

## Chapter 36

### The 69 Oldest Houses In Town

When I decided to include a chapter that would review the older homes of the town; never did I realize the detail analysis that would be required; mainly to determine what and when something happened. I refer primarily as to when a home was actually erected; was it when the lot was sold or at some later time. Old newspaper articles were of some help but when it came right down to it; one had to interpret the available data. Most all the information in the data gathering process came from the courthouse at Neilsville in the form of transfer of ownership deeds. Thousands of deeds were examined for every bit of data that could possibly be extracted from the document. One extremely valuable tool on the deeds of old was the mutually agreed to price which was paid for the property. It didn't take long to arrive at a pattern that occurred most consistently and almost across the board. The amount of money paid for a parcel of land would tell one whether there was a structure located on the land or if the transaction took place between a family member which in today's language would not constitute an arms length transaction but nevertheless would provide a clue that could be interpreted. If in later years the price paid for a property went down (not up) then one knew instantly that a fire or other occurrence took place which resulted in the building on the lot being partially or totally destroyed. Now one could not always make this determination immediately; when the price went down but one could lean that way and then see if there could be some other legitimate reason as to why the price went down. There were a number of instances; where I found out that an individual filed for bankruptcy; thus providing one explanation as to why he might have sold his property at below normal market prices.

Initially, the construction of any building required an action to be taken by the railroad or more exactly by the railroad's agent; who was in charge of selling the land. In this case; the man I call the first citizen of Dorchester was Daniel O. Miltimore and the land agent responsible for selling the railroad land.

This story starts on July 1, 1871 when The Wisconsin Central Railroad Company through Gardner Colby (President of the Railroad) and Frank W. Webster (Secretary of the Railroad) issued a mortgage document for certain lands to George T. Bigelow and John A. Stewart and which was given for the purpose of securing certain indebtedness made in building said companies railroad.

On April 10, 1874; George Bigelow and John A. Stewart appointed Elijah B. Phillips and Charles Colby and assigned them Power of Attorney with full authority to sell, execute and deliver deeds of conveyances of real estate, etc. either jointly or singularly. A short time later; Daniel O. Miltimore was signed on as the land agent in charge. On April 15, 1874, the United States Government deeded property to the Wisconsin Central Railroad

Co. The Federal Land Grant Program was necessary in order to entice the railroads to expand their tracks throughout the wilderness. Never in a million years would the railroad on their own; have undertaken the financial risk necessary without a bright rainbow at the end of the track. However, the United States Govt. retained full rights to any minerals which might be found on said lands. This deed also stipulates that a mortgage taken out by the Wisconsin Central Railroad Co. and was given on all lands, franchises, etc. owned by said Railroad Company; could not exceed \$25,000 per mile of track. The railroad immediately; hired a land surveyor to lay out the new community of Dorchester and the "Original Plat of the Town of Dorchester" was enacted on July 14, 1874 and recorded on August 5, 1874. The original plat contained six blocks and 111 lots.

There were a couple of reasons why it was important to sell railroad land and both dealt with money; one was so they could pay back the money they borrowed to lay the track and the other was to obtain ongoing revenues to keep the railroad viable. The more people that lived in a particular area; the more demand there would be for goods and services. Since everything had to be shipped by train; the more revenue the railroad could expect. The railroad realized there was a direct relationship between the growth of the community and the growth and eventual overall success of the railroad. So the railroad made it easy for lumberman, settlers and business people to come to the communities along the line. Land terms and costs were simple and inexpensive. Lots would sell for anywhere from \$10.00 to \$50.00 depending on the location. I would say \$20.00 to \$25.00 would be a good average and the only commitment established in the deed was that a building costing at least \$150.00 had to be erected on the lot within one year from date of purchase. This was not always followed up on and enforcement was not a high priority.

Typically; a lot would be purchased and a small two room house would be erected on the front portion of the lot; followed by a small barn at the rear of the lot. These housing units would not contain a permanent foundation but more a wood framing method would be applied to the underside of the buildings. The sale of a residential lot with these buildings on the lot would bring between \$100 and \$200. As time permitted; within a year or so, bigger and more solidly built homes would start to replace the small homes. Many of the small homes would be moved to the side or back and used as a shed or barn. The larger homes would normally have a foundation dug with stones and cement used to form a base on which to rest the house. In later years; many of the foundations would have to be replaced due to deterioration and it was at this time that basements would be dug or expanded if they already existed. For example: the oldest house in the community shows a relatively modern foundation from the outside but that is because it was replaced 60 years after it was originally built.

The new larger homes were almost identical as one can even see today. If one looks at the oldest three houses; each one looks pretty much like the other two and that carries on to some of the other older homes as well. Typically; a two story home would be erected and then sometime later, an one story addition or sometimes a two

story addition would be attached to one side or the other. That addition would inevitably be used for preparing and the eating of foods.

