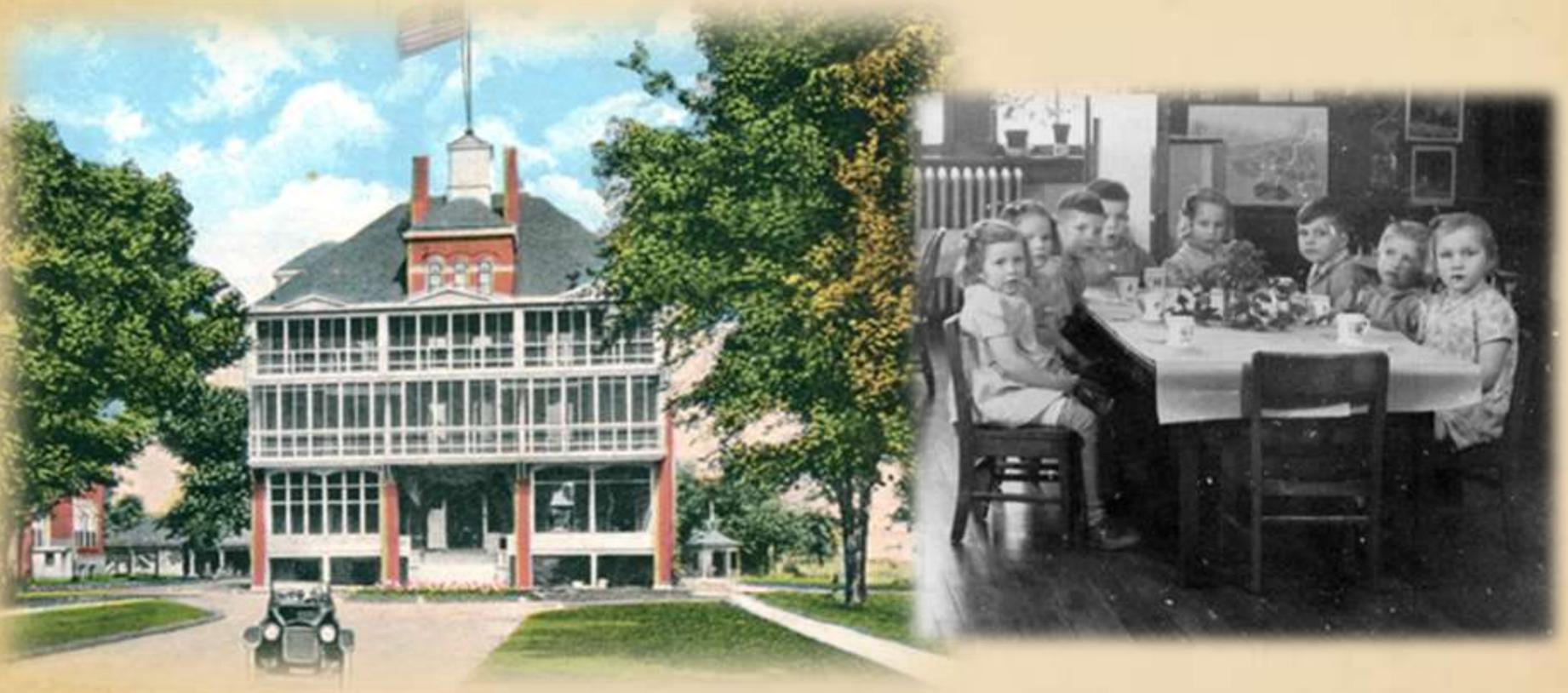


The Monroe County Local History Room & Museum Presents...



GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN:



HISTORY OF THE WISCONSIN
STATE SCHOOL / CHILD CENTER



— MONROE COUNTY —
LOCAL HISTORY ROOM
AND **MUSEUM**

Celebrating 50 Years





Save the Date for these upcoming History Room Programs and Special Events

Thursday, March 19: *Gone But Not Forgotten: History of the Wisconsin State School/Child Center* by Jarrod Roll. Program begins at 7:00 PM at the Sparta United Methodist Church, 210 N. Court St., Sparta.

Thursday, April 16: *Hey Race Fans! History and Memories of the Tomah-Sparta Speedway* by Jarrod Roll and Greg Oliver. Program begins at 7:00 PM at the Sparta United Methodist Church, 210 N. Court St., Sparta.



Saturday, May 2: *Intro to Genealogy* by Hannah Scholze. Class begins at 10:00 AM at the Monroe County Local History Room & Museum, 200 W. Main St., Sparta.



