CITY OF OTSEGO
Heritage Sites

CITY OF OTSEGO ON THE GREAT RIVER ROAD

OTSEGO is one of the first areas in all of Wright County to be settled permanently around the 1850s. "Otsego" is a Mohawk word for "meeting place" and was likely named after Otsego Lake in New York. The properties in Otsego described below and shown on the map on the reverse side of this page have been identified as being significant in the community's heritage and development. We encourage people to tour Otsego to view these sites and learn about the City's past.

SITE DESCRIPTIONS:

1 – Swenson Farm (9484 95th St. – CSAH 39)
Three barns built in 1944 designated as Heritage Sites and one very large chicken coop. An early owner farmed the land with 26 horses and no tractors. The property was purchased from two former owners of the Minnesota Vikings in 1968.

2 – Lily Pond School Site (NW corner of Kadler Ave./95th St. – CSAH 39)
Land for a school was dedicated in 1870. This school burned down in 1913 and classes were held in a church across the road until a new school was erected.

3 – Spencers' Studio (11088 95th St. – CSAH 39)
Now used as an artists' studio, this was the home of Willard and Alice (Holt) Mosman, married November 1883, where they raised 8 children. A treadmill powered by a dog was used to pump water from the on site well.

4 – Ingersoll House (12188 95th St. – CSAH 39)
Settler David Look Ingersoll came here from Maine, filed a land claim for 180 acres in 1860. He operated a brick factory from the banks of the Mississippi River and transported them on the water as far south as Anoka. Many area farmers worked here part-time, including Willard Holt.

5 – Holt Farm (12731 95th St. – CSAH 39)
Willard Holt kept a diary from 1877 to 1890 with brief entries including "Oct. 3, 1884, Mrs. Thorp fired a shot at Spencer's store", and "Oct., 3, 1884 Joe McDonald had Mrs. Thorp arrested".

6 – Anderson Farm (13118 95th St. – CSAH 39)
House was built for John McDonald's widowed sister-in-law and children. Northern States Power in 1912 considered a hydroelectric dam at this location, but instead chose a Coon Rapids site.

7 – Otsego Town Hall (Nashua Ave./95th St. – CSAH 39)
This building was a former school house for District 10. This building was used as Township Hall until Otsego became a City in 1991 and built a new City Hall to the south.

8 – McDonald House (13620 95th St. – CSAH 39)
John McDonald was the first permanent settler in 1852 from New York. He was one of the first Wright County Commissioners and operated a store, river ferry, post office and sawmill.

9 – Otsego Cemetery (CSAH 39)
A designated Heritage Site dating to the 1850s. John McDonald is buried here. Can you find the grave of William E. Brandt, who killed his wife, alleged lover and then himself on Jan. 15, 1906? He is buried separately from the others by the little shed.

10 – LeFebvre Round Barn (8585 Parrish Ave. – CSAH 42)
Hay stored in the loft was thrown down to cows encircling the feeding area.

11 – Lahn Farm (17685 53rd St. – CSAH 36)
Established business as Crow River Farm Equipment in 1886. Yellow brick for the house came from the nearby Vasseur brickyard.

12 – School District 12 (7005 Odean Ave.)
Original building remodeled as a modern single family home, the original school is the portion with the columns in the front.

13 – Pride of Otsego Barn (12996 77th St.)
Built by Alvin, Frank and Alfred Beaudry in 1914 using concrete blocks made on site. The barn is 26 blocks tall with footings 8 feet deep. The site was a working dairy until 1998.

14 – School District 112 (11756 80th St.)
Known as the Richter/DeMars School, teachers boarded at the adjacent farm.

OTSEGO HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION is an advisory committee to the City Council whose responsibility it is to promote Otsego's heritage through preservation of historic sites and documents to foster community pride. The Heritage Preservation Commission was established in 1994 and has over time researched and identified properties in Otsego with potential historical significance. The Heritage Preservation Commission has also written several publications about Otsego's history and its founders, which are on display and available at City Hall.