It was decided to prepare a list of homes in town that could meet the definition of historical. Once this task was completed; I was amazed at the number of homes that met this predetermined criteria. After some internal review and a discussion with the lady of the house; it was further determined and finalized that homes which were erected 85 years from this date or earlier would be included in this chapter. This meant that the last two homes to be included in the oldest homes category just happened to be the house that my mother and I live in and includes the house my paternal grandfather built when he moved to town in 1920. Coincidence; Perhaps! Perhaps Not! Lastly, in order to provide only information which the reader would find interesting; I decided not to include all kinds of data about each house but instead listed only pertinent data plus a picture of which I have been told is worth a thousand words. You will note, I record who erected each of the houses listed. That is intended to mean not the contractor; but the owner of the lot at the time the house was built.

### The Oldest Houses In Town

1. 1875 - Located on Lot 20 Block 3 Original Plat of Dorchester. Built in the summer of 1875 by Benjamin K. and Sarah E. Hunt. Known as the Laap House; today it is the residence of Annette Goessel Wiese and the address is 210 South Second Street. This building is the oldest residential structure in Dorchester.



2. 1875 - Located on Lot 16 Block 2 Original Plat Of Dorchester. R. J. and CarrieDurham built a two story frame house in the summer of 1875. Today it is the residence of Randy Solberg and the address is 240 South Third Street.



3. 1875 - Located on Lot 2 Block 2 Original Plat Of Dorchester. Built in November and December of 1875 by Austin and Catharine Armstrong. Known as the Erlei House; today it is the residence of Brian, Danielle, Brett (Big B) and Brendan (Little B) Schauer and the address is 217 South Second Street.



4. 1876 - Located on Lot 17 Block 4 Original Plat of Dorchester. The Wisconsin Central Railroad Company first sold Lots 16 and 17 to George Krakenberger on January 6, 1875 for \$80. George Krakenberger sold Lot 17 to Stephen Mais on May 11, 1876 for \$43. Stephen and Eva Mais then erected a small three room house in the summer of 1876 and lived there until they sold Lot 17 to Henry LaBossier on August 7, 1880 for \$110. Today the home belongs to Terry and Diane Kussrow who rent out the small residence to Dean and Diane Faude. The barn on the property is the only remaining original animal structure still standing in Dorchester. The address is 170 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.



5. 1879 - Located on Lot 9 Block 2 Original Plat Of Dorchester. Built during the summer of 1879 by Sarah E. Hunt. Known as the Clara and Rozzi Decker House; today it is the residence of Jay DeVine and the address is 273 South Second Street.



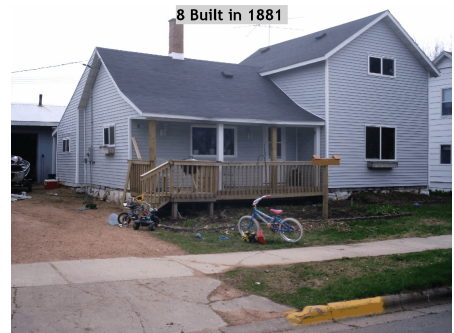
6. 1879 - Located on Lot 12 Block 1 Original Plat of Dorchester. Built by J. Boulais in the fall of 1879. Known as the Augie Sauter House; today it is the residence of Pamela Harrellson and the address is 193 South Second Street.



7. 1881 - Located on the North Part of Lot 17 and Lot 18 Block 1 Original Plat of Dorchester. Built by Andreas and Katrina Schmidt in the summer of 1881. Known as the Foley House; today it is the residence of Jerry and Helen Ludwig and the address is 154 South Third Street.



8. 1881 - Located on Lot 18 Block 3 Original Plat Of Dorchester. Built by Leona Van Dusen in the summer of 1881. Purchased by st. Peter's Lutheran Church as a residence for their pastor in 1884 and used for that purpose until 1910. Known as the Mead House; today it is the residence of Dan Steckbauer and his family. They purchased the home in October of 2001 and the address is 220 South Second Street.



9. 1881 - Located in the NE Quarter of the NE Quarter of Section 14. The property was first sold by The United States Gov't. to John J. Lansworth on March 1, 1876. John Lansworth sold a parcel of land equaling 20 acres to Ole L. Myrland on May 14, 1881. In the summer of 1881, Ole Myrland proceeded to construct a two story wood frame home along a very heavily traveled road heading to the West. That road eventually became County Trunk "A" and at that time was a quarter mile from the rest of the community. Today the home is owned by Francis and Delores Sebold who have lived there for nearly 50 years as of this writing. The address is 526 West Center Avenue.



10. 1882 - Located 109 feet to 209 feet west of the southwest corner of CTH "A" and Fourth Street. Built by J. Phillip and Mary Catharina Schmidt in the spring of 1882. Known as the Hanson House; today it is owned by Melvin and Antoinette Bruce and the address is 406 W. Center Avenue.



