

Local Landmark Designation Nomination Form

1. Name

Historic Grove Cemetery/Oak Grove Cemetery

and/or common _____

2. Location

street & number East Main Street

city, town Whitewater

congressional district 5

state Wisconsin

zip code 53190

county Walworth

3. Classification

Category

- district
 building(s)
 structure
 site
 object

Ownership

- public
 private
 both

Public Acquisition

- in process
 being considered

Status

- occupied
 unoccupied
 work in progress

Accessible

- yes: restricted
 yes: unrestricted
 no

Present Use

- agriculture
 commercial
 educational
 entertainment
 government
 industrial
 military

- museum
 park
 private residence
 religious
 scientific
 transportation
 other:

4. Owner of Property

Name Whitewater Cemetery Association

street & number 1691 Mound View Place

city, town Whitewater

vicinity of Walworth

state Wisconsin

zip 53190

5. Location of Legal Description

(In County Courthouse)

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Walworth County Register of Deeds

street & number 100 W. Walworth Street

city, town Elkhorn

state Wisconsin

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Title Oak Grove Cemetery

Date 08 - 29 -2012

federal state county local

depository for survey records Land Information Office/Register of Deeds

city, town Elkhorn

state Wisconsin

7. Description

Condition

- excellent
- good

- deteriorated
- ruins

Check One

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved (if so, date moved _____)

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance _____

see attached

8. Significance

(Continue on separate sheets if necessary)

Period

- prehistoric
- 1400-1499
- 1500-1599
- 1600-1699
- 1700-1799
- 1800-1899
- 1900-

Areas of Significance-Check and justify below

- archeology-prehistoric
- archeology-historic
- agriculture
- architecture
- art
- commerce
- communications

- community planning
- conservation
- economics
- education
- engineering
- exploration/settlement
- industry
- invention

- landscape architecture
- law
- literature
- military
- music
- philosophy
- politics/government

- religion
- science
- sculpture
- social/humanitarian
- theater
- transportation
- other (specify)

Specific dates established 1844 **Builder/Architect** _____

Statement of Significance (Give specific sources for all statements of fact.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

see attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property ³⁺ _____

Quadrangle name Whitewater, WI _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UMT References (Optional)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	16N	359102	4743947

	Zone	Easting	Northing
B	16N	359302	4743946

C	16N	359198	4743804
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D	16N	359100	4743811
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E	_____	_____	_____
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F	_____	_____	_____
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G	_____	_____	_____
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H	_____	_____	_____
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Verbal boundary description and justification _____

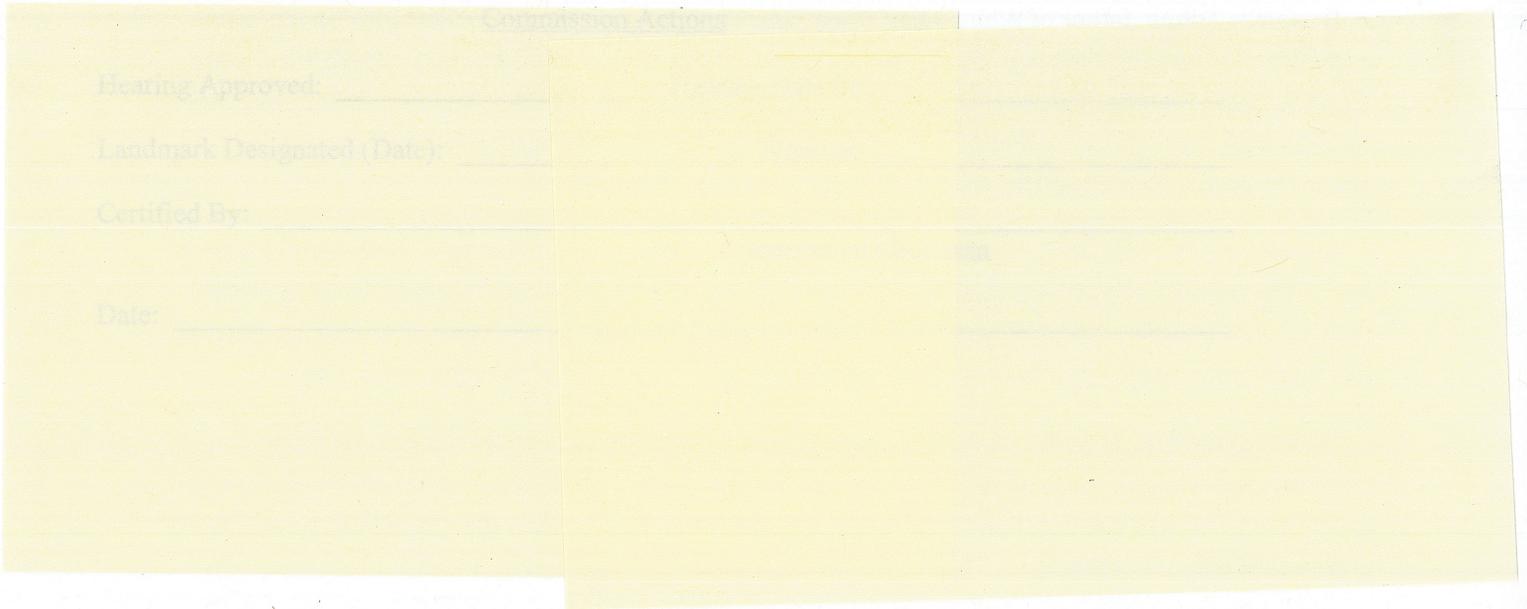
Oak Grove Cemetery is bounded by East North Street on the north side, Private property on the west side, North Main Street on the south side and Fonda Street on the east side.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patricia Blackmer, Chairman
organization Whitewater Landmarks Commission **date** July 5, 2018
street & number 445 W. Center Street **telephone** 262-458-2178
city or town Whitewater **state** Wisconsin

