

**United States Department of Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

**historic name** Old Shawano Road

**other names/site number** Outagamie and Shawano Plank Road

**2. Location**

<b>street &amp; number</b>	STH 156 and CTH K	N/A	<b>not for publication</b>
<b>city or town</b>	Navarino	N/A	<b>vicinity</b>
<b>state</b> Wisconsin	<b>code</b> WI	<b>county</b> Shawano	<b>code</b>
			<b>zip code</b> 54166

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

Old Shawano Road

Shawano

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

### 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**  
(check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- X  public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- X  structure
- site
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> contributing | <input type="checkbox"/> noncontributing |
| 1                                     | buildings                                |
|                                       | sites                                    |
|                                       | structures                               |
|                                       | objects                                  |
|                                       | total                                    |

**Name of related multiple property listing:**  
(Enter "N/A" if property not part of a multiple property listing.)

None

**Number of contributing resources is previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation/road-related

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/Not in Use

### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Old Shawano Road  
Name of Property

Shawano  
County and State

Wisconsin

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHAEOLOGY: Historic-non-Aboriginal

TRANSPORTATION: Road-related

ENGINEERING: Early road construction

### Period of Significance

1855-1910

### Significant Dates

1855, 1858-59, 1910

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

### Cultural Affiliation

Euro-American

### Architect/Builder

Outagmie and Shawano Plank Road Company

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Old Shawano Road  
Name of Property

Shawano  
County and State

Wisconsin

### 9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous Documentation on File** (National Park Service):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State Agency
  - Federal Agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository:  
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** less than 1 acre \_\_\_\_\_

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>0374321</u>	<u>4943832</u>	3	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone Easting Northing
Southern Terminus					
2	<u>16</u>	<u>0374387</u>	<u>4944045</u>	4	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone Easting Northing
Northern Terminus					
<input type="checkbox"/> See Continuation Sheet					

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

### 11. Form Prepared By

<b>name/title</b>	David Keene/Principal Investigator, Karen Poulson/Senior Archaeologist and Amy Rosebrough/Archaeologist		
<b>organization</b>	Archaeological Research Incorporated		
<b>street &amp; number</b>	1735 North Paulina Street, Suite 113		
<b>city or town</b>	<b>state</b>	<b>IL</b>	<b>date</b> 06/2002
			<b>telephone</b> 773-384-8134
			<b>zip code</b> 60622

Old Shawano Road  
Name of Property

Shawano  
County and State

Wisconsin

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

**Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs** Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional Items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

<b>name/title</b>	Navarino State Wildlife Area	<b>date</b>	
<b>organization</b>	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	<b>telephone</b>	
<b>street&amp;number</b>	952 Tacoma Beach Road	<b>zip code</b>	54235
<b>city or town</b>	Sturgeon Bay	<b>state</b>	WI

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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     **Insert Description of Physical Appearance**

Introduction

The Old Shawano Road site is located within the Navarino State Wildlife Area in Shawano County, Wisconsin. The site consists of a plank roadbed remnant, a portion of the Outagamie-Shawano Plank Road incorporated in 1855 and built in this area between 1858 and 1859. The plank road was the first overland link between the Shawano area and the Lake Winnebago region. The plank road had a strong influence on the history of settlement in the region from the outset, with most families eschewing riverfront property in favor of farmstead locations near the road. The site traverses a wooded area consisting of new and old growth forest and is bisected by a channelized stream.

History of Investigations

The Old Shawano Road site was first encountered during a Phase I Archaeological Survey of Portions of CTH K in Shawano County, Wisconsin in November 2000. Historic research, conducted by Archaeological Research Incorporated, suggested that the linear earthen feature was probably a remnant of the Outagamie and Shawano Plank Road. However, others suggested that the feature was a man made dike constructed to facilitate cranberry harvesting. A Phase II Archaeological Investigation was recommended to clarify the function of the linear earthen feature, and if the feature was determined to be a portion of the Outagamie and Shawano Plank Road, whether it retained sufficient information potential to be eligible to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Phase II Archaeological Investigation was conducted on October 2 and November 1, 2001. The investigation was conducted in the late fall to assure that adequate visibility of the entire linear earthen feature. The investigation on October 2, 2001 concentrated on clarifying the function of the linear earthen feature. The location was verified and the entire length walked. Historic plank road engineering construction techniques, not noted during Phase I Investigations, further combined with historic maps suggested that the feature was a plank roadbed. Particular attention was paid to the location, species and age of trees confirming that the feature was a roadbed not a dike.