Saturday, June 27: *Cemetery Preservation and Gravestone Cleaning Workshop* by Jarrod Roll. Starts at 9:00 at the History Room for a presentation; lunch break on your own from 11:00-12:00; 12:00-2:00 hands-on cleaning demonstration in Mt. Hope Cemetery in Sparta. Pre-registration required; free but limited to 40 participants.

For more info on these events call: 608-269-8680 or visit: www.Facebook.com/MCLHR

The Monroe County Local History Room & Museum Presents...



GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN:



HISTORY OF THE WISCONSIN
STATE SCHOOL / CHILD CENTER









en Dr

N Rusk Ave

Angelo Rd

Angelo Rd

E Montgomery St

E Montgomery St

N Rusk Ave

N Rusk Ave

N Rusk Ave

Pine St

Pine St

Pine St

Sparta Aquatic Center

Pine St

Pearl St

Pearl St

N Ruski Ave

N Ruski Ave

Osborne Dr

Osborne Dr

House Of Shadows
Temporarily closed

E Montgomery St

E Montgomery St

E Montgomery St

The Church of Jesus Christ of L

E Montgomery St

a School District

Layers

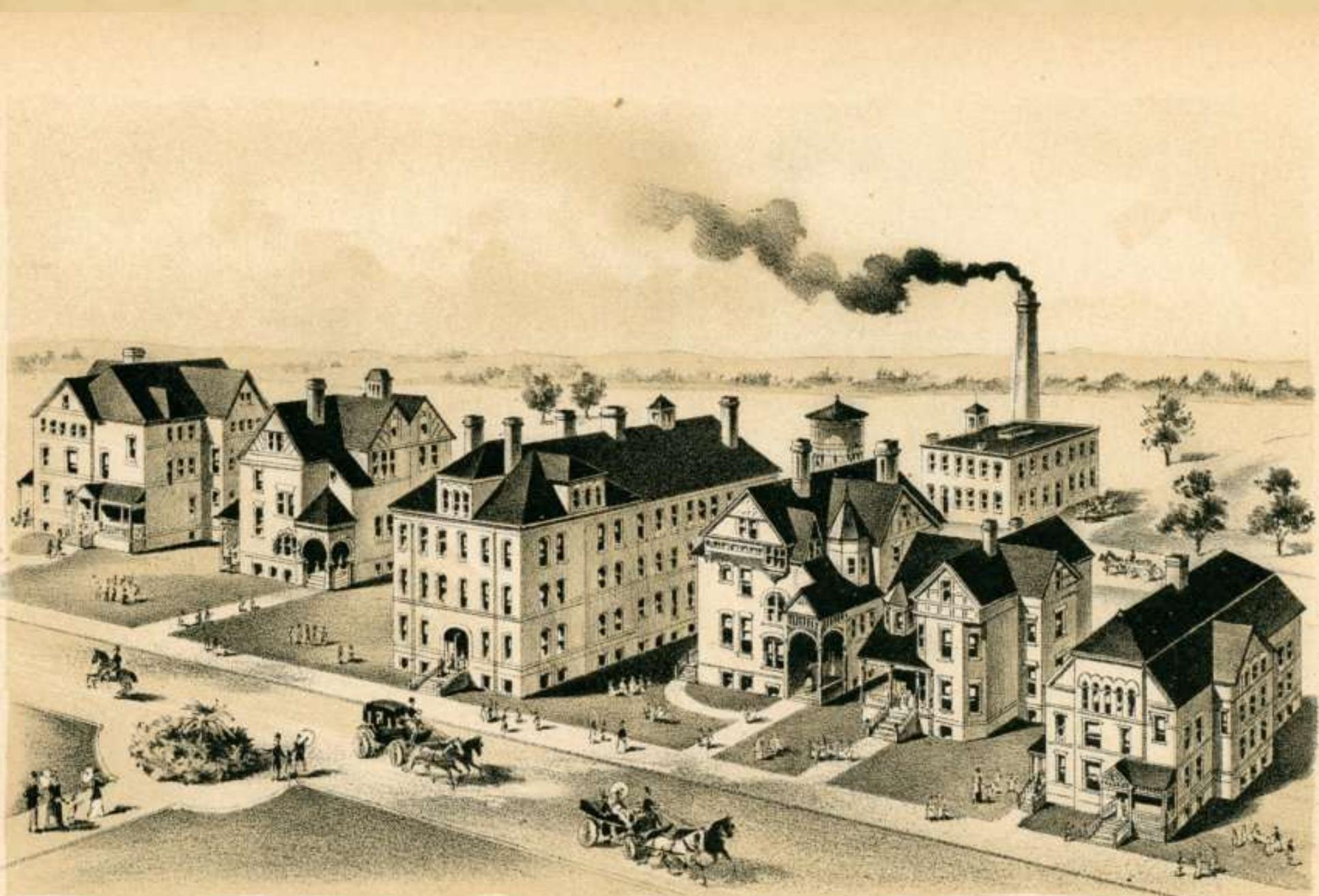
Google Maps











STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL FOR DEPENDENT AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN.