12. Municipal Data

Zoning District: R-2 Aldermanic District: 2
Parcel Number: TRA - 00031



Statement of Significance: Oak Grove Cemetery (Whitewater's Pioneer Cemetery)

In the spring of 1842 a committee of three men to include Judge Jarvis Pike, Asaph Pratt and Asad Williams was organized to look for land for a cemetery in Whitewater. Prior to the establishment of the committee, interments were made on land located between Church Street and Franklin Street which had been reserved for churches and a burial ground. The first burial in Whitewater at this site was on September 19, 1839 when Jotham Newton Baker was interred. Realizing that this area was not a good selection for the cemetery because it was too near the village, the committee was charged with finding a more appropriate place. They contacted Dr. James Trippe and he indicated that "if they did not consider the present location the best place, they could select a spot on any land he owned, but stipulated that it should " forever be out of the way". The committee located what was described as a beautiful knoll east of the village. This knoll would meet the qualification of a "modest rural" cemetery outside of the village proper.

Dr. James Trippe, father of Whitewater's first industry (a grist mill) was credited with donating one acre of land in 1844 for use as Grove Cemetery. The Grantor/Grantee index at the Walworth County Court House in Elkhorn, Wisconsin officially lists his wife Rosepha as the actual donor of the land. Jothan Newton Baker was re-interred at Grove Cemetery and became the first recorded burial at the site in 1844. Dr. James Trippe was the second burial at the Grove cemetery.

At that historic time, the term cemetery which meant "sleeping chamber" was coming into vogue in lieu of the term graveyard. The village set to work developing their new cemetery by drawing a plot with squares and lots. All men in the vicinity of the new cemetery site were asked to assist in clearing the site of trees and shrubs and were able to clear the north half of it in the span of one day.

On November 20, 1848 the Cemetery Association was formed. Prior to the formation of the Cemetery Association, the ground of Grove Cemetery had been owned by the town of Whitewater and was under control of the Board of Supervisors who did not consider it was their duty to provide fencing and beautification to the site.

During the spring of 1858 when burial plots were no longer available, the Cemetery Association enlarged the grounds with the purchase of two additional acres. In addition, Leander Birge volunteered to purchase the fencing needed to surround the cemetery. Volunteers set to work clearing the grounds and erecting the board fencing.

In 1884, George Esterly had the cast iron gate with a stile for visitors to enter the cemetery, made in his foundry and assembled on the cemetery grounds. Up until this time, the cemetery had been known as Grove Cemetery. With the installation of the gate donated by Esterly, the cemetery was then referred to as Oak Grove Cemetery.

There are over 800 recorded burials at this cemetery. Noted among the burials are two Revolutionary War soldiers, Eli Pierce of Vermont and Israel Ferris of New York. It is unusual to find two soldiers of this war buried at the same site. This cemetery is one of a few in Wisconsin that can claim this. In addition, there are three soldiers from the War of 1812 and approximately 40 soldiers from the

Civil War, one being William Qualls of the 29th U.S. Colored Regiment, Co. I. The pioneer settlers and founders of Whitewater are buried here. Familiar families such as the Trippes, Cravaths, Prince, Mead, Pratt, Kinney and Cole are interred here. George Esterly who died in Hot Springs, South Dakota was also returned to Whitewater for burial in the Esterly Circle of Oak Grove Cemetery. A pauper section located in the original cemetery was in the first addition of blocks five and six for those historic settlers who could not afford the cost of a lot or interment.

In 1976 a community effort lead by the Tri County Marine Corps League began restoration of the Oak Grove Cemetery. The effort was prompted by extensive damage that had occurred at the site. Community businesses, banks and individuals donated both time and financial resources to accomplish this ongoing restoration.

Today, Oak Grove is regarded as an historic pioneer cemetery in the city of Whitewater. It is no longer an active cemetery and burials have ceased since the 1990's. Concerns regarding the safety and preservation of this historic property have resulted in it being gated and locked. Access to the cemetery requires contacting the sexton whose information is posted near the entrance to Oak Grove along with informational signage regarding burials at the cemetery. A complete listing of all burials at Oak Grove Cemetery can be found at the Irwin L. Young Memorial Library located at 431 W. Center Street.