11. 1882 - Located on Lot 23 Block 1 Original Plat of Dorchester. Built by Reverend William Kollander in the summer of 1882. Known as the Genrich House; today it is owned by Terry Krug who just purchased the property from Steve and Connie Etten and it is located at 248 Center Avenue.



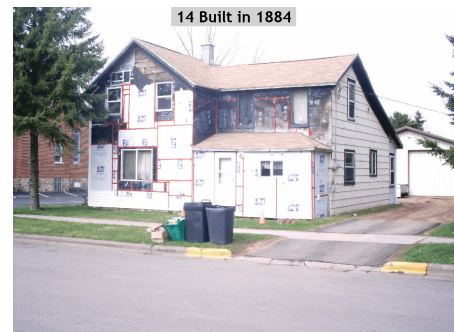
12. 1883 - Located on Lot 1 of the Lansworth Addition to Dorchester. This parcel of land was purchased by The Scandinavian Baptist Church on December 27, 1881 from John L. Lansworth. The small church built there was constructed in the summer of 1883 by the parish members. Today that original building still stands and serves as a residential rental unit. Known as the Leona Beisner House; today it is owned by Chuck Mengel and the address is 307 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street.



13. 1883 - Located on Lot 20 Block 7 First Addition To The Village Of Dorchester. Lot 20 was first sold by the Wisconsin Railroad Company to William Rahn on June 18, 1883 for \$20. In the late summer of 1883; William Rahn constructed a two story wood frame residence and today it is owned by Charles Mengel who rents out the house for additional income. The address is 107 South Pine Street.



14. 1884 - Located on Lot 5 Block 13 Second Add. to Dorchester, the two story residence was built by Frederick and Johanna Edler during the summer of 1884. George and Caroline Krackenberger sold Lot 5 and Lot 6 to Fred Schmidt, A.F. Schmidt and Claus Henkle (Trustees of the Salems Church of the Evangelical Association of North America and their successors in office) on May 2, 1891 for \$375. The deed stipulated that the property In Trust to be Kept, used and maintained as a place of residence for the use and occupancy of the preachers of the Evangelical Association of North America. Today it is owned by Gary DeForth and is used as a residential rental unit. It is located on South Third Street and the address is 235 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.



15. 1885 - Located on Lot 7 Block 1 Original Plat of Dorchester. Fred Ulrich built a two-story home in the summer of 1885. Known as the Buehrens House; today the home is owned and occupied by Diane Recore Kayhart. The address is 153 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.



16. 1885 - Located on Lot 14 Block 13 Second addition To The Village Of Dorchester. Theodore and Mary Kariske in the summer of 1885; built a small one story wood frame home and that home still stands today. Known as the Pleir House; the home just sold recently to the Thorsons who took over the property in September of 2004. The address is 254 South 4<sup>th</sup> St.



17. 1885 - Myron H. Lyon sold a same parcel of land to E.H. Winchester on Feb. 11, 1885 for \$20.00 and described as follows: Commencing 66 feet North of the Northeast Corner of Lot 1 Block 1 of Lansworth Addition to the Village of Dorchester: thence North on the West Line of the highway between Section 13 and 14 a distance of 75 feet; thence West parallel with the North Line of said Lot 1 Blk 1 a distance of 150 ft; thence South parallel with the line of said highway 75 feet; thence East 150 feet to the POB. Additional land was added to the original parcel and the size grew to 100 feet North by South and 327 feet East by West. E.H. Winchester, the first banker in Dorchester, constructed a large two story home during the summer of 1885 then sold it to David and Wilhemine Seidler on October 14, 1885 for \$525. Today the home is owned and occupied by Clarence and Marilyn (Smith) Klimpke who purchased the home in 1972 from George Smith, Marilyn's dad. Many renovations have been made by the Klimpkes over the years and today the home stands tall, straight and true. The address is 279 South Fourth Street.



18. 1886 - Located on Lot 14 Block 2 Original Plat Of Dorchester. Ole Johnson built a small bungalow in the summer of 1886. Known as the Boxrucher House; today the home is owned and occupied by Peter Weber. The address is 254 South Third Street.



19. 1886 - Located on Lots 7 and 8 Block 7 First Addition To The Village Of Dorchester. The property was first sold by The Wisconsin Central Railroad Company to "The Presbyterian Society of the Town of Dorchester" on August 17, 1876 for \$1.00. Edmund Mehler purchased Lots 7 and 8 on June 24, 1886 for \$38 and in the fall of that year proceeded to erect a two story wood frame residence for his family. Still known as the Mehner House; today the property is owned by Charles Eisenreich and the address is 464 South Linden Street.



20. 1886 - Located in the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (SW 1/4 NW 1/4) of Section Thirteen (13) and now described as follows: Comm. 66 feet South of the SW Corner of Lot 11 Block 3; thence Westerly along the South side of West Second Avenue 138 ft; thence Southerly 480 ft m/l; thence Easterly 138 feet; thence Northerly 450 feet to POB. Daniel O. Miltimore sold the land to K.A. Bery on August 31, 1886 for \$349.21.