Henry Gogler Company, Milwaukee



Courtesy Wisconsin Historical Society

COTTAGE B,
LATE 1800S







Courtesy Wisconsin Historical Society



FOUR OF OUR BABIES IN GOOD HOMES.

1905

A BABY TO BRIGHTEN YOUR HOME.

We Want GOOD Homes for the Following List of Nice Healthy Babies. For Further Information Address State Public School, Sparta, Wis.

RUTH

Born December 8th, 1903. A beautiful child. Intelligent. Good disposition.

FRANK

Born March 15th, 1903. Bright boy. Plump. Active. Brown eyes. Well shaped head. Sturdy.

CHESTER

Born Feb. 2nd, 1904. Good disposition. Blue eyes. Light hair. Fine boy.

DELOY

Born July 5th, 1903. Very light hair, complexion. Good disposition. Intelligent.

CLARENCE

Born March 10th, 1905. Pretty baby. Dark blue eyes. Neat features. Fine boy.

ARTHUR BENJAMIN

Born March 9th, 1905. Very fine boy. Well shaped head. Dark blue eyes. Very attractive. Happy disposition.

RAYMOND

Born March 6th, 1905. Beautiful boy. Dark brown eyes. Light complexion. Good disposition. Winning.

WILLIAM HENRY

Born June 14th, 1905. One of our best. Is smart.

GEORGE

Born Aug. 20th, 1905. Is a fine, intelligent, blue eyed boy.

JANE

Born July 31st, 1905. Dark complexion. Very dark blue eyes. Good disposition.

EDNA VIOLET

Born Aug. 11th, 1905. Just a lovely dark blue eyed baby girl. Developing nicely. Very pretty.

We also have some fine little fellows from three to seven years of age for whom we wish good homes.



STATE SCHOOL FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN, SPARTA, WIS

1908





TABLE II—SHOWING NUMBER OF CHILDREN RECEIVED AT THE STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL FROM EACH COUNTY, FOR EACH YEAR OF THE BIENNIAL PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 1920, BASED ON "ORIGINAL ADMISSIONS" ONLY.

1920 BIENNIAL REPORT

Counties	For year ending June 30, 1919	For year ending June 30, 1920	Counties	For year ending June 30, 1919	For year ending June 30, 1920
Adams			Marinette	1	1
Ashland			Marquette		1
Barron	1	5	Milwaukee	5	1
Bayfield	2	1	Monroe	2	5
Brown	2	7	Oconto		3
Buffalo		4	Oneida	4	3
Burnett			Outagamie		
Calumet	3		Ozaukee		
Chippewa	9	2	Pepin		
Clark		2	Pierce		
Columbia			Polk		
Crawford	1		Portage	1	4
Dane	14	5	Price	1	
Dodge			Racine	9	
Door			Richland	1	6
Douglas	2	3	Rock	13	11
Dunn	1		Rusk	3	2
Eau Claire	4		St. Croix	1	
Florence			Sauk	2	2
Fond du Lac	3	1	Sawyer		
Forest		3	Shawano		
Grant		1	Sheboygan		
Green			Taylor	1	
Green Lake	7		Trempealeau		
Iowa	1	3	Vernon		3
Iron		1	Vilas		
Jackson	1		Walworth	1	1
Jefferson	6	2	Washburn	5	3
Juneau	10	7	Washington		
Kenosha			Waukesha	4	
Kewaunee			Waupaca		
La Crosse	6	10	Wausara	5	
LaFayette		1	Winnebago	3	3
Langlade	5	1	Wood	2	2
Lincoln		10			
Manitowoc		1			
Marathon	12	13	Total	154	134



TABLE II—STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL—NUMBER OF CHILDREN ON
 INDENTURE JULY 1, 1926

Arranged by Counties.