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance:

Grove Cemetery was a one acre plot located on a knoll east of the village of Whitewater. The Trippe family donated the land to Whitewater in 1844 for use as a burial ground for pioneer settlers. The site was cleared of all brush and trees in preparation for determining burial plots. In 1858 when the cemetery met its occupancy limit, another two additional acres were purchased by the Whitewater Cemetery Association. In 1884, George Esterly had a cast iron gate created in his foundry and installed at the cemetery as an entrance way to the site. The gate changed the name of the cemetery to Oak Grove. Today the 3+ acre site has been gated and locked to prevent recurring vandalism. The cemetery, located on a grassy slope has a variety of shrubs, trees and picturesque gravestones. It is no longer used as an active cemetery. Oak Grove Cemetery continues to be maintained and cared for by the Whitewater Cemetery Association.

Major Bibliographical References:

Beckwith, Albert Clayton, History of Walworth County Wisconsin, 1912, B.F. Bowen and Company, Indianapolis, Indiana

Butterfield, C.W., History of Walworth County Wisconsin, 1882, Chicago Western Historical Company, Chicago, Illinois

Cravath, Prosper, Early Annals of Whitewater 1837-1867, 1906 Whitewater Federation of Women's Clubs, Whitewater, Wisconsin

Kraege, Fred G., George Esterly and Whitewater, Wisconsin, 1983, Spake Printing, Elkhorn, Wisconsin

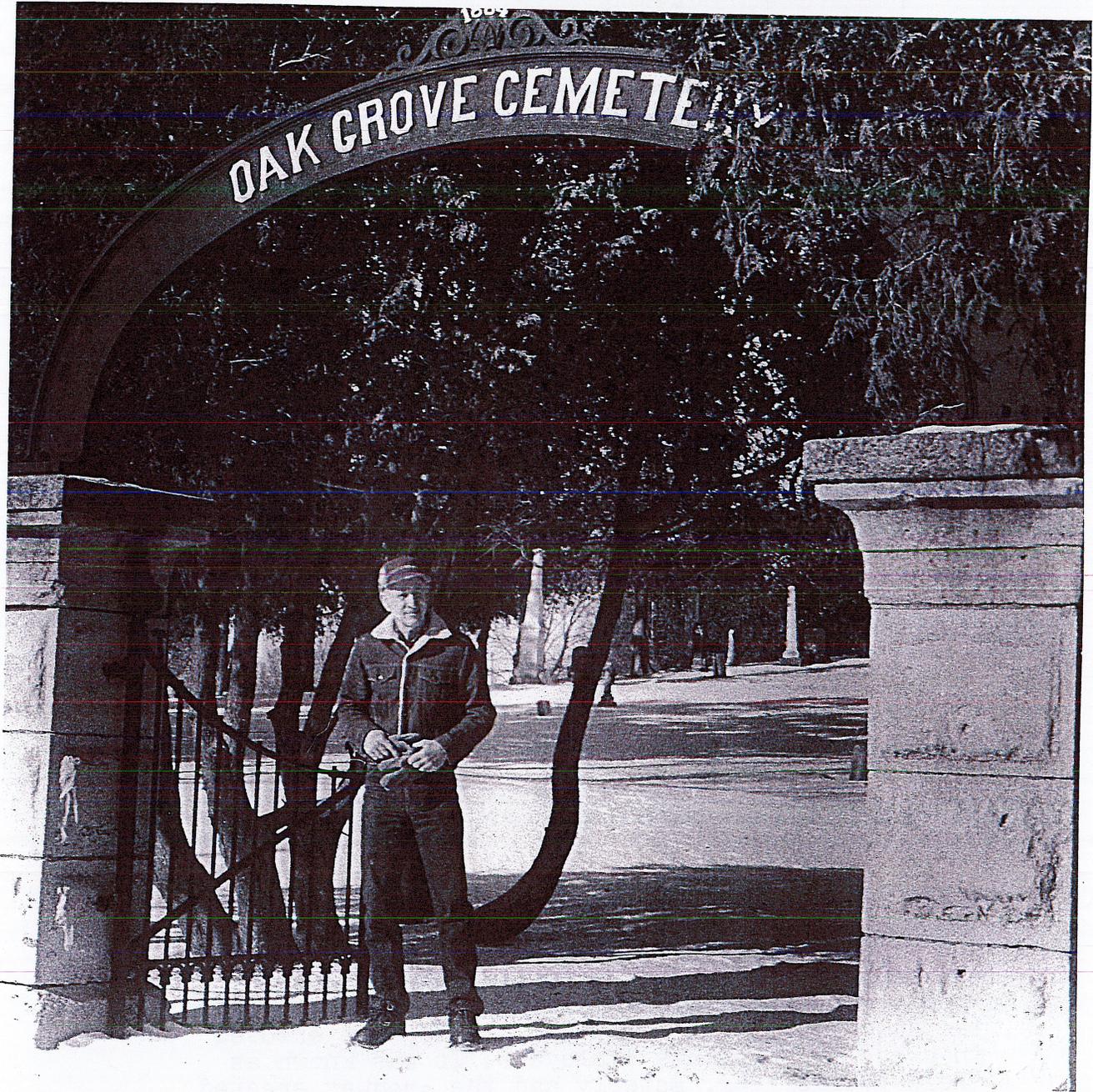
Kraege, Fred G., Images of Whitewater, 2006, Arcadia Publishing Company, Charleston, South Carolina

