



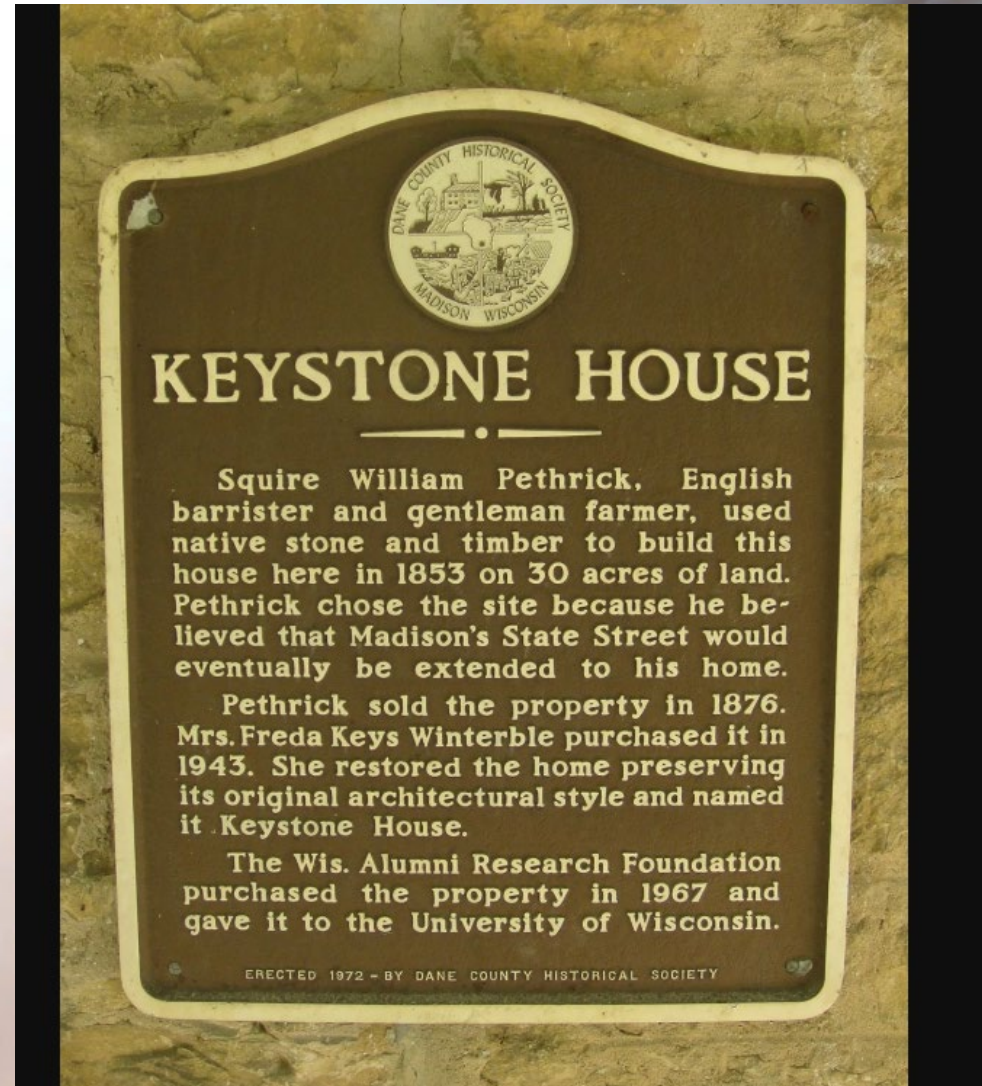
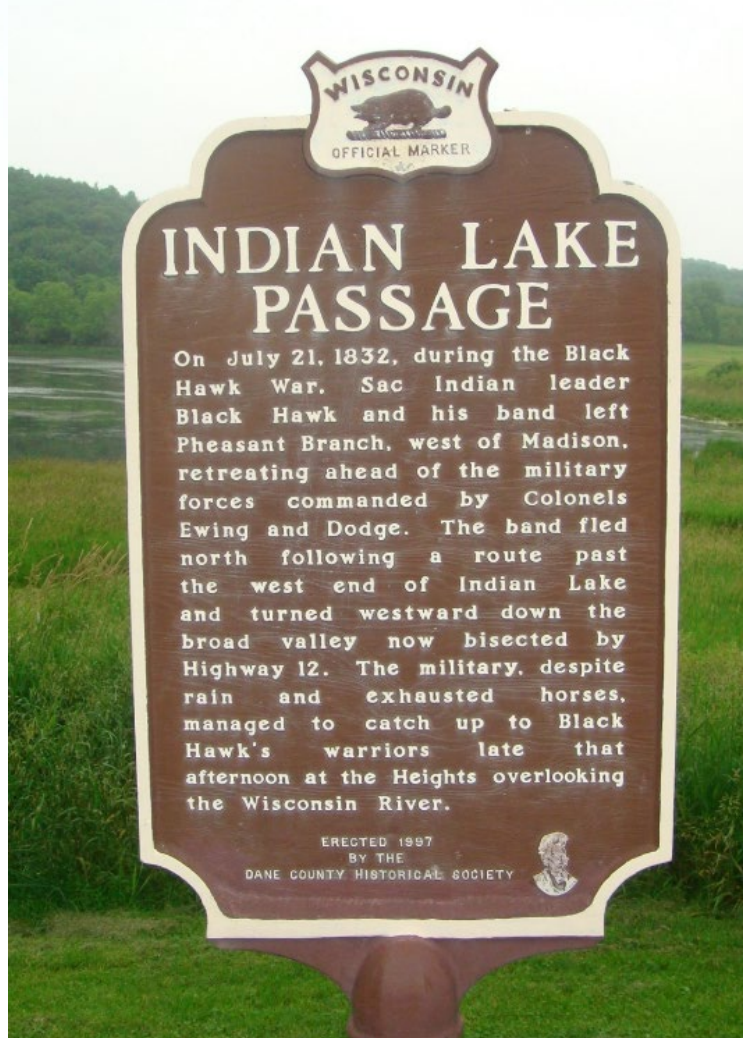
# **2025 Update on Dane County Underrepresented Communities Historical Marker Project**

