

Adopted by
Town Board
December 11, 2001

Historic Preservation Plan

for the

Perry Hauge Log Church National Historic District

Location of the District: In Sections 5,6,7, and 8, Town of Perry, Dane County, Wisconsin.

Pertinent Information: The following information is appended to the District Nomination as submitted to and accepted by this Commission June 21, 2001: Owners of involved property; legal description; description of District properties; significance of the District; bibliographical references; maps of the District; the Town of Perry Historic Preservation Ordinance.

Guiding Principles: The Plan is guided particularly by principles expressed in sections 1.02; 1.03; and 1.08 of the Ordinance referred to above.

Significance: The nominated Historic District surrounds the Hauge Log Church Site (listed in the National Register of Historic Places) which derives its unique significance from its intrinsic Scandinavian log architecture and its undisturbed setting amidst a remarkable panorama. The small historic structure and its serene environment invites contemplation and reflection in its simplicity. This is given extra dimensions and focus by the surrounding lands being kept open and free from development.

Historical: The church edifice was constructed of oak logs by the early Norwegian settlers in 1851-52 who were followers of Hans Nielsen Hauge, a “hero of the peasantry who suffered the injustices of his class” including imprisonment for the perceived violations of state church ordinances in Norway. The building was abandoned as a church in 1887 and fell into disuse.

The structure was restored as a monument to the pioneer settlers in 1927. Since that time an independent committee of local volunteers has maintained this log building and the quiet surrounding cemetery. In 1967 the committee was reorganized to become the Perry Hauge Log Church Preservation Association, a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation that continues to maintain this historic site.

General Comments: It is unusual for a structure this unique and of this age to survive in such remarkable condition. Equally unusual is the survival of its commanding and superior view on all sides. This may be due, in part, to the fact that the Town of Perry is in the last quadrant of Dane County to feel the pressure of population and development. Perhaps of equal importance has been the Land Use Plan developed by far-sighted

citizens in 1979. Thus, the Site and nominated District have until now been rescued before destructive encroachment could occur.

It is the Historic Preservation Commission’s confident hope that this District will serve to foster civic pride in the accomplishments of the past as well as promote its use for the education, pleasure and welfare of all people now and into the future.

Restrictions: In accordance with above referred ordinance and consistent with the Land Use Plan, this Commission establishes the following restrictions on use and/or activity within the nominated District:

- 1. No structure** of any type including but not limited to a building, house, pole-barn, shed, carport, wall, fence, communication tower, utility poles and lines, etc. is allowed within 400 feet of the Historic Building.
- 2. No structure** of any type may be constructed within the Historic District beyond 400 feet of the Historic Building unless the top of such structure, including but not limited to antennas, etc. is below the floor elevation of the Historic Building and only if such structure is consistent with the restrictions as set forth herein and elsewhere in the Historic District Ordinance and the Town of Perry Land Use Plan. Any utilities and associated structures shall be underground within the District. No structure of any type shall impair the day or night views and vistas from the Hauge Log Church Historic Site or impair the views of the Historic Site from state and local roadways*).
- 3. No planting** of any type shall impair the day or night views and vistas from the Hauge Log Church Historic Site including but not limited to trees, bushes, shrubs, crops etc. No such plantings shall impair the view of the Historic Site from state and local roadways.
- 4. No Use** of any type shall impair the day and night views and vistas of the Hauge Log Church Historic Site including but not limited to private, public, residential, commercial, industrial, recreational, agricultural, governmental, military uses etc.
- 5. No activity** of any type shall impair the day and night views and vistas of the Hauge Log Church Historic Site including but not limited to construction of structures, artificial lightning, creation of smoke, creation of dust etc.
- 6. No structure, planting, use or activity** shall impair the day or night peace and harmony of Hauge Log Church Historic Site or create a nuisance for the private or general public users of the site including but not limited to nuisances such as odor, noise, electronic sound amplification, electromagnetic radiation, disturbances from vehicles, aircraft, snowmobiles, all terrain vehicles, motorcycles, mineral extraction, firearm discharge, blasting etc.
- 7. No structure, planting, use or activity** within the Historic District shall be incompatible with or distract from the historic nature and character of the Historic District, the Hauge Log Church Historic Site, its setting and environs including but not

limited to signage, billboards, debris, waste, trash, junk, scrap, stored objects, disposed material etc.

8. Any interpretation of any restriction on structures, plantings, uses and activities shall be made inclusively rather than exclusively and **any application of any restriction** shall be made broadly rather than narrowly, the intent of such **interpretation** or **application** being to achieve the maximum protection of the Historic District and, within it, the Hauge Log Church Historic Site in the context of any interpretation or application which may be submitted for consideration from time to time.

*) Exempted from a strict interpretation of these rules, 1. through 8., are **traditional agricultural practices** with **traditional agricultural crops** as practiced in the Town Perry.

Maintenance: In return for the protection of the Historic Site obtained by establishing this Historic District the owners of the Historic Site, the Perry Hauge Log Church Preservation Association, Inc., shall be obligated to adhere to the following rules and regulations:

1. Perform routine maintenance and repair of the Historic Site, to the extent that the Historic Structure, grave-yard, lawn, woodlot with trees and shrubbery, road and walkways always present an orderly and clean appearance.
2. Major repairs or major changes in appearance must be undertaken only after being approved or endorsed by the Commission.
3. Immediately report any infractions of the rules governing the Historic District (see Restrictions) to the Commission or its representative (Clerk of the Town of Perry Board).

Definitions and Notes:

District; Historic District: The Perry Hauge Log Church National Historic District.

Commission: The Town of Perry Historic Preservation Commission.

Hauge Log Church Site; Historic Site; Site: The log building and surrounding cemetery with trees, bushes and lawns.

Land Use Plan: The Land Use Plan of the Town of Perry.

Ordinance: The Town of Perry Historic Preservation Ordinance.

Historic Building; Historic Structure; Hauge Church: the log cabin on the Historic Site.

Hans Nielsen Hauge: (1771 - 1826) A lay preacher, son of a poor farmer, leader of a large revival movement in Norway that left lasting marks on the Norwegian Society.

Prolific author, whose books were printed by the hundreds of thousands which, besides his extensive travels by foot all over the country, accounts for much of the influence his preaching gained. His ardor was directed against the leading classes of the urban society, the state bureaucracy and privileged citizenry, as well as the Norwegian State Church establishment, the clerics (ministers and bishops) who, in his mind, were more concerned with secular career matters than with the spiritual and economic needs of the people. After eight years of feverish activity Hauge was arrested several times on the pretext of being in violation of old state ordinances. He was finally imprisoned from 1804 till 1811. All his books and other writings were confiscated, and the ownership of such was declared illegal and punished with hefty fines. When Hauge was finally released, his spirit was broken, and he died in relative obscurity.

Views and Vistas: include the unobstructed view of Blue Mounds from the log church building. [entered September 13, 2016]

Town Board Approval. This Plan was adopted by the Town Board on the 11th day of December, 2001.

Signed Original on file

Approved by:

Patrick Downing, Chairman

Daniel Keller, Supervisor

Larry Price, Supervisor

Attested by:

Mary L. Price, Clerk