Kraege, Fred G., Oak Grove Cemetery, 1987, Spake Printing, Elkhorn, Wisconsin

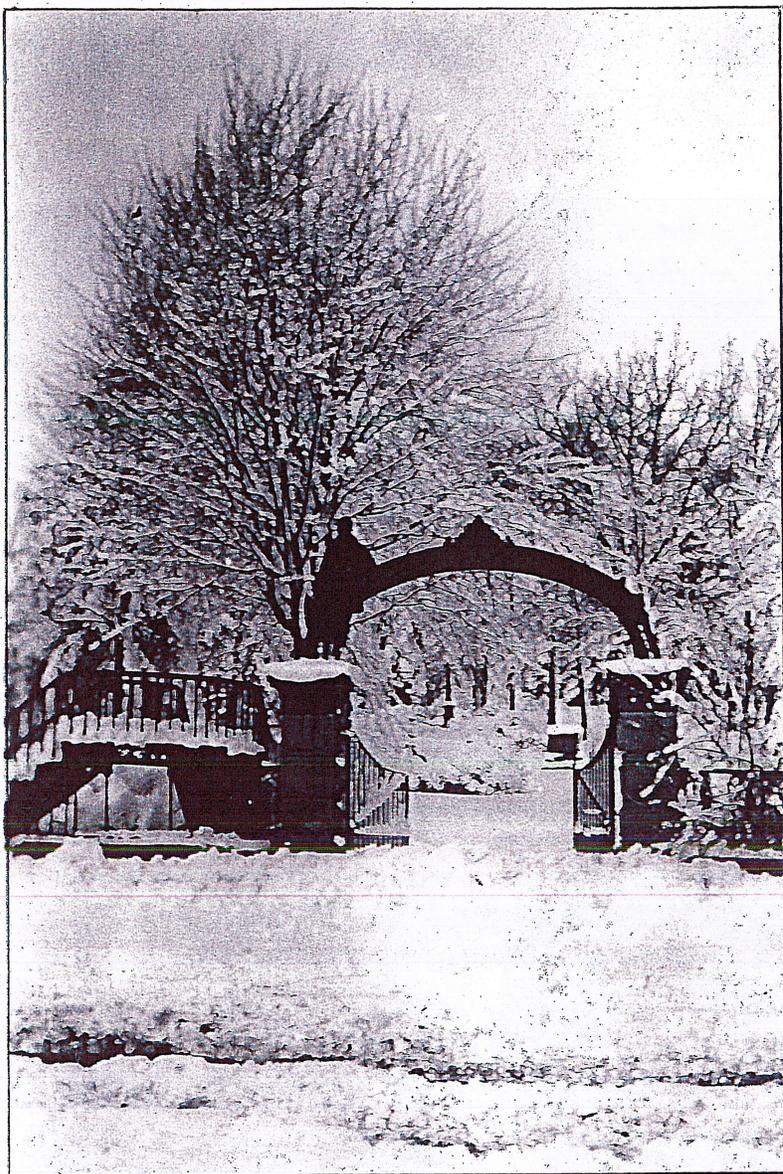
Redding, T.B. & Watson, J.J., Walworth County Plat Map, 1857, City and County Map Publishers, Elkhorn, Wisconsin

Walworth County 1873 Historical Atlas, Everts, Baskin and Stewart Company, Chicago, Illinois

Whitewater Register Newspaper, Issues: January 1, 1859; March 27, 1873; May 3, 1883; March 24, 1949; July 24, 1975; April 8 & 15, 1976; December 2, 1976; May 10, 1979; November 29, 1984; January 3, 1985; April 2 & 25, 1985; July 31, 2003, Whitewater Register, Whitewater, Wisconsin