09.2010

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Kadler Ave/95th St

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7. Otsego Town Hall
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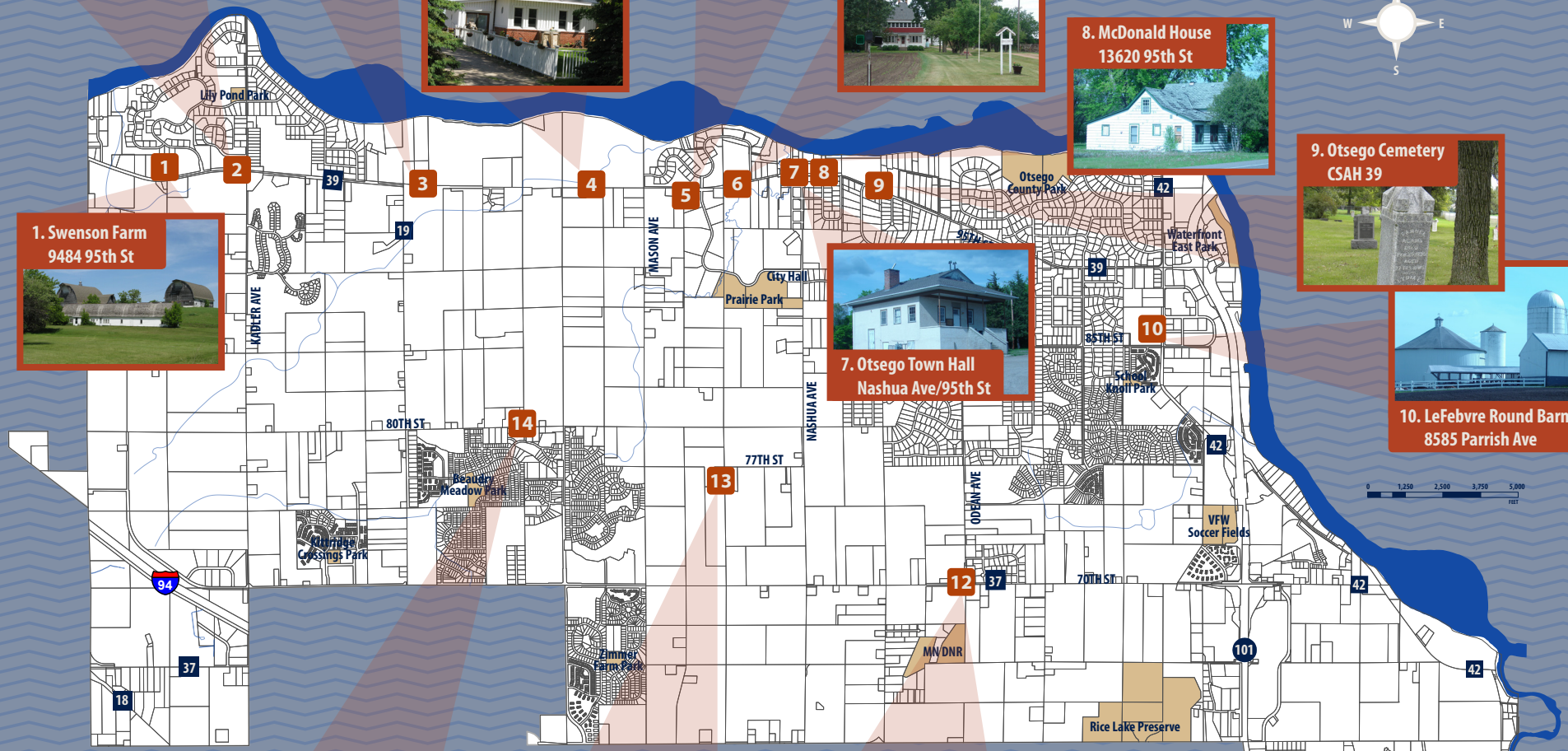
9. Otsego Cemetery
CSAH 39

10. LeFebvre Round Round Barn
8585 Parrish Ave



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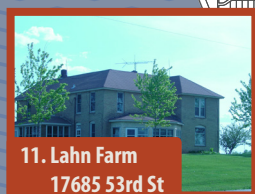
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