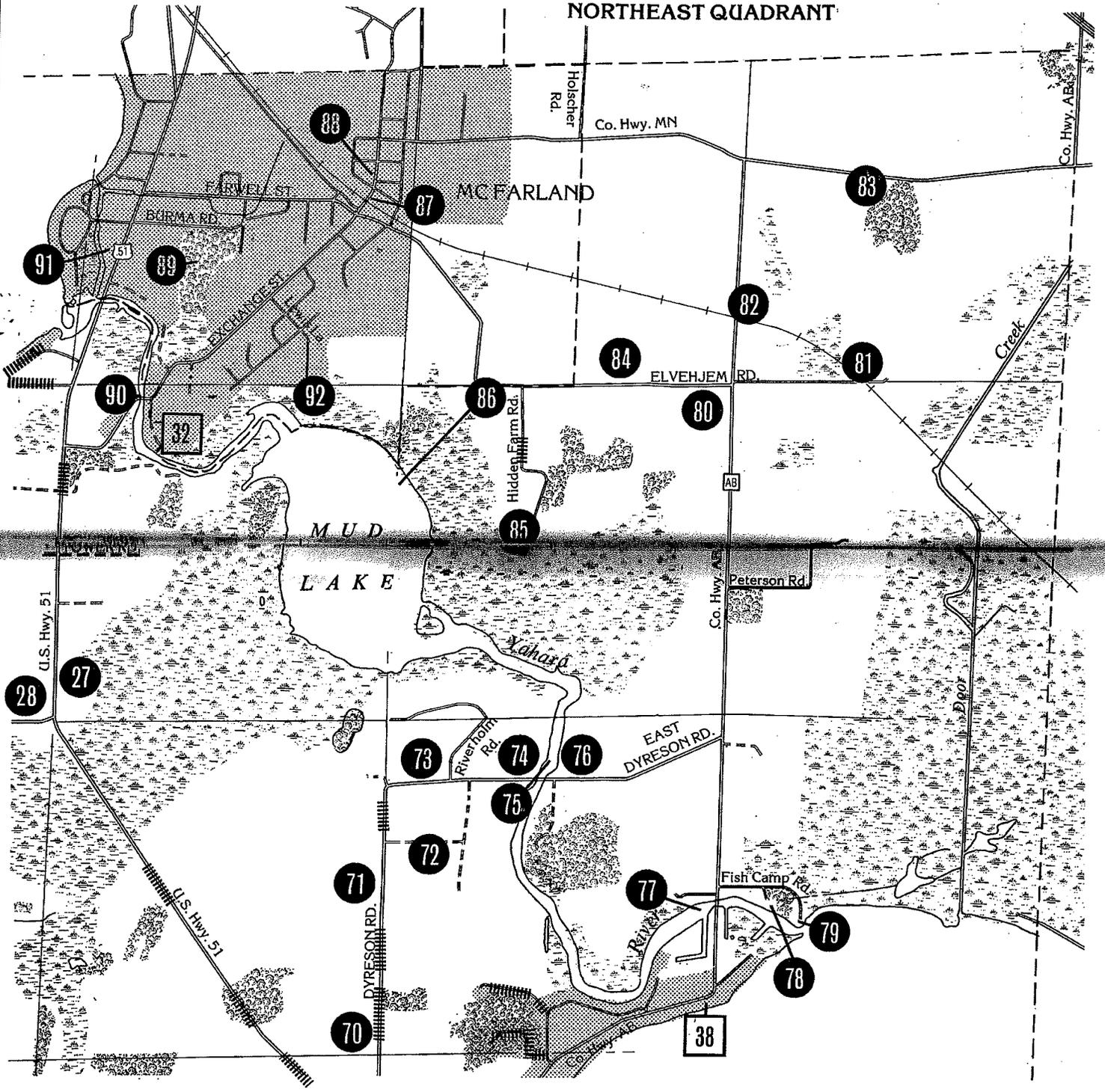
had been a construction superintendent for the Milwaukee and Mississippi Railroad. In 1856, he was persuaded to buy land between Stoughton and Madison along this completed stretch of railway. There he built a depot at a site just south of here and was hired as the station master.

**88** The McFarland Historical Museum excellently portrays the family life of early Norwegians and other area settlers. It also houses a fine Indian exhibit. A most valuable part of the museum is a furnished log cabin moved from the Albert Skare farm in the Town of Dunn and rebuilt. The museum is open from 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. on summer Sunday afternoons.

**89** Indian Mound Park is easily located by finding the giant blue and white water tower atop a large glacial drumlin. Its 9.5 wooded acres are now used as a wildlife refuge and outdoor learning area with eight Indian mounds of great historical interest. An informational sign at the Burma Road entrance highlights the trails which wind around these burial mounds of bear, conical and linear shape. Skiers, particularly Norwegians, used this hill in early days



NORTHEAST QUADRANT



to enjoy their sport. A newly marked bicycle path south of the drumlin now connects the park entry on Exchange Street to Babcock Park. (site 91)