OAK GROVE CEMETERY



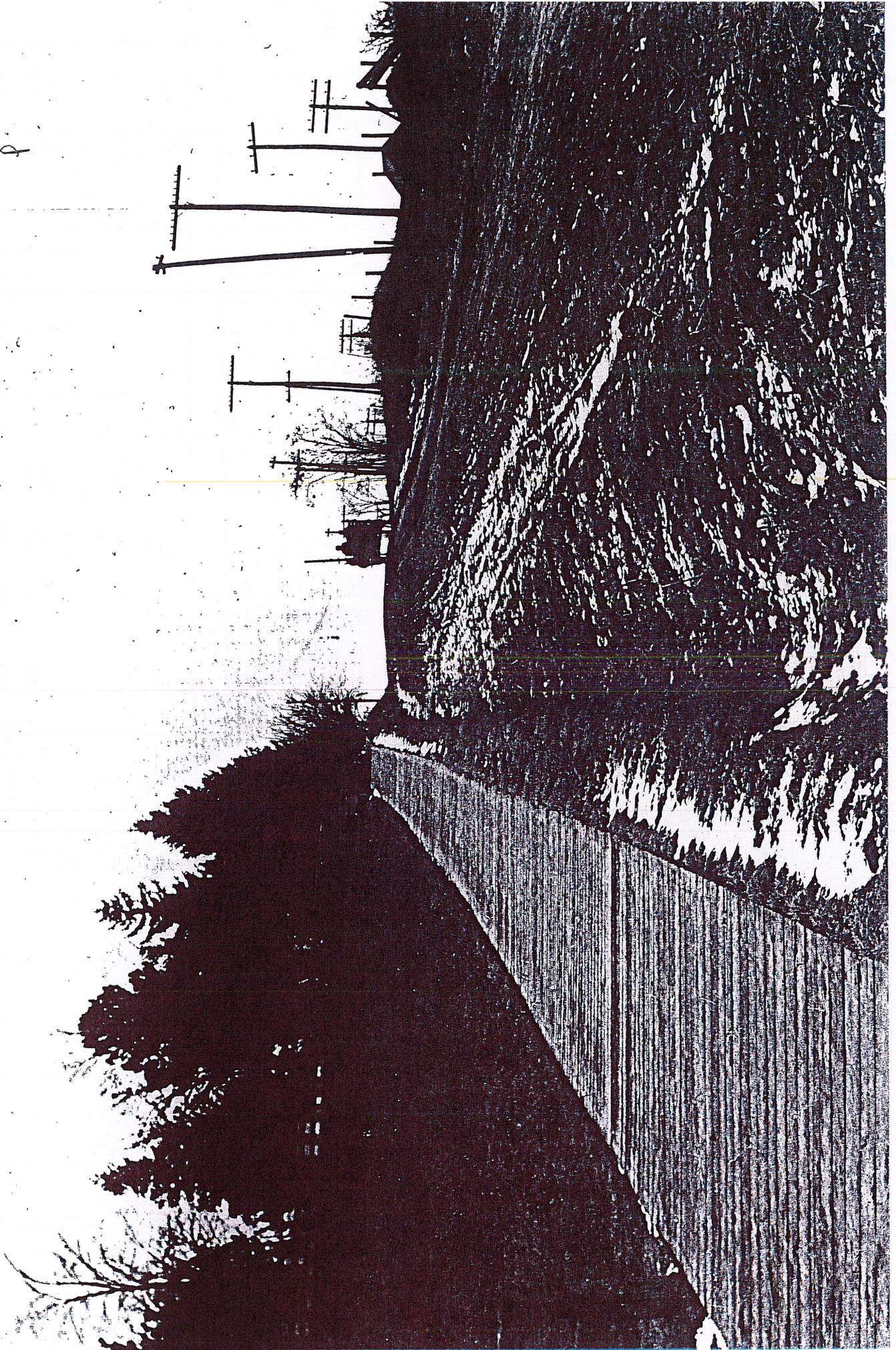
The first death in Whitewater was that of Newton Baker in September of 1839. He was buried where the German Lutheran Church is today. In November, 1842, the Cemetery Association was formed and relocated a new cemetery on land donated by James Trippe.

George Esterly had the large Reaper Factory on the East Side of the city and houses were erected in haste to house his employees. It was known as "Reaperville". Mr. Esterly had the archway erected in 1884.

The Reaper Factory along with the Winchester and Partridge Wagon Factory made first, the village, then, the city of Whitewater. After their closings in 1892 and 1889, the city suffered for lack of industry.

59

P.



TRIPPE WAS VILLAGE'S GENUINE 'FOUNDING FATHER'

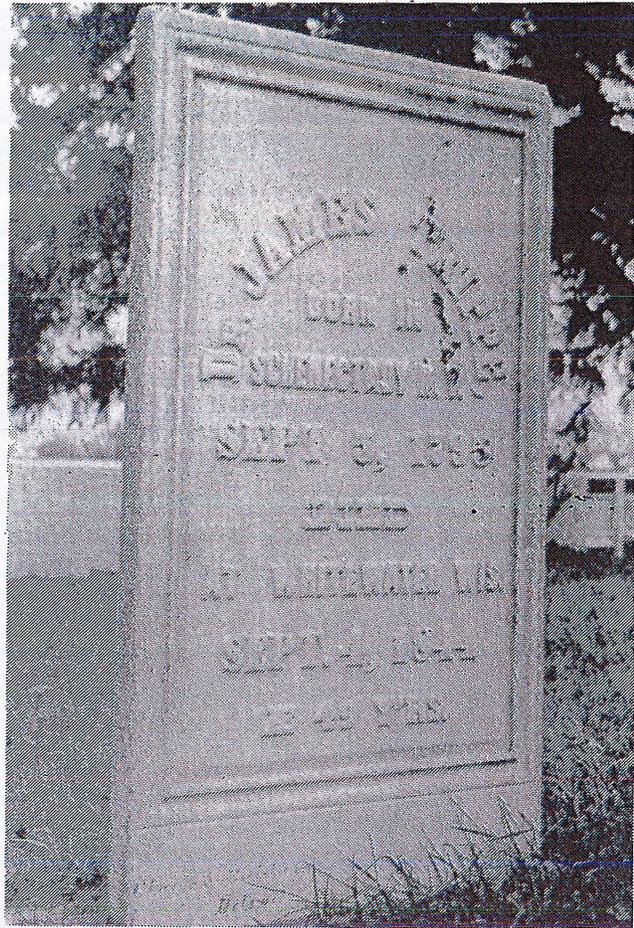
Hardy men with a willingness to gamble on the future of Whitewater provided the tiny village with its start, but none was more instrumental than Dr. James Trippe, a New York emigrant. Trippe's Old Stone Mill was the key to success for the struggling village.

