



# **August 26, 2025 Update on Historical Markers**

# Follow Up Work

- Staff conducted follow up site visits on a few properties and learned more about restrictions and landowner preferences for signs.
  - Ada Deer Home (Fitchburg)
  - Harry Whitehorse Home and Studio (Monona)
  - Ho-Chunk Village (McFarland/Dunn)
  - Lake Mendota Dugout Canoes (Shorewood Hills)
  - Robert Valentine Farm (Rutland)
  - Vandenburg Heights/Capehart Housing (Sun Prairie)

# Ada Deer Home

- Homeowners originally preferred a Two-Post Marker
- Per Fitchburg regulations, cannot be in Road Right of Way. As long as on private property, there are no further limitations.
- Staff conducted a site visit to find property corner markers. The lot lines and trees make it difficult to fit a two-post marker in the location originally discussed with the landowners.
- Instead, a single post marker in front of the house was Preferred Option #1. Option #2 would be on the south side of the property.



060917499302  
GRADY PARTNERS LLC



060917484501  
MARK McNALLY

060917484252  
ALT TR, MICHAEL D  
& SUSAN C

Dane County Land Information Office (LIO), E.  
Oshkosh County, Wisconsin, WI 54901. Sources: sat-  
ellite imagery, and the GIS User Community, and  
Bureau of Land Management, Wisconsin Division of  
Recreation, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.









# Harry Whitehorse Home and Studio

- Sign can be located in road right of way, but requires additional permitting.
- Committee looked at three locations and preferred the eastern most location. Landowner was agreeable with this location.
- Staff revisited the property and found a spot that would be out of road right of way.
- Additional approvals from Monona would not be required.



Dane County Land Information Office (LIO), Fly Dane Partnership, Ayres Associates, Wisconsin Regional Orthoimagery Consortium (WROC), Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Sources: Esri, Maxar, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, JGAR, IN, Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodataswissens, Rijkswaterstaat, GSA, Geoland, FEMA, Intermap, and the GIS user community







# Ho-Chunk Village

- Location and style (rock marker with plaque) are supported by the landowners
- County Parks wanted some assurances that they would not be responsible for replacing/fixing sign if it broke, so will need to come up with a maintenance agreement (for all signs).
- Park is undergoing reconstruction in 2026/2027 to coincide with HWY 51 reconstruction, but may be able to install marker sooner since this area of the park won't be impacted by construction.

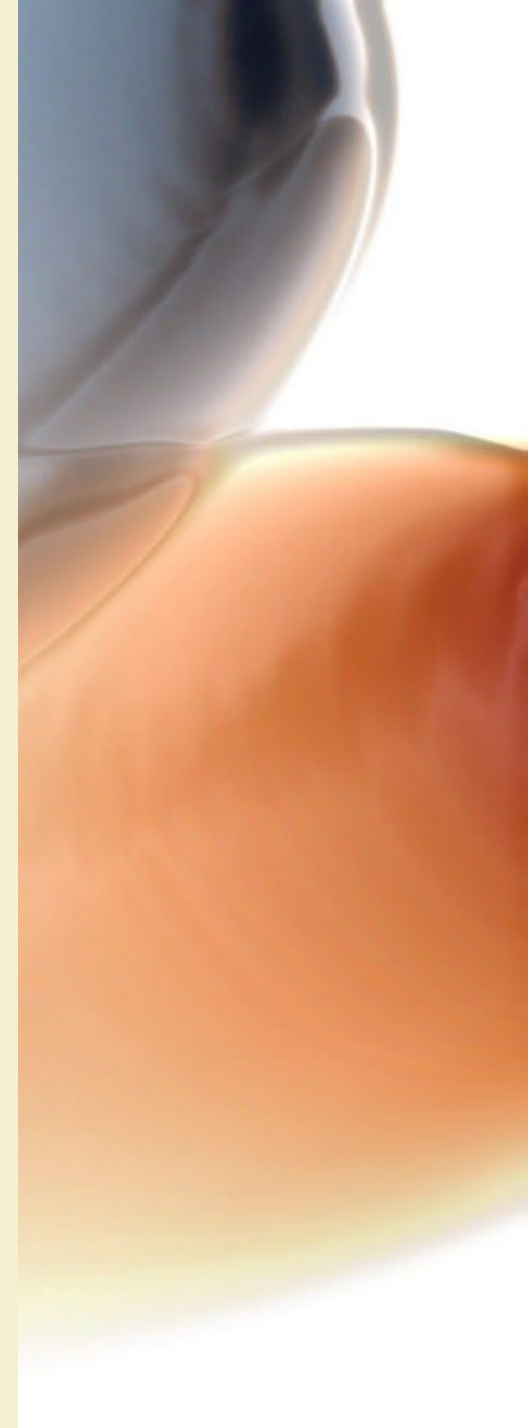














# Lake Mendota Dugout Canoes

- Our Commission had a preference to place the sign closer to the water (#1 Lookout, #2 Boat House).
- This preference was shared with Shorewood Hills staff, who then shared it with some village commissioners.
- The two commissioners that responded liked the visibility of having the sign near the road and that it could draw more people to the lake.
- One Commissioner thought the sign could incorporate more about the historic bridge at the site and the Madison Parks and Pleasure Drive. This wasn't part of the County nomination, so our staff doesn't feel the sign should include this information.
- McKenna Park is undergoing a reconstruction project and will not be completed until 2027.
  - Have a ceremony prior to 2027, but don't install sign(s) until 2027?