Adams.....	0	Milwaukee.....	16
Ashland.....	0	Monroe.....	33
Barron.....	8	Oneida.....	9
Bayfield.....	0	Outagamie.....	1
Brown.....	2	Ozaukee.....	0
Buffalo.....	4	Pepin.....	2
Burnett.....	5	Pierce.....	7
Chippewa.....	9	Polk.....	1
Clark.....	15	Portage.....	4
Columbia.....	17	Racine.....	2
Crawford.....	1	Richland.....	7
Dane.....	20	Rock.....	6
Dodge.....	7	Rusk.....	0
Douglas.....	1	Sheboygan.....	1
Door.....	2	St. Croix.....	1
Dunn.....	6	Sauk.....	26
Eau Claire.....	2	Sawyer.....	1
Fond du Lac.....	2	Shawano.....	2
Forest.....	7	Taylor.....	0
Grant.....	3	Trempealeau.....	8
Green.....	3	Vernon.....	6
Green Lake.....	8	Vilas.....	1
Iowa.....	2	Walworth.....	2
Iron.....	1	Washington.....	1
Jackson.....	3	Washburn.....	9
Jefferson.....	2	Waukesha.....	5
Juneau.....	21	Waushara.....	10
Kenosha.....	1	Waupaca.....	7
La Crosse.....	16	Winnebago.....	5
Lafayette.....	1	Wood.....	14
Langlade.....	4	Out of State.....	27
Lincoln.....	4		404
Manitowoc.....	2		
Marathon.....	6		
Marinette.....	1		
Marquette.....	4		

1926 BIENNIAL
 REPORT



INDENTURE CONTRACT

STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

This Agreement, By and between **THE STATE BOARD OF SUPERVISION**, by the authority of an Act entitled "An Act to Establish a State Public School for Dependent and Neglected Children," approved April 9, 1885, of the first part, and A. E. Miller of the Town of Alma Center County of Jackson State of Wisconsin, Post-Office address Alma Center party of the second part.

WITNESSETH, That said Board, in consideration of the agreement herein made by said second party, hereby places Myrtle Stratton one of the wards of this Board, in the family of said second party; to remain until the 8th day of February 1900, when said child will be 18 years of age; reserving the right to cancel this contract and require the child to be returned to this School whenever in the opinion of said Board the conditions of this agreement are not faithfully executed, or when otherwise the interest of said child requires it.

That said second party hereby reserves the right to cancel this agreement at any time within sixty days from the date of the same by returning the child free of all charges to this School.

That said second party hereby receives said child into his family, and agrees to keep her until the said 8th day of February 1900, maintaining, educating and treating her properly and kindly as a member of his family. That he will provide the child with suitable and sufficient clothing, and with suitable food and other necessaries in health and sickness; that he will have her taught the occupation of house keeping and the branches usually taught in the common schools, causing her to attend the public schools where he resides at least 5 months in each year until 18 years of age. That at the expiration of said time he will furnish said child with two good suits of clothes, and will pay said Board for the benefit of said child the sum of fifty Dollars, and pro rata of that amount for the time she remains in his family, if not for the full term of her indenture.

That in case this contract shall be canceled, as provided by law, the said second party agrees to return said child to this School at his own expense, when requested by the Agents or Superintendent of this Institution.

That whenever requested by said Agent or Superintendent, the said second party agrees to report to him in writing such facts in regard to said child as he shall request, and that he will furnish said child with materials and opportunity to correspond with said Superintendent or Agent.

In Witness Whereof, The said Board of Supervision, by the Superintendent or Agent of this Institution, and said second party, hereby set their names and seals this _____ day of _____ A. D. 1889.

Roll J. Roberts [L. S.]
Agent, Superintendent of the State Public School.

A. E. Miller [L. S.]

“The demand for large boys is briskest in early spring, although there is practically no limit to the number of boys from 12-14 who may be provided with good places at all seasons of the year. A general scarcity of farm help makes this so.” (12th Biennial Report of the State Public School, 1910)