If there is one man historians can look to as the true founding father of the village of Whitewater, it has to be Dr. James Trippe.

The New York emigrant, although not the first white man to set foot in the area, was undoubtedly the one who breathed economic life into the struggling young village and provided the guidance for community projects that were to become the foundations of Whitewater. It was Dr. Trippe who first brought a working mill to Whitewater, a mill that served the area until 1963 and probably made the village the commercial center for thousands of farmers and merchants who lived and worked in and around Whitewater. His ingenuity and keen business sense also brought him financial rewards, but his greatest distinction was his civic and community leadership.

Dr. Trippe came to Whitewater quite by accident. While coming to East Troy, Wisconsin, from New York on a boat, he became acquainted with another of Whitewater's pioneers, Asaph Pratt. Pratt explained the plight of the village. The closest mill sites were Elgin, Illinois, and Milwaukee, and the village had been unable to get someone to put a working mill in Whitewater. By coincidence, Trippe was looking for a site to build a mill.

The year was 1839, two years after the founding of



Whitewater, and after a meeting in the village Dr. Trippe posted \$500 for the new mill and set to work. In the same year a dam and a grist mill were in operation, and the long, hard journeys to Elgin and Milwaukee were a thing of the past. The mill had given the village a new and thriving economy, thanks to the New York doctor, and Whitewater now became a community with a bright and prosperous future.

Dr. Trippe's confidence in himself and the future of the village was never more evident than when he told the men of Whitewater: "Gentlemen, I have faith in your statements, though strangers, and will agree to take the property off your hands, and make the improvements you require, during the next season." And to the surprise of everyone he did just what he said. He accomplished what other men had failed to do, and the village soon prospered from his efforts.

In December, 1840, after running a saw mill in East Troy, Dr. Trippe moved into a log house in Whitewater. He was a real medical doctor, but his practice soon gave way to a desire to manage his own business.

Dr. Trippe was born in Schenectady, New York, in 1795. His medical education was at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Western District of Albany, New York. He graduated from the school in 1817, and took up a practice in Mobile, Alabama, until 1819, when he returned to New York. In 1837 he emigrated to Troy (East Troy), and built his saw mill. In 1839 he moved to Whitewater and almost immediately became one of the village's biggest property owners. During his residence in Whitewater, he only practiced medicine when called into consultation over a critical case. His skill as a physician and thorough knowledge of his profession were well known and appreciated.

Oak Grove Cemetery tour Monday

WHITEWATER — The Whitewater Historical Society will be conducting a tour of venerable Oak Grove Cemetery on Main Street on Monday, May 28, at 1 p.m. It is the oldest cemetery in

Whitewater.

Dr. James Trippe is buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery. He planned and funded the first dam and mill in 1839, and donated the land for this cemetery in 1842. Its first residents were re-entered here from the surrounding area.

Two Revolutionary War veterans rest in this cemetery. Preceding the tour, the Wisconsin Sons of the American Revolution will dedicate a historical marker in honor of Eli Pierce of Vermont and Israel Ferris of New York. Both joined the great wave of Yankee migration west, emigrating to Whitewater with their respective families in the 1840s.

The marker is made possible by donations from the Whitewater Historical Society, the American Legion Post 173, VFW Post 5470, Fort Atkinson-Eli Pierce Chapter NSDAR, and Carol Pierce Calkins, a living descendant of Eli Pierce and honored guest at the dedication ceremony.