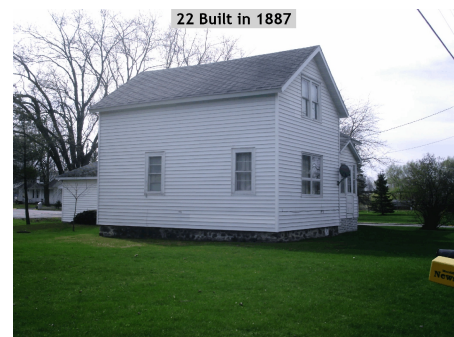
Mr. Bery constructed a large two story wood frame building on the land and the Berys lived here for quite some time. Known as the McCarron House; the property was just recently purchased (mid 2004) by Kelly Vahl and the address is 206 West Second Avenue.



21. 1886 - Located in the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (NW 1/4 NW 1/4) of section Thirteen (13) and now described as Outlot 4 of Assessors Plat "B". Charles Habeck purchased the property in 1886 and completed the 1 ½ story wood frame structure that same year. Known as Otto and Emma Genrich's House; today the property is owned by Morris and Ann Lavin and the address is 312 West Second Avenue.



22. 1887 - Located on Lot 11 Block 13 of The Second Addition to The Village Of Dorchester. Built by Fred and Phillippina Distelhorst in the summer of 1887. The construction was a simple two story wood frame structure. Known as the Eric Beisner House; today it is owned and occupied by Shawn Geiger. The address is 276 South Fourth Street.



23. 1887 - Located on Lot 13 Block 14 of The 2nd Addition To The Village Of Dorchester. Built by Charles and Augusta Janke in the late summer and fall of 1887. It was a small two story wood frame residence and today the building still stands after 117 yrs. It sold in 2003 to William Stock and he immediately set upon an ambitious and extensive re- modeling project to bring the old home up to current standards. It is hard to believe that the old home is the same one standing there today. The address is 158 So. 4th St.



24. 1888 - Located on Lot 17 Block 3 Original Plat of Dorchester. Built by Grant and Adelia Van Dusen in the Spring of 1888. Known as the Ludwig House; Elda Ludwig has resided there since 1946 and the address is 230 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.



25. 1888 - Located on Lot 22 Block 14 of The Second Addition To The Village Of Dorchester. In the spring of 1888, Leona Van Dusen constructed a home on Lot 22 and lived there for 15 years before selling the property to Mary Skerbeck. For the next 54 years, this property became known as the Skerbeck House. In 1957, the last of the Skerbeck children, Pauline sold the property and moved to a house on North Front St. Sometime in the early 1930s, a one car garage was erected. A new garage was constructed in the late 1990s. Today the home is owned by Elvis and Renee Haemer who purchased the property on July 18, 2002. The address is 139 South 3<sup>rd</sup> St.



26. 1888 - Located on Lot 15 Blk 13 of The Second Addition To The Village Of Dorchester. F.W. Kranet constructed a small one story wood frame home on Lot 15 in the fall of 1888. Today the home is owned by Luella Walters who uses the home for weekend retreats. The address is 250 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street.



27. 1888 - Located on Lot 21 Block 1 Original Plat Of Dorchester. Built by William Schafer in the summer of 1888. Known as the Whitman House; today it is owned by Dennis and Shariyn Peche and they use the home as a rental unit. The address is 122 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.



28. 1888 - Located on Lot 23 Block 4 Original Plat of Dorchester. The railroad first sold Lot 23 to Archibald Menzies in December 1880 who then sold it to Frederick Ulrich (who is the uncle of Bruce Jensen as Bruce's mother was a Ulrich) in 1883 and then to Augusta Weingartner in May, 1888 for \$65. Augusta constructed a residence on Lot 23 in the summer of 1888 and this wood frame structure was built with great care. That must be the case as it still functions as a residence today. The home is owned and occupied today by Beverly Paulson and the address is 122 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.



29. 1888 - Located in the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NE 1/4 NE 1/4) of Section Fourteen (14). Built by William Fischmann in the fall of 1888, this residence was purchased by Frank Nagel in April of 1889 for \$300. It was a small 1 ½ story wood frame building but more than adequate to keep out the cold winter winds. Known as the Nagel House; today it is owned by Ernie/Shirley Mehner and the address is 420 West Ctr Ave.



30. 1889 - Located on Lot 11 Block 14 Second Addition To The Village Of Dorchester. Built by Charles and Augusta Janke in the summer of 1889. The home was a small two story wood frame building and it was remodeled a number of times over the years. New vinyl siding was applied in 2000 and today it stands looking fresh and issuing a big hello to all who pass by. Today the property is owned by Lana Weideman and although she doesn't live full time in the house, numerous visits are made to ensure the building and overall property remain safe and secure. The address is 130 South 4th Street.