Courtesy Wisconsin Historical Society



Courtesy Wisconsin Historical Society

Collage C. 59 boys











Courtesy Wisconsin Historical Society

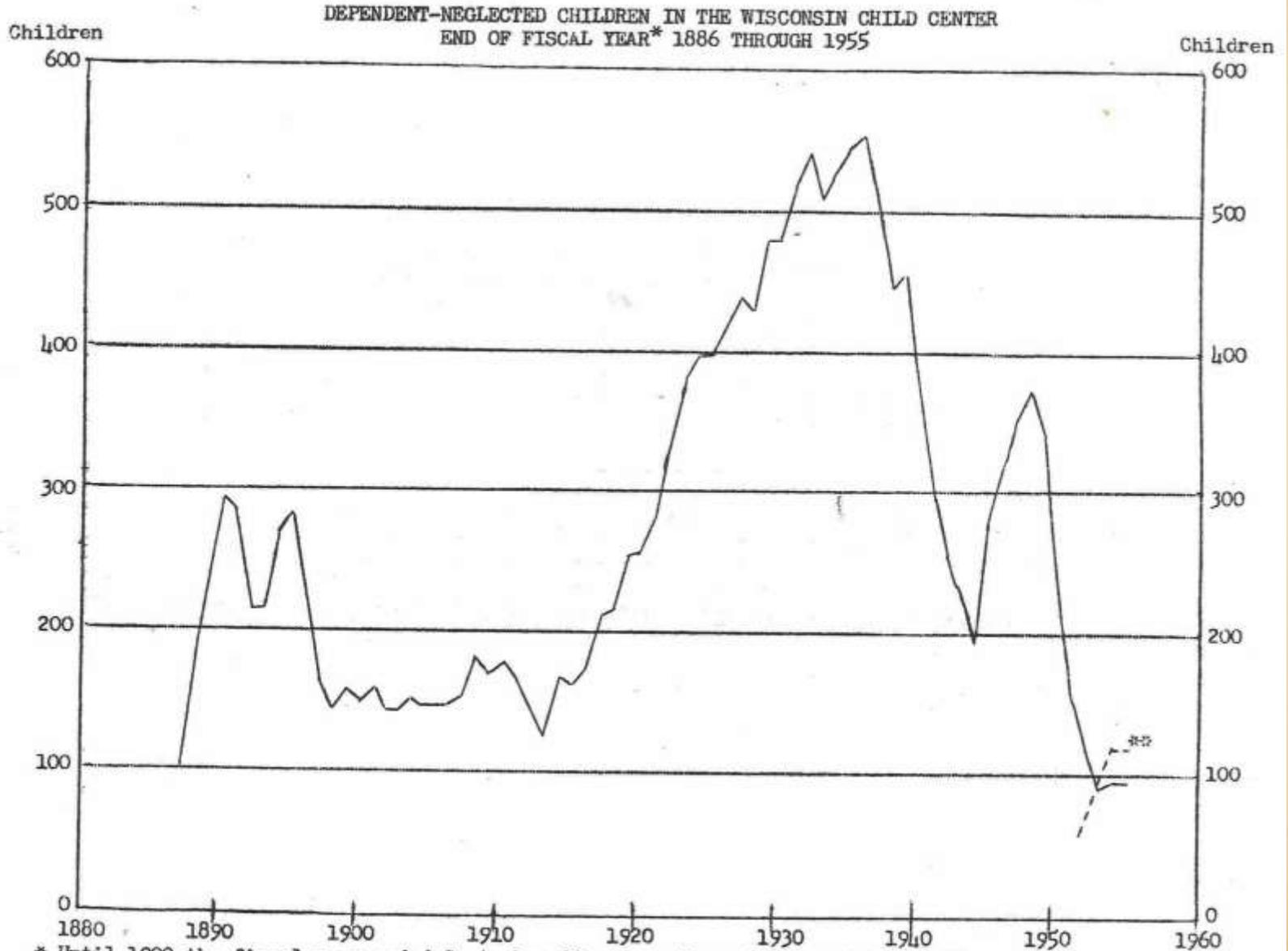








DEPT. OF PUBLIC WELFARE SPECIAL REPORT, 1956



* Until 1900 the fiscal year ended September 30; since then it has ended June 30.

** Northern Colony Annex began in 1951

Note: The first child was admitted November 27, 1886

STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL OVERCROWDED; NEED LARGER SOCIAL SERVICE STAFF TO PLACE CHILDREN IN PRIVATE HOMES

bers.
t his
last
of 75
Mr.
many
far-
rears.
quiet,
ve in

**Receive Between 250 and
300 Children Annually;
Appropriations Too Small
for Adequate Care.**

Many new buildings have been constructed at the State School during the past ten years. A primary school building and a farm residence were built in 1924, the upper grade and vocational school building and an 'older boys' cot-



STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL
SPARTA, WISCONSIN - AUGUST 4TH 1937.



28.