Consultation with SHPO ensued and an agreement was reached that instead of archaeologically bisecting the roadbed or placing test units, that a profile from the existing bisection by that channelized stream was acceptable. WDNR issued the permit and a profile was cleaned and mapped on November 1, 2001. At that time, a metal probe was utilized at regular intervals to determine whether sleepers or planks were present subsurface. Vegetation was considerably low and intact decaying planks were noted strewn at regular intervals across the high point and slopes of the earthen feature. Field measurements conforming to standard engineering plank road size and construction combined with the presence of planks confirmed that the site is a remnant of the Outagamie and Shawano Plank Road.

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Site Description

The site consists of a linear earthen feature, the actual plank roadbed, and is generally oriented southeast to northwest (FIGURE 1). The roadbed remnant measures approximately 1500 feet long and 30 feet wide. The width includes an engineering feature in the form of two man made ditches to either side of the roadbed. The highest point of the roadbed was measured at approximately 4.5 feet. The profile was mapped and the measurements conform to standardized engineering plank road construction. Intact, albeit decaying, planks are strewn across the high point and slopes of the roadbed. No sleepers, an engineering feature utilized to support the planks, were encountered.

    End of Description of Physical Appearance

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**\_\_\_ Insert Statement of Significance**

**Summary**

The Outagamie-Shawano Plank Road, commonly historically known as the Old Shawano Road, is significant as a historic archaeological remnant of one of the earliest transportation road types in Wisconsin. Specifically, the Old Shawano Road is an excellent example of an early commercial tollroad, a precursor to the tollway system of the mid twentieth century. The early commercial tollroad time period is sandwiched between the Old Military Roads system in Wisconsin, which focused on moving troops and goods and the Good Roads Movement in Wisconsin, which focused on free public roads. Engineering plank roads was a solution to building good surface roads regardless of terrain. By the time the Old Shawano Road was built, engineering standards regarding the protocol for building plank roads were well established (Kingsford 1851).

The potential to retrieve information regarding plank road engineering construction and by extrapolation the viability of private road construction versus government, local, state or national road construction is extremely high. The Old Shawano Road retains a high degree of integrity of location and setting as the Navarino Wildlife Area buffered and preserved the road from encroachment. The design conforms to standard engineering protocol for plank roads in the United States. The degree of integrity of materials and workmanship is extremely good. Plank road construction methods, construction periods and identification of plank tree species are all potentially recoverable. The plank road still conveys a sense of time and place. The Old Shawano Road is potentially eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D. Significance relates to transportation with early plank roads in Wisconsin and plank engineering road construction.

**History of the Old Shawano Road**

The history of plank road development in Wisconsin is well described in various sources (Bolton 1897, Hotchkiss 1906, State Highway Commission 1947, Pommer 1950 and Wyatt 1986). The Outagamie-Shawano Plank Road (Appleton to Shawano) was chartered by territorial and state legislatures in 1855 under Chapter Law 199 (State Highway Commission 1947: 229). Bolton attributes the charter to the Outagamie and Shawano Plank Road Company incorporated on March 20, 1855. He established the route "From Appleton to such a point in County of Shawano as may be determined by commissioners". The track was to be timber, stone, plank or gravel (Bolton 1897: 44). Investors put up \$100,000 that was divided into \$25 public shares (Bolton 1897: 44). Unfortunately, the original records housed at the State Capital of Wisconsin concerning the incorporation of the plank roads were lost in a 1904 fire (Pommer 1950: Preface).