31. 1890 - Located on Lot 1 Block 7 First Addition to Dorchester. Built by John H. and Rebecca H. Holderman in the spring of 1890. Known as the old Copeland House; today it is owned by Delores Smith who has resided there since January of 1973. The address is 402 South Linden.



32. 1891 - Located in the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (NW 1/4 NW 1/4) of Section Thirteen (13) and now described as follows: Outlot 1 and the East 20 feet of Outlot 2 of Assessors Plat "B" (Parcel is 81 ft East by West and 185 feet North by South). K.A. Bery sold this parcel to Fred Krentz on July 11, 1981 for \$300. Fred Krentz then constructed this large two story wood frame building during the fall of 1891. Known as the Gutwasser House; today it is owned and occupied by Mike and Roxann Johnson who purchased the property in 2000. The address is 104 East Second Avenue.



33. 1892 - Located on the East 84 feet of the South 116 feet of Outlot 15 of Assessors Plat "A". Ellen M. Robbins sold this property to Paul and Mary Blanc on July 23, 1890 for \$100. Paul and Mary Blanc borrowed \$100 from John Schafer on February 11, 1892 and by the summer, a large two story wood frame two family residence was up and ready for occupancy. Today it is owned by Ken and Betty Riegert and is used as income property for the Riegerts. Two large up and down apartments are rented out to the general public. The address is 243 West Center Ave.



34. 1892 - Located on Lot 13 Block 1 Original Plat Of Dorchester. Peter and Clara Oberbillig built a one-story log home in the fall of 1892. Known as the Grinkervinch House; today it is owned and occupied by John Len. The address is 229 West 1<sup>st</sup> Ave.



35. 1894 - Located in the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SW 1/4 SW 1/4) of Section Twelve (12) and which is 296 feet North of the junction of CTH "A" and Fourth Street. Ellen Robbins sold a parcel of land to Reimund and Anna Heindorfer on February 8, 1894 for \$50 and which equaled one acre in size. The Heindorfers started construction in May of 1894 waiting to make sure the frost was totally out of the ground. They constructed a 1 3/4 story house and after many renovations including new vinyl siding, the home is for all practical purposes, a modern home or at least a home with modern living conveniences. Known as the Geiger House, today the property is owned and occupied by Mike Geiger and the address is 133 North 4<sup>rd</sup> Street.



36. 1894 - Located in the Northwest Quarter of Section 13 described as follows: Comm. at a point 66 feet South of the Southwest Corner of Block 3 of the Village of Dorchester; thence running in a southwesterly direction parallel with the railroad right-of-way 150 feet; thence East 75 feet; thence North 150 feet; thence West 75 feet to the point of beginning. Also described as the West One Half of Outlot 3 of Assessors Plat "B". John and Bell Bery purchased the property on August 27, 1894 and preparations were made immediately to construct a house before the winter winds and cold set upon the land. The building was a 1 1/2 story wood frame structure and today the property is owned and occupied by Wanda Moser and four generations of the Moser Family. The address is 142 West Second Avenue.



37. 1895 - Located on South Fourth Street, the large two story Victorian Structure was built by Dr. H. M. Nedry in the summer and fall of 1895. Known as Dr. Nedry;s House; today it functions as a four-plex apartment and is owned by Gary Dietz and Michael Clark. The address is 259 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street.



38. 1895 - Located on Lot 4 Block 2 Original Plat Of Dorchester. Charles and Emma Waldasin built a two-story wood frame home in the fall of 1895. Known as the Manas House; today it is owned and occupied by Gary and Renee Gebert. The address is 129 South second Street.



39. 1895 - Located on Lots 1 and 2 Block 7 First Addition To The Village Of Dorchester. The Wisconsin Central Railroad Company first sold these lots to E.L. Swarthout on April 24, 1889 along with other lands. E.L. Swarthout sold Lots 1 and to J.L. Westbrook and C.J. Putnam on September 9, 1895 for \$30. Three months later (in the late fall and early winter) a very large two story wood frame residence was ready for occupancy. On February 25, 1896, J.L. Westbrook sold his interest in the property to C.J. Putnam for \$500. Known as the G.N. Schultz House; today it is owned by Frank Beran who rents out the property as a duplex with large up and down living quarters. The address is 106 South Pine Street.



40. 1896 - Located in the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (NE 1/4 NW 1/4) of Section Thirteen (13) alongside Lake Dorchester which by the way is the only lakeside single family residence in the entire community. It was erected by Grant Van Dusen in the summer of 1896. The home is a well built residence constructed with the finest lumber available at the time as the Van Dusens were operators of the sawmill in town. Known as the Copeland House; today the property is owned and occupied by Duane Huth and the address is 192 Linden Street.