Boys Dorm "C"



Courtesy Wisconsin Historical Society

Black Photo
Madison, W.B. 1948





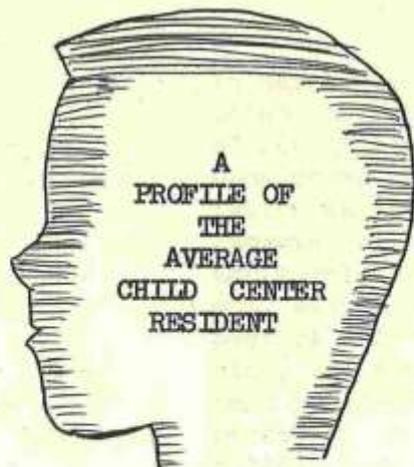
NORTHERN COLONY
ANNEX: 1951-1967











	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>
Age	14.4	14.1
Age at Intake	12.7	12.6
Length of Stay.	1.8	1.6
I.Q.	95.6	92.4
Grade in School	6.7	7.1
Previous Placements	3.8	4.1
Number Admitted	34	31
Number Discharged	35	31
To foster or group homes	13	11
Own or relatives' homes.	10	12
State hospitals.	5	2
Correctional institutions.	6	4
Private institutions	1	0
Independent living arrangement	0	2









Recommend Abandonment Of Child Center At Sparta





Lucey Budget To Close Sparta School, Hold Tax

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Although his proposed budget state budget requiring no tax in- creases over the next two years was proposed to the legislature

Although his proposed budget totals out at a record \$1.2 billion for the 1975-77 biennium, it is "one that hurts" because of the

retreat from our commitments to local property tax relief and assistance," Lucey said.

Christmas bonuses for senior state employes, and asked for a fixed sum for operating his own office rather than a bulk-park

for the state employes whose positions would be eliminated.

Welfare payments would in-

duce hard times for the state tax collector.