Dane County Land Information Office, LLC, Fly Dane Partnership, Atlas Aerospace, Wisconsin Regional Orthomosaic Consortium, WI OpenSource for Tomorrow, Garmin, FAO NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors and the GIS User community, Sources: Esri, DeLorme, Airbus DS, USGS, NOAA, IGN, IGCAR, N Robinson, NGA, NLS, US, NGA, Google, Swire, Rijkswaterstaat, Esri, Heidelberg, FEMA, local map, and the GIS user community















# Robert Valentine Farm

- Narrative has been updated to reflect that Robert Valentine did not own the farm around the cemetery, but instead, he was one of three trustees that purchased the original church and cemetery.
- Robert lived in the Town of Oregon to the west, and other Valentine family members lived nearby.



051019181200  
MELVIN F SHOTLIFF  
& KENDRA A SHOTLIFF

051019181200  
RUTLAND CENTER GENEALOGICAL ASSOC  
& RUTLAND TOWNSHIP



051019195006  
CHARLES L CHATTEN  
& BECKY M MEYER

051019195006  
KENT SCHALMA  
& J SCHALMA

Dane County Land Information Office (LIO) By Dane Partnership, Ayres Associates,  
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contributors, and the GIS User Community. Sources: Esri, Maxar, Airbus DS, USGS, NOAA,  
Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, DS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen, Rijkswaterstaat, CSA, GeoLand, FEMA, Int  
DIETZ LIVING





# Vandenburg Heights/Capehart Housing

- Sun Prairie staff reached out and they are hoping to have a dedication/celebration when the sign goes in.









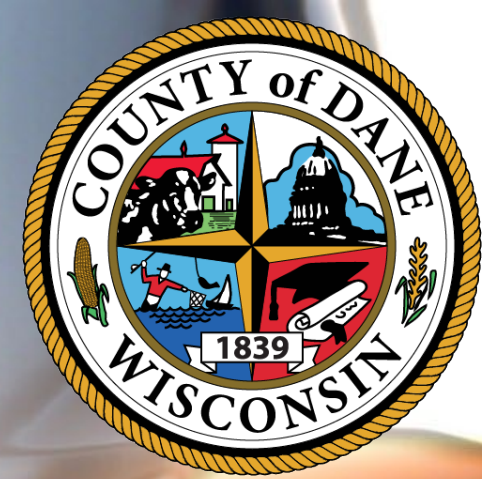


# Next Steps

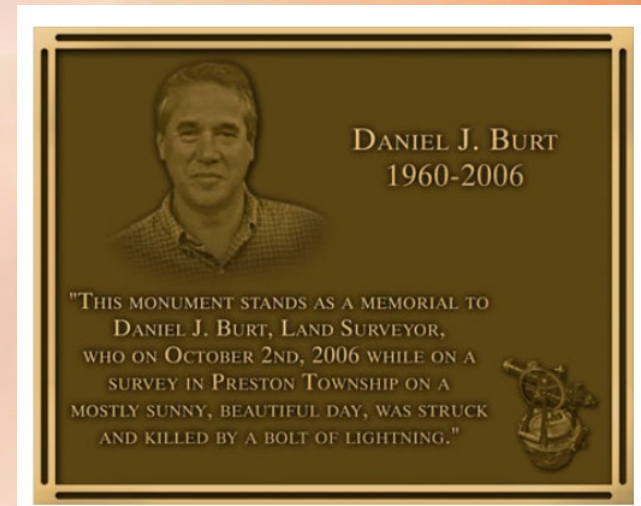
- County requires a Request for Quotes goes out to at least three companies. This will happen following advice discussed at today's meeting.
- When quotes come in, the department will choose a vendor.
- The company that WI Historical Society works with expects turnaround time will be at least 6 months. Other companies may be similar and we asked for a delivery timeline in the RFQ.



# Details on Signs



- RFQ asks for costs on signs (including DC seal), posts, shipping, QR code (on separate plaque), photo (on separate plaque), and relief-style portrait.
- Language for signs and possible photos will be discussed under the next agenda item.





# Commissioner Guidance for RFQ

- Final Sign Type

- Ada Deer – Single Post OK? (848 characters, same text both sides?)
- Harry Whitehorse – Single Post (848 characters, same text both sides?)
- Ho-Chunk Village – Small City Marker on rock (320 characters)
- Lake Mendota Dugout Canoes – What type of sign? Should we respond to Shorewood Hills staff asking for reconsideration and that if the sign will only be for the canoes, would that make a difference in location?
- Robert Valentine – Single Post (1,696 total characters, different text on each side)
- Vandenburg Heights/Capehart Housing – Single Post (1,696 total characters, different text on each side)



# Commissioner Guidance for RFQ (cont.)

- Any interest in Relief idea?
- Dane County Seal OK? Different Logo?
- New Dane County signage program? Use WI Historical markers? Use County Historical Society markers?
  - Dane County Comp Plan language for Historic and Archaeological Resources Policy and Program:
    - “Develop a Dane County signage program to identify sites and locations important to county and local history, with links to detailed online resources”