41. 1898 - Located on Lot 15 Block 1 Original Plat Of Dorchester. Peter and Clara Oberbillig built a two-story home in the spring and summer of 1898. Known as the Kronschnabl House; today it is owned by Brian Geiger and the address is 172 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.



42. 1898 - Located in the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SW 1/4 SW 1/4) of Section Twelve . Alfred Hunt purchased the property on February 3, 1898 for \$50 and a month later began construction of a two story wood frame structure that would outlast most of the homes built at the time. A.D. Hunt as he was known; went into the ice business prior to the turn of the century and had ice houses in more than one location in the community. This location was one of those and another was behind (near the alleyway) Jeff Staab's Machine Shop. Known as the Hagen House; today the property is owned and occupied by Robert Tischendorf who purchased the property in 2003. Bob is determined to renovate the old building and I must say he is doing one fine job. New vinyl siding is going on and will soon be the envy of the neighborhood. The address is 369 Washington Avenue.



43. 1900 - Located on the East One Half Of Lots 18 - 19 - and 20 Second Addition to the Village Of Dorchester. Henry and Doroithia Schoeneman constructed a two story wood frame home in the spring of 1900. The home still stands and until recently was owned by Rick A. and Denise M. Rinehart who purchased the property on April 3, 1994. They sold the house to Beth Stange in the fall of 2004 and the address is 348 West 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue.



44. 1900 - Located on Lot 20 Block 14 of The second addition to The Village Of Dorchester. In the spring of 1900; Peter and Kate Kinzel erected a residential building on Lot 20. The home still stands today and has been renovated a number of times, the most extensive renovation took place after Chuck Mengel purchased the property in October of 1986. Known as the Greaser House; David and Jessica Decker purchased the property in March of 2002 and live there with their new baby. The address is 151 South 3rd Street.



45. 1901 - Located on Lots 1 and 2 Block 12 First Addition To The Village Of Dorchester. In the spring of 1901, Henry Rau erected a small two story wood frame residence for his family. The home has been renovated from time to time and this writer's mother and her two brothers and sister along with their mother (Josephine Marrett) and step father (John Marrett) and his children all resided there from 1920 until 1927 when they sold the property to Rudy Ortlieb. The property was first sold by the Wisconsin Central Railroad Company to E.L. Swarthout on April 24, 1889. Known as the Ortlieb House; today the house and property is owned by Steve Bach. The address is 306 East Fourth Avenue.





46. 1901 - Located in the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NE 1/4 NE 1/4) of Section Fourteen (14); this fine structure was built by Andrew Sorenson in the fall of 1901. A newspaper article stated the Sorensens moved in just before Christmas of 1901. He purchased the property (16.5 Acres) from Peter Schafer on August 20, 1895 for \$1000. The home is a two story wood frame structure with brick veneer siding and with proper care this building will have children playing inside its walls for another 100 years. Known as the Hurth House; today it is owned and occupied by Paulette Meyer and the address is 171 South Fourth Street.



47. 1903 - The Peace United Church of Christ built a residence for their pastor to reside in. It is a wood frame two story structure with a hard fired brick veneer exterior. The brick exterior was actually placed on the structure in 1905, two years after the parsonage was completed. It is located on Lot 18 Block 4 Original Plat of Dorchester and today it is owned by Gaylord Kaduce and functions as a two story rental duplex. The address is 162 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.



48. 1904 - Henry Weber sold a parcel of land to Fred Distelhorst on March 2, 1904 for \$200 and described as follows: Comm. 744 North and 940 feet East of the Southwest Corner of Section Twelve; thence Northerly 376 feet; thence Easterly 232 feet; thence Southerly 376 feet; thence Westerly 232 feet to POB. Fred Distelhorst built a fine two story wood frame structure and using hard fired brick for a veneer finished siding. A siding which is perfect for this climate as little or no maintenance is required. By summer the house was finished and the Distelhorsts moved in and lived there for a number of years. Known as the Distelhorst House; today the property is owned and occupied by Barry and Karen Dunlap who purchased the property in 1998 and the address is 149 West Washington Avenue.



49. 1905 - Located on The West One Half Of Lots 1 and 2 Block 13 Second Addition To The Village Of Dorchester. Henry and Nettie Froland purchased the property in 1904 and in the summer of 1905; they built their dream house and moved in before the winter snows engulfed this small hamlet. The home was a wood frame two story home and served the Froland family well until they sold the property in 1934 to John and

Leona Doberstein. Known as the Froland House; today the property is owned by Patricia and Bernard Jr. Bock and the address is 330 West 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue.



50. 1906 - Located on the North Portion Of Lots 1 - 2 and 3 of Blk 14 - Second Addition To The Village Of Dorchester. Conrad Kramer constructed the first home on this site in the summer of 1906. Conrad Kramer (grandfather of Jim Kramer) was a local carpenter and before you knew it, the building was ready to be occupied. It was a two story wood frame structure and of adequate size to accommodate even a large family. Known as the Riemer House; today the home is owned and occupied by Debra Koncel and her children. The address is 107 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.