Projections of state revenue made in November now look





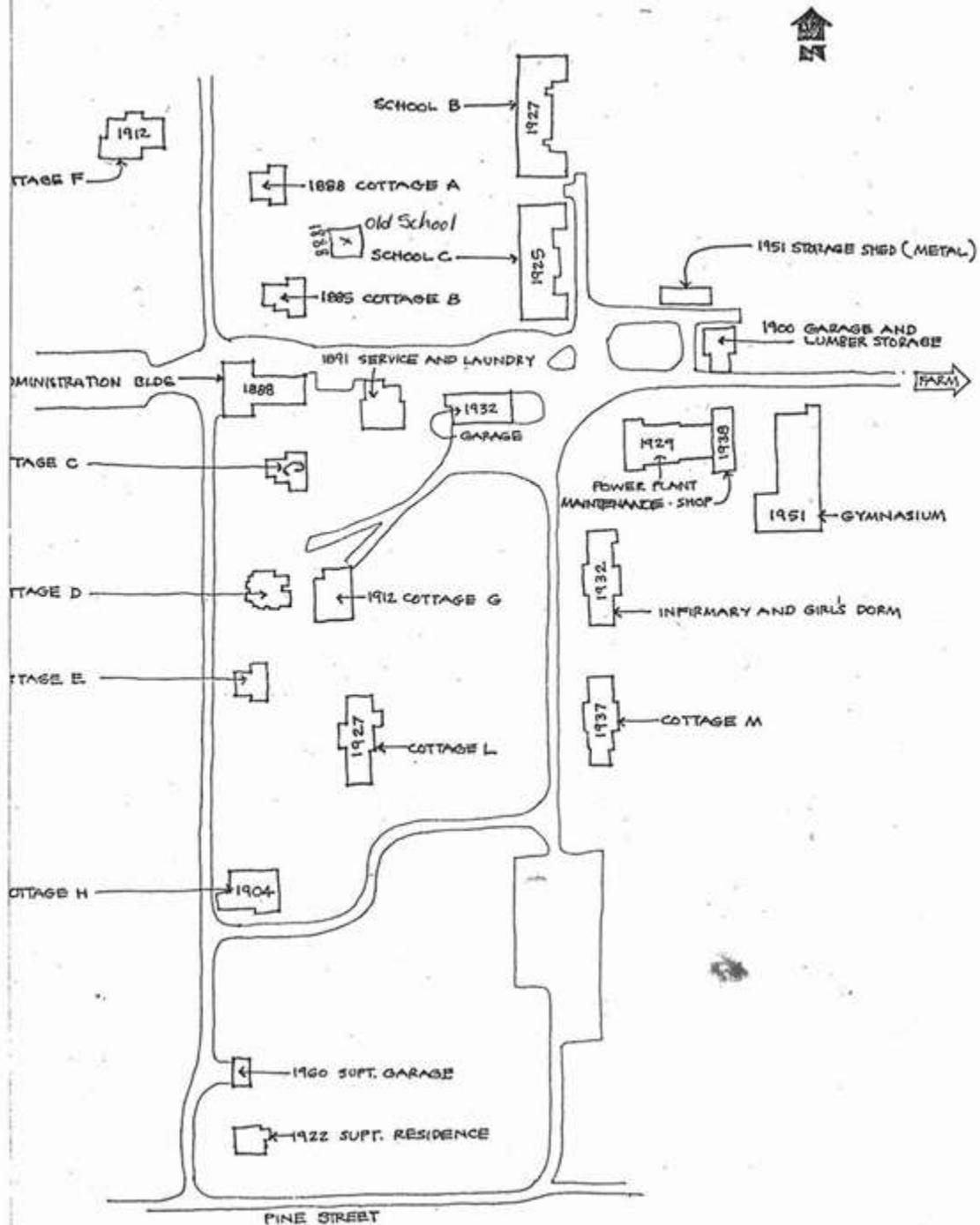






PAID IN FULL — This historic ceremony in Sparta city hall Thursday marked a change in ownership of the former Wisconsin Child Center. With the turning over of a \$617,313 check; the balance due the state, the 206 acres of land and 22 buildings belong to the city. Mayor Thomas W. Gomez made it official when he signed the agreement with Arthur McClure of Madison, seated left, representing the Department of Administration. City Attorney Steven L. Abbott, right, made

sure all was legal. Other city officials looking on were, left to right: City Clerk Eleanor Brooks, Alderman Ernest Reynolds, Alderman Harold Willgrubs, Alderman Timothy Masters, Park Board Chairman Ralph Osborne Sr. and City Treasurer Theresa Kowalski. Mrs. Brooks, who also signed the historic papers, said the city council will act April 11 to annex the property.





ADMINISTRATION
BUILDING
DEMOLITION,
JUNE, 1980

MAKING WAY FOR PROGRESS – The old administration building on the grounds of the Sparta-owned Child Center is coming down to provide access to a planned recreational development. Another six abandoned buildings on the center property will also be torn down to clear the land for private residential development.



Riding High

Two workers from Northern States Power got a high ride on the old farmhouse which was moved Tuesday from the old Child Center grounds to a location about four miles east of town on Highway 71. Charles Anderson of Anderson House Moving of Ontario drove the rig. The house is now owned by Willard Donskey of rural Sparta.





1912
STAGE F

SCHOOL B
1927

1888 COTTAGE A

Old School
SCHOOL C

1885 COTTAGE B

1925

1951 STORAGE SHED (METAL)

1900 GARAGE AND LUMBER STORAGE

BARN

ADMINISTRATION BLDG

1888

1911 SERVICE AND LAUNDRY

1932
GARAGE

STAGE C

1912

1929
POWER PLANT
MAINTENANCE SHOP

1929

1951 GYMNASIUM

STAGE D

1912 COTTAGE G

1932

INFIRMARY AND GIRLS DORM

STAGE E

1927

COTTAGE L

1937

COTTAGE M

COTTAGE H

1904

1900 SUPT. GARAGE

1922 SUPT. RESIDENCE

PINE STREET



DEDICATED
TO THE MEMORY OF
300 CHILDREN
WISCONSIN STATE SCHOOL
FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN
'887 — 1976

CHILD CENTER CEMETERY

NO GOLF CARTS IN CEMETERY PLEASE

NO GOLF CARTS IN CEMETERY PLEASE





JOHNSON, WESLEY 1857
 JONES, HENRY 41
 JONES, JOHN 1257
 JONES, LYLE 269
 JONES, NELLIE 124
 KARTEN, ARTHUR 1212
 KASCHEBUSKA, PUTH 187
 KEDROWSKI, EDDIE 1093
 KELLEY, MAUDE 38
 KESTNER, CECIL 1301
 KILLINGER, MARY 2391
 KILMER, GERALD 214
 KJANSTAD, ALMA 1127
 KOCH, RAYMOND 153
 KOENIG, KATHERINE M. 150
 KOSMIALSKI, STANILAUS 11
 KRUEGER, PAUL 123
 KUEHL, HOWARD 156
 KUETHER, EDWARD 1162
 LABONNTY, MERA 1228
 LARKIN, MARTHA 15
 LEHMANN, LEONARD 1221
 LETTERMAN, DOROTHY 159
 LEWIS, RICHARD 1333
 LISA, BABY 24
 LOEFFLER, HATTIE 1514
 LOUCKS, EDITH 1275
 LUND, OSCAR 155
 LYMAN, ARTHUR 12601
 LYONNIS, MARY M. 1251
 MARSH, DANIEL 1210
 MARTIN, LESLIE 1143
 MATHEWS, VINCENT 176
 MATTIE, BABY M. 289
 MC HEARY, CHARLES 1011
 MC KAY, WILLIAM 1171
 MC KNIGHT, ROY 120
 MC LEES, JUNIOR 1294



WISCONSIN CHILD CENTER CEMETERY

ON THE 223 ACRES WHICH SURROUND THIS PEACEFUL PLACE, MANY HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN WHOSE YOUNG LIVES WERE TOUCHED BY TRAGEDY AND MISFORTUNE LIVED HERE AT THE WISCONSIN CHILD CENTER, FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL FOR DEPENDENT AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN. FROM 1886 TO 1976, THE NUMEROUS BUILDINGS AND PLAYGROUNDS PROVIDED THE TEMPORARY HOMES FOR THESE MANY GENERATIONS OF CHILDREN.