90

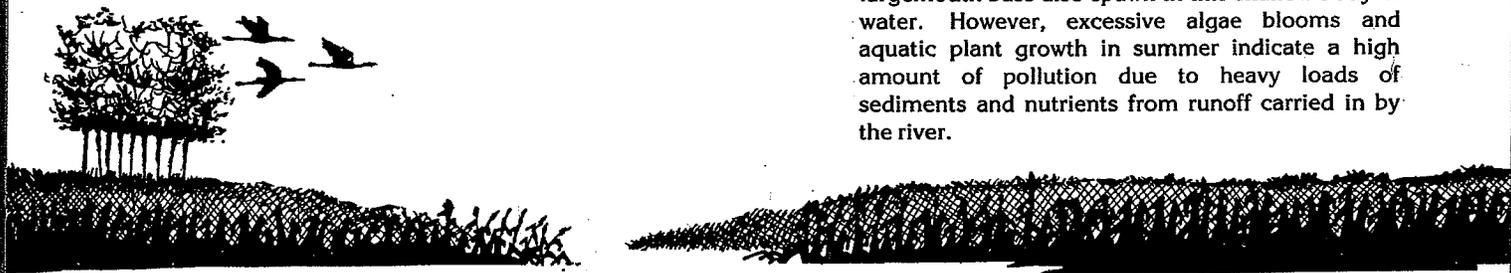
Built sometime in the late 1800's the Black Bridge was essential to connecting McFarland to Oregon via the Oregon Road with Exchange Street the main thoroughfare in the village. Marsh and water prevented a direct route along Lake Waubesa to Madison until lots of fill, a new bridge just around the bend upstream and Hwy. 51 were added about 1928. Built in the same place where Indians had crossed the Yahara River, the bridge was originally painted black with creosote.

91

Babcock Park is a busy place along Hwy. 51 at the outlet of Lake Waubesa. Fishing, boating, camping, picnicking and playground activities attract many area residents and visitors. This Dane County Park is named after Stephen Babcock who developed an inexpensive method of testing butterfat content in milk.

92

At the end of Lewis Lane, off Exchange Street, one can easily see where the Yahara River widens and forms Lower Mud Lake. This is a favorite area for migrating ducks, geese, herons and swans in the spring which utilize the early open water as a feeding and resting stop. Panfish, walleye and largemouth bass also spawn in this shallow body of water. However, excessive algae blooms and aquatic plant growth in summer indicate a high amount of pollution due to heavy loads of sediments and nutrients from runoff carried in by the river.



### INVENTORY OF TOWN OF DUNN PUBLIC LANDS

MAP NO.	NAME:	ACREAGE:	MAP NO.	NAME:	ACREAGE:
1	Berkan Street Greenway	0.29	10	Ridge Court Park	0.25
2	Babcock Conservancy	2.35	11	Greenridge Conservancy	0.76
3	Burmester Woods Park	1.84	12	Greenridge Conservancy	0.97
4	Colladay Drive Lake Access	0.29	13	Greenridge Park	0.43
5	Zor Court Greenway	0.12	14	Kegonsa Manor Park	5.77
6	Lincoln Park Lake Access	0.37	15	Lally's Oakview Park	0.87
7	Dunnwood Heights Park	2.24	16	Ole J. Quam Park Boat Landing	0.18
8	Tower Road Green	0.21	17	Oregon Heights Conservancy	2.36
9	Tower Road Beach	0.28	18	Raylen Meadows Park	0.40

MAP NO. NAME:

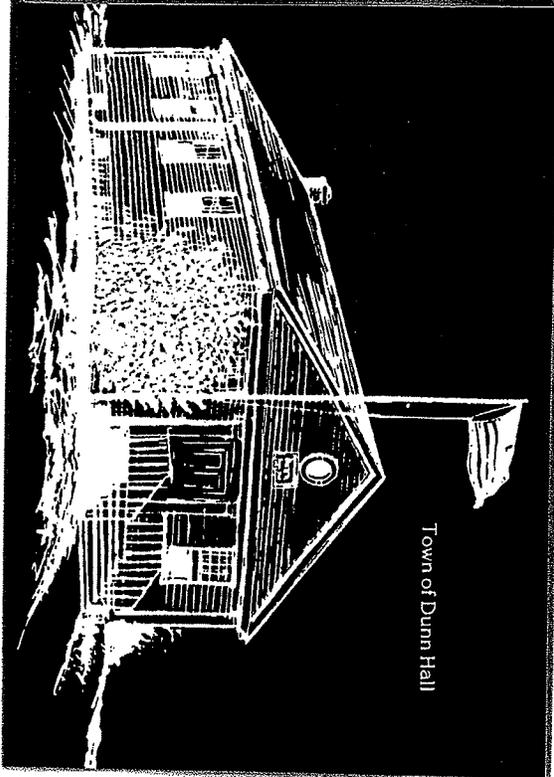
ACREAGE:

MAP NO. NAME:

ACREAGE:

19	Rock Elm Park Boat Landing	0.22
20	Simpson Park	1.61
21	Spartan Hills Greenway	0.70
22	Spartan Hills Greenway	0.23
23	Spartan Hills Greenway	0.63
24	Spartan Hills Greenway	0.66
25	Spartan Hills Park	2.70
26	Waubesa Heights Greenway	2.06
27	Waubesa Beach Lake Access	0.20
28	Waubesa Beach Greenway	0.20

29	McConnel Street Boat Landing	4.60
30	Shaw Park	0.43
31	Goodland Greenway	0.18
32	Sleepy Hollow Boat Landing	0.11
33	Willow Green	0.18
34	Watercress Greenway	0.24
35	Town of Dunn Hall & Garage	0.86
36	Town of Dunn Landfill	40.30
37	Sand Hill Cemetery	0.50
38	Lake Street Greenway	0.10



**TOWN OF DUNN  
PARK COMMISSION  
4156 CO. TRUNK HWY. B  
McFARLAND, WISCONSIN 53558  
1983**