51. 1906 - Located in the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 12; Comm. 1371 feet North of the Southwest Corner of Section 12; thence North 209 feet; thence East 418 feet; thence South 209 feet; thence West 418 feet to POB. Otto and Lillian Sauter sold this parcel of land to Herman Will on September 10, 1906 for \$140. Herman Will (in the fall of 1906) built himself a home which was a 1 ½ story wood frame building. It was a simple structure but more than adequate to meet his needs. Known as the Fred Werner House; today the home is owned and occupied by Steve and Sharon Mergen and the address is 298 North Fourth Street.



52. 1909 - Located on Lot 13 Block 3 Original Plat of Dorchester and built by Ole Paulson during the summer of 1909. This structure is a very large two-story home and today serves a dual purpose function. The upstairs is a very nice residential apartment and the lower level serves as the Communities's Funeral Home as it has since 1962. Known as the Paulson House; today it is owned by Jim and Barbara Maurina under the name of Maurina Funeral Services, Inc. The address is 258 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.



53. 1910 - Located in the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section Twelve (12) and more specifically described as the East 150 feet of the South 150 feet of Lot 5 Block "E" of the old "Distelhorst Plat". Fred Distelhorst sold the property to the Reverend A. Janke who constructed a large two story house on the property in the spring of 1910. He purchased 7 lots for \$500 on January 3, 1910 and lived there for 6 years before selling the property to Elizabeth Herman (grandmother of Cliff Herman) on July 6, 1916 for \$1000. As youngsters growing up, this was the very north end of town with woods all around and was known as the Charlie Gumz House. Today the house stands tall and straight; is owned and occupied by Heidi Schilling and Charlie Geiger who just purchased the property in late 2004. The address is 285 North Second Street.



54. 1910 - Located at the junction of CTH "A" and 4th Street which is the Northwest Cor. of that intersection. Julius LeClaire built this very large two and a half story brick veneer structure for his ever growing family in 1910. Today it is the residence of Bob and Adeline Stoiber and three generations of Stoibers live there. The address is 413 W. Center Ave.



55. 1910 - Located on Lots 5 and 6 Block 7 - First Addition To The Village Of Dorchester. In the fall of 1910; Lucy A. Tabor erected a two story wood frame residence on this site. Today it is owned and occupied by Patricia Thomsen, her adoring husband William and their two children Taylor and Casey and the address is 442 South Linden Street.



56. 1912 - Located on Lot 10 Blk 2 Original Plat Of Dorchester. Built in the summer of 1912 by Wm and Winnie Munroe. Known as the Monroe House; this is a one and a half story home and today is the residence of Patricia Schwartz. Address is 281 So. 2nd St.



57. 1912 - Joseph and Sarah Kronschnabl sold Outlot 11 of Assessors Plat "A" to Joseph and Leda Erlei on April 8, 1912 for \$150.00. Joseph Erlei, in the summer of 1912 constructed a small one story wood frame building that would serve as living quarters for Edward Fuchsgruber and his family for many years. The first owner after the home was completed was Carl Rauchfuss who purchased the property on November 2, 1912 for \$1000. Known as Foxy's House; today the property is owned and occupied by Matthew and Theresa Derrico and the address is 133 North Front Street.



58. 1913 - Located on Outlot 10 of Assessors Plat "A". Jens Jensen sold a parcel of land to Joseph Erlei on October 5, 1912 for \$75. Joseph Erlei in the spring of 1913 erected a 1 ½ story wood frame home and then on July 5, 1913 sold the completed home to Herman Maurer for \$1400. Known as Messie Sorenson's House; today the property is owned and occupied by Dave Bach and his two children. The address is 145 North Front Street.



59. 1914 - Located on the West one Half Of Lots 18-19 and 20 Block 13 Second Addition to the Village Of Dorchester. Sam Uroretz purchased the property in July 1914; shortly after the original building (which was called "The Milwaukee Store") burned down. By the end of the summer; he had erected the house that stands there today. It is a much nicer home today than it was after it was completed 90 years ago. Today it is owned and occupied by Ken and Valerie Mohan and the address is 358 West 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue.



60. 1917 - Located on Outlot 9 of Assessors Plat "A". Jens Jensen sold this parcel of land to Joseph C. Weber on April 10, 1915 for \$235. Joseph Weber sold this parcel of land to Henry Pueschner on June 11, 1917 for \$600 and then Henry and Mabel Pueschner sold this property to Joseph and Marrie Pueschner on December 22, 1917 for \$500. Joe and Marrie then hired Joe Weber to built him a house; a two story wood frame home large enough for any size family. Joe had apprenticed as a carpenter for three years under the master Julius Werner and this was Joe's first major project to be undertaken all on his own. Joe did a fine job as can be seen by the fact the home is still standing straight and true. Known as the Leitzow House; today the property is owned and occupied by Jim and Nancy Ortlieb and the address is 155 North Front Street.