SOME WERE ORPHANED, WHILE OTHERS WERE BORN TO FAMILIES WITHOUT RESOURCES TO CARE FOR THEM. SOME SPENT THEIR ENTIRE CHILDHOOD HERE, WHILE OTHERS LIVED HERE ONLY BRIEFLY. THIS CEMETERY IS THE FINAL RESTING PLACE FOR 305 CHILDREN WHO WERE UNCLAIMED AT THEIR DEATHS, MANY OF WHOM PASSED AWAY DURING EPIDEMICS OF INFLUENZA, SCARLET FEVER, DIPHTHERIA AND POLIO IN THE DAYS BEFORE VACCINES WERE AVAILABLE. IN KEEPING WITH THE CUSTOM OF THE TIME, THEIR GRAVES WERE IDENTIFIED ONLY BY NUMBER, YET THE MEMORY OF THESE PRECIOUS CHILDREN LIVES ON AND IN THAT LOVING SPIRIT THEY ARE NOW GIVEN THEIR NAMES FOR ALL TIME.

MAY GOD BLESS THESE CHILDREN
 AND GIVE THEM ETERNAL PEACE

JUNE LAXTON

MC WILKEY, BEATRICE 161
 MERIA, DOLLY 28
 METZINGER, ROBERT 1371
 MICHELSON, HERBERT 2434
 MILLER, GRACE 121
 MULLIGAN, WILLIAM 147
 MIRETTI, VICTOR 172
 MONTGOMERY, RUSSELL 185
 MOODY, MARY 103
 MOORE, FLORENCE 24
 MORAN, ERNEST 158
 MORSCHHAUSER, ANNA 101
 MURPHY, JOHN 147
 MURPHY, OWEN 101
 NAZE, ROBERT J. 1201
 NEIMAST, ISORA 19
 NELSON, FLORENCE 17
 NICHOLS, DONALD 168
 NYGARD, BABY HELEN 1231
 O'BRIEN, HOWARD 10
 OLECHOWSKI, HENRY 1341
 OLSON, FRANK 15
 OPDELL, JOHN 122
 PARTIS, CYNTHIA 1227
 PATRICK, BAYAN 1191
 PAVDLICH, LEROY 1283
 PAWLING, MARGUERITE 141
 PERRY, LESTER 14
 PETERS, EARLE 141
 PETERSON, L. 111
 PETERSON, VICTOR R. 112
 PETERSON, ROGER 111
 PHILLIPS, BENJAMIN 11
 PHILLIPS, GRACE 11
 PIERCE, HARRY 111
 PILGRIM, WALLACE 111
 PORTER, GRETCHEN 111
 PRUST, AUGUST 11







[Receive Email Updates](#)

[Contact](#)

[Donate](#)



[Home](#)

[About](#) ▾

[Visit](#) ▾

[Research](#) ▾

[Education](#) ▾

[News/Events](#)

[Wegner Grotto](#) ▾

[Gift Shop](#)

Record & Photo Search

Start Your Search Here ▶▶▶

[Search Tips](#)

[Researching in Person?](#)

[Index Descriptions](#)

[Monroe County Map](#)

[Give Feedback](#)

First Name:

Exact

Sounds like

Last Name:

Exact

Sounds like

Keywords:

Exact

Collection

[Search All Directories](#) ▾

[Search](#)

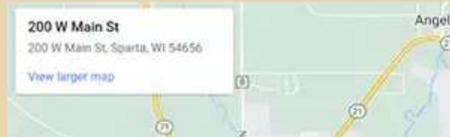
If not using "exact" or "sounds like" options you can use ? to substitute for any single character and * to substitute for any number of characters.

ADDRESS

Monroe County Local History Room & Museum

HOURS

Tuesday - Saturday: 9AM - 4PM
Sunday - Monday: Closed



The Monroe County Local History Room & Museum Presents...



GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN:



HISTORY OF THE WISCONSIN
STATE SCHOOL / CHILD CENTER