# Introduction

- Dane County's first historical markers program will provide an opportunity for us to highlight the many peoples and cultures of Dane County that have thrived here for many years.
- Markers typically have text describing the event, but can also include images, quotes, and web links to other resources and information.



# Sign Examples





# Sign Examples Continued



## Take Care of This Special Place

- Stay on the trail.
- Do not disturb or walk on the mounds.
- Do not leave litter in the park.
- Speak quietly out of respect for the ancestors.
- We are all related here: people, plants, animals, birds, water, earth, and sky.

## Stewards of the Earth

Garman Nature Preserve contains ancient Native American burial mounds. Ancestors of the Ho-Chunk People built the mounds over 1,000 years ago. The Ho-Chunk are the People of the Big Voice, the original people of this region. They regard these burial sites as sacred places. We all can walk here with respect and reverence.



# Heritage Preservation Commission Guidance

- 43 historical sites were nominated by the community. The Commission ranked the nominations and a public hearing was held where nominators and the broader community could speak about the sites.
- Following the public hearing, 6 sites were chosen by the committee for staff to work with landowners on to facilitate the installation of historical markers
- County staff is currently meeting and discussing marker type, location, etc. with these landowners and the Committee will be developing and approving language for the signs

# Story Map Website

- For all the sites that were nominated, a website, timeline, and map were developed to provide information about these historically significant locations
- [Dane County Community History Project](#)

# Six Sites

- Ada Deer Home (Fitchburg)
- Harry Whitehorse Home and Studio (Monona)
- Ho-Chunk Village (Dunn/McFarland)
- Lake Mendota Dugout Canoes (Shorewood Hills)
- Robert Valentine Farm (Rutland)
- Vandenburg Heights/Capehart Housing (Sun Prairie)



# Ada Deer Home

- Ada Deer's work for the Menominee played a large role in the Menominee Restoration Act signed by U.S. President Richard Nixon on December 22, 1973, which returned the Menominee Tribe to federally recognized status. From 1974 to 1976, Deer became the first woman to chair the Menominee Tribe and headed the Menominee Restoration Committee.





# Harry Whitehorse Home and Studio

- Native American artist, Harry Whitehorse, lived and worked at this location for many years.



*Image Source: [harrywhitehorse.com](http://harrywhitehorse.com)*

# Ho-Chunk Village

- There was a Ho-Chunk Village in what is now Babcock County Park in McFarland, next to Lake Waubesa.



*Image Source:*

*[wisconsinfirstnations.org/ho-chunk-nation](http://wisconsinfirstnations.org/ho-chunk-nation)*



# Lake Mendota Dugout Canoes

- Historic Native American village locations along Lake Mendota, site of dugout canoe recoveries.



*Image Source: [wisconsinhistory.org/canoe](http://wisconsinhistory.org/canoe)*

# Robert Valentine Farm

- African-American family settled here in 1852. Sons Julius and John J. served in the Union Army in 1863.





# Vandenburg Heights/Capehart Housing

- The Capehart Act of 1955 allowed the federal government to address military housing shortage by constructing housing near military bases. Sun Prairie was selected as one location for a Capehart neighborhood due to its proximity to Truax Field. According to Census data and anecdotal stories, this led to a large influx of residents and was the first significant influx of African Americans to the City.