61. 1918 - Located on Lots 7 and 8 of Block 2 Original Plat of Dorchester and built by Edwin and Emma Ruhmer in the fall of 1918. This structure is a 1 3/4 story wood frame home and built they say with the best lumber possible as Ed Ruhmer was Ole Paulson's right hand man at the mill. Known as the Schief House; today is the residence of Dennis, Julie, Master Sam and Miss Mattie Bach. The address is 255 South Second Street.



62. 1919 - Located on the South 75 Feet Of Lots 1-2 and 3 of Block 14 - Second Addition To The Village Of Dorchester. Built in the summer of 1919 by Max Vircks, this structure is more readily defined as a 1 3/4 story home. A well built structure and I believe the first stucco home in Dorchester. Today it is owned by Gary Thomas, however the home has just been vacated as Gary and his family moved to an out of town address. The home nicely maintained is presently listed for sale with a price of \$110,000. The address is 125 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.



63. 1919 - Located on Outlot 8 of Assessors Plat "A". Henry and Nettie Froland sold this parcel to Doctor and Mrs. L.H. Crane in January of 1919. A disastrous fire took place on November 1, 1920 in which their 18 year old daughter Lenora was burned to death. The fire destroyed the house which was located where Henry Genrich built his house on South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and where Tom and Lauri Smith now live. Dr. Crane began construction on the new house in the spring and summer of 1919. It is a large two story or what they call a 1 3/4 story wood frame home with stucco siding which is concrete over a heavy wire which is attached to the wood sheathing. Known as the Hiebsch House; the home is now owned and occupied by Robert and Diane Braun. The address is 167 North Front Street.



64. 1919 - Located on Outlot 7 of Assessors Plat "A". H.O. Froland sold a parcel of land to Frank Pueschner on March 29, 1919 for \$160. Frank Pueschner built a nice two story home on this site during the summer of 1919. It was a two story wood frame structure and constructed (like they did things back then) like a rock. Today the home is owned and occupied by Randy and Nancy Cook and the address is 187 North Front Street.



65. 1919 - Located at the southwest corner of CTH "A" and Fourth Street. Built by George Ley in the summer of 1919. Art and Rose Geiger purchased this property in 1971. As of the final review of this writing, it is with regret that the home is now for sale as both Art and his beloved wife Rose have passed on. The address is 113 South Fourth Street.



66. 1920 - The property is described as Outlot Twelve (12) of the "Assessors Plat A". Purchased by Frank Skerbeck Sr. on November 3, 1919; he started construction on a two story wood frame house in the spring of 1920. By summer the home was completed and the Skerbecks moved in and lived there for 11 years until the property was transferred to H.A. and Amanda (Skerbeck) Kaarup on May 3, 1932. Mrs. Frank Sr. (Mary) Skerbeck passed away on September 11, 1931. Today the property is owned and by Gertrude Harrellson. Known as the Don Sauter House; Gertrude and her husband Connie (who passed away in 2003) purchased the property more than 40 years ago on April 8, 1964. The address is 130 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.



67. 1920 - Located on Lot 22 Block 4 Original Plat of Dorchester. The railroad first sold Lot 22 to Archibald Menzies in December, 1880. In 1884; G.A. Ruhmer constructed a small house on the property. Hans Sorenson ( the former butcher and sausage maker in town) purchased the property in June of 1920 and razed the old original small house that was located on the property. He erected a modern home for his family, a one and a half story with Stucco and Kelly Stone being used for the siding on the wood frame structure. In the 1980s, the house was converted into a duplex. Known as the Schreiber House; today it is owned by Dwayne L. Walkowski and he lives in the downstairs apartment and he rents out the upstairs flat which seems to work out quite well for him and the renter. The address is 132 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.



68. 1920 - Located on lots 4 and 5 of Block 2 Original Plat of Dorchester and built by Fred and Bertha Plockelmann during the summer of 1920. Wm. and Loretta Jantsch moved in during the fall of 1933 and that means that Loretta has established a new record in Dorchester; that being she has lived for 72 consecutive years in the same house. This structure is also a 1 3/4 story home and today is the residence of Jim and Loretta Jantsch. The address is 231 South Second Street.



69. 1921 - Located on Lots 9 and 10 Of Block 14 - Second Addition To The Village Of Dorchester. A nice two story but simple home was constructed by John Sr. and Mary Jantsch in the spring and summer of 1921. The Jantschs along with four of the children made this home for a number of years. John and Mary are the grandparents of this writer and my father William was one of the four children who occupied this home in the 1920s. Known as the Jantsch House, today it is owned and occupied by Douglas/Diane Solberg along with Jordan; the youngest of their three children and the address is 126 So. 4<sup>th</sup> St.