D.V. UNION
MAY 25, 2007

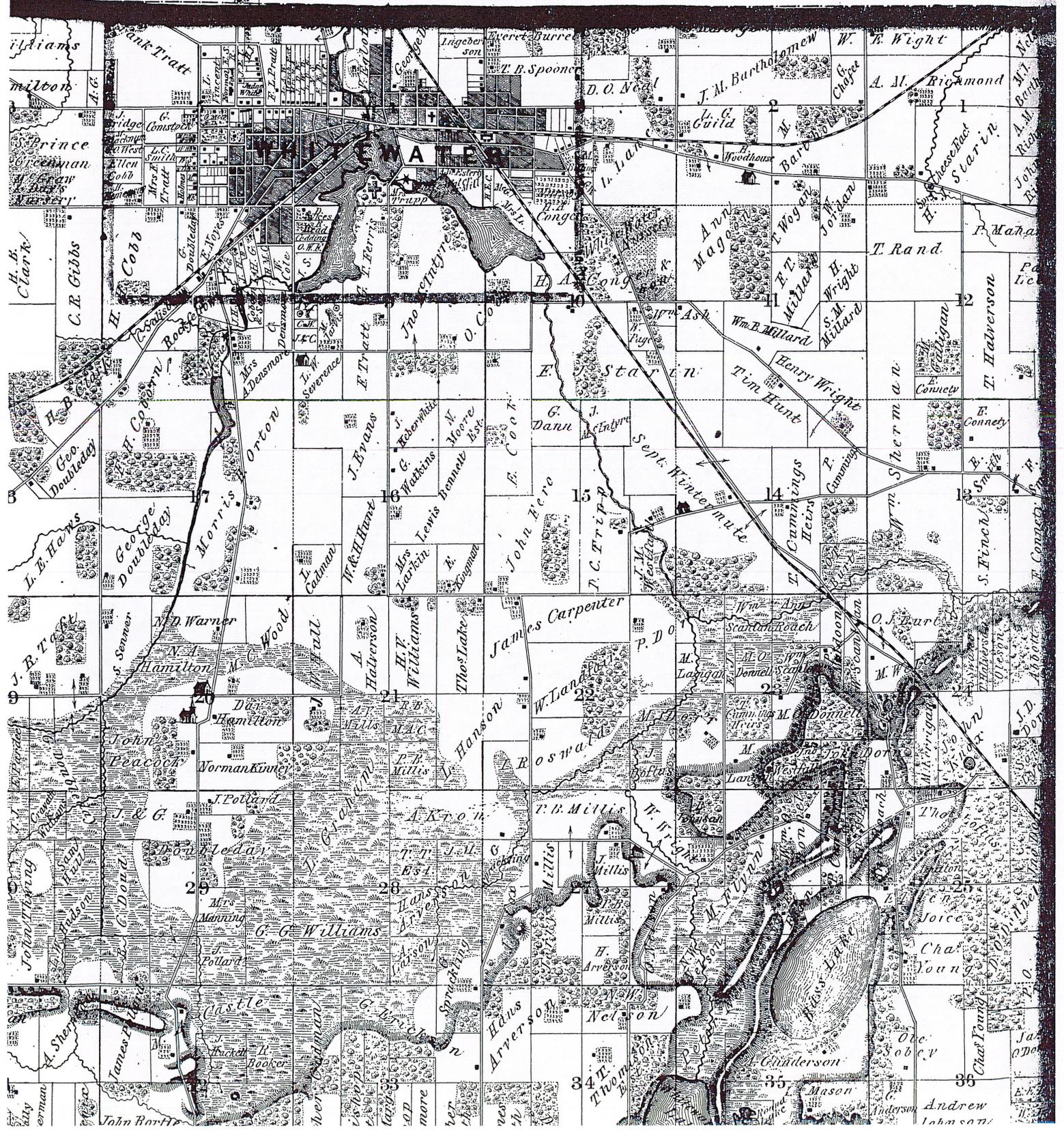


MAP OF WHITEWATER TOWNSHIP

TOWN 4 N.

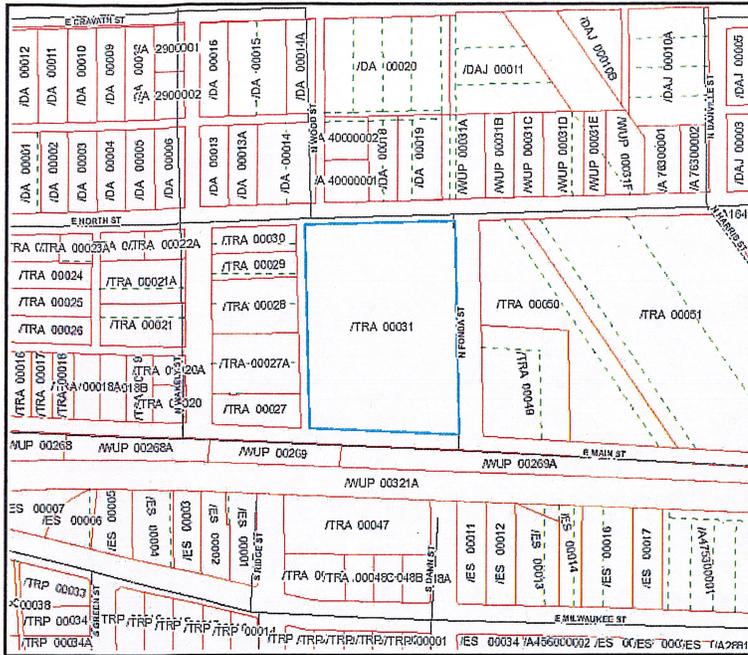
RANGE 15 E.

Spring Nursery





Walworth County, WI Land Information Division



Property Details

Municipality: CITY OF WHITEWATER
 Parcel Number: /TRA 00031
 School District: 6461-WHITEWATER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
 Zoning District:

Owner Information

Owner Name: OAK GROVE CEMETERY
 Owner Name 2: C/O WHITEWATER CEMETERY ASSOC
 Mailing Address: 235 NEWCOMB ST

WHITEWATER WI, 531900000

2017 Valuation Information

Land: \$0.00
 Improvements: \$0.00
 Total: \$0.00
 Acres: 0.0000
 Fair Market Value: \$0.00
 Assessment Ratio: 1.0171543590
 Mill Rate: 0.0202971030

Tax Information

First Dollar Credit: \$0.00
 Special Assessment: \$0.00
 Delinquent Utility Charge: \$0.00
 Managed Forest Land Taxes: \$0.00
 Total Billed: \$0.00
 Net Tax: \$0.00
 School Credit: \$0.00
 Lottery Credit: \$0.00
 Special Charges: \$0.00
 Private Forest Crop Taxes: \$0.00
 Woodland Tax Law Taxes: \$0.00

Tax Jurisdictions

STATE OF WISCONSIN \$0.00
 WALWORTH COUNTY \$0.00
 CITY OF WHITEWATER \$0.00
 GATEWAY TECHNICAL \$0.00
 WHITEWATER UNIFIED SCHOOL DIST \$0.00

Elected Officials / Voting Districts

Supervisory District: Jerry A. Grant (D4)
 State Representative: Don Vruwink(D) (43rd District)
 State Senator: Janis Ringhand(D) (15th District)
 US Representative: James Sensenbrenner(R) (5th District)
 US Senator: Ron Johnson (R) & Tammy Baldwin (D)

Special Assessments / Charges

Soil Classification

Soil Type	Soil Name	Acres
MxC2	SANDY LOAM SUBSTRATUM, 6 TO 12 PERCENT SLOPE	3.6484
MxD2	SANDY LOAM SUBSTRATUM, 12 TO 20 PERCENT SLOPE	0.0036

Property Address

Legal Description

PT. BLK 3 - COM ON E LN ALLEY RUNNING N & S IN BLK 3 ON S LN NORTH ST, E 341', S TO N LN STATE ST, W 340', N TO POB. TRIPPS 2ND ADD CITY OF WHITEWATER ALSO THAT PT VACATED ALLEY PER #862734.

Disclaimer

The information provided in this property information page is not official information. All official tax information is recorded in the Walworth County Treasurer's Office. To verify tax payment/payoff status, contact the Walworth County Treasurer's Office at 262-741-4251.



Walworth County Parcel Search Application

Walworth County Parcel Information Survey Results

This is not official information. All official information is available in the Land Information office.
1 survey record(s) found

Parcel Number	Survey Number	Survey Date	Surveyor Name
/TRA 00031	010 - 923	08-29-2012	MIRITZ, MARK L

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100 W Walworth, Elkhorn, WI 53121
5/31/118 3:18 P.M.

TopoQuest

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Management information today.



Oak Grove Cemetery, Wisconsin

Oak Grove Cemetery is a cemetery located in Walworth County, WI at N42.83501° W88.72288° (NAD83) and at an elevation of 869 ft MSL.

It can be seen on the USGS 1:24K topographic map [Whitewater, WI](#).

GET IT NOW

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Fast Maps
&
Directions

1. Click
Get It Now

2. Free
- No

3. Get F
Direc
Maps

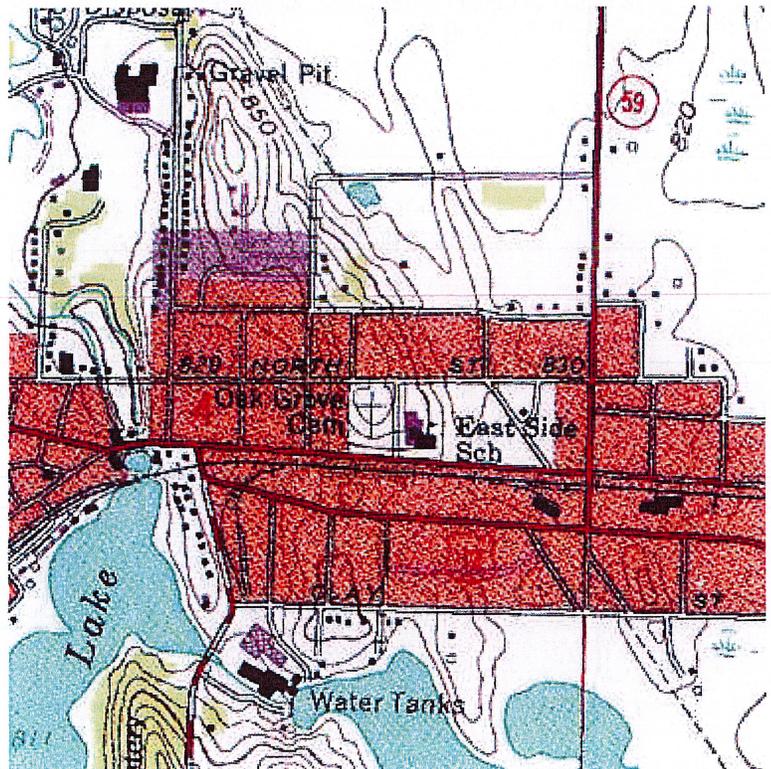


Feature Type: Cemetery
Latitude: N42.83501°
(NAD83 datum)
Longitude: W88.72288°
Elevation: 869 ft MSL
Walworth County,
Wisconsin

USGS [Whitewater, WI](#)
24K Map: [WI](#)
USGS 24K MRC: 42088G6

You can view this location or feature in our [Topographic Map Viewer](#) now.

Note: Coordinates displayed above are referenced to NAD83 datum.



Click on map above to begin viewing in our Map Viewer.