Construction began at New London in Outagamie County, and continued northward to Shawano between 1858 and 1859. The original road consisted of a narrow wagon track with corduroy laid down



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in marshes and bogs. Prior to construction of the road, travel between the Appleton and Shawano settlements had been confined primarily to the Wolf River. The extensive marshes and swamps bordering the river made foot traffic difficult, but there are hints that the Old Shawano Road may have followed the course of an earlier native trail extending from Ouistatimong to Lake Shawano. This trail, like the later road, would have taken travelers through a large sugar bush in sections 28 and 29, just south of the proposed project area.

The Old Shawano road was constructed using a mixture of dirt, logs and tamarack poles, providing a rough, if impermanent, pavement suitable for the soft soil and marshy conditions. The Old Shawano Road, running through the swampy and sandy ground, required frequent repair including several episodes of extensive earthmoving. The engineering construction and building techniques of plank roads is well described in three sources (Kingsford 1851, Hotchkiss 1906 and Sloane 1955). In fact both Hotchkiss and Sloane, appear to use Kingsford as the primary reference. Kingsford's book may be considered the earliest precursor manual to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (ASHTO) policy and standards book. The average United States plank roadbed was a total of 30 feet. The 30 feet included two ditches to either side of the part of the road actually traveled by wagon or stagecoach. The Old Shawano Road profile conforms to the measurements as detailed by the manual (FIGURE 2). The planks on the roadbed appear to measure 9 inches to 16 inches wide also a standard mentioned in the Kingsford manual. The road's frequent costly repairs, caused by the impermanent nature of the road construction materials, were eventually its downfall.

The Old Shawano Road and stage line was the first overland link between the Shawano area and the Lake Winnebago region. The road had a strong influence on the history of settlement in the region from the outset, with most families eschewing riverfront property in favor of farmstead locations near the road. By the mid-1860 the road was heavily trafficked, particularly during the fall and winter when logging sleds could be hauled over its frozen surface. In 1867, a stage line was initiated along the road, with daily round trips between Shawano and Shiocton. The stage brought not only travelers and new immigrants, but provided a swift method of mail delivery. A log school was built near the road in 1869, at a spot south of the present intersection of STH 156 and CTH K. The school was used as a convenient stage stop, where bilingual students could translate between the English speaking stage drivers and their primarily Scandinavian passengers. By 1871 an inn and livery stable had been constructed near the school. The following years saw the construction of homes and businesses, leading to the formation of the community of Hilda.

There are indications that the course of the road fluctuated over the years, particularly near the southern end of the project area. Maps of the township predating 1911 indicate that the road ran a

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relatively straight course from a point east of the log school to the northeast through sections 17 and 18. By 1911 the course of the road had changed, running to the west of the Hilda Cemetery (CTH K now runs to the east), between the cemetery and the former location of the old log school, before curving northeast past the Kittleson log cabin and stage coach inn. The road continued northeastward to the southernmost sand ridge in the Navarino State Wildlife Area, crossing the ridge further to the east than CTH K does today, before curving northward. It is probable that the Old Shawano Road site was abandoned around 1910 in favor of a location nearer the cemetery and school (FIGURE 3).

The Old Shawano Road was traveled for approximately fifty years. Other portions of the road, no longer present or obliterated by CTH K, shifted at various points in time in response to community needs. The overall decline of the road relates to the construction of the rail system and modern CTH K, a public funded road.

**Research Potential**

The Old Shawano Road site has the research potential to yield information on engineering techniques utilized during the road's construction. The existence of a historic plank road engineering manual in comparison to actual physical construction may provide information on engineering variability (plans versus as built plans). The planks have the potential to yield information on the engineering material and whether or not it related to expediency or choice. The planks may also help yield information on the vegetation at time of construction. Information gathered may be compared to existing data on Old Military Road construction to help build a comparative road database.

     **End of Statement of Significance**

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**Insert References**

Benchley, Elizabeth D.

1982 Letter dated August 23, 1982 to Mr. Charles Causier, Wauwatosa Historical Society, concerning archaeological investigations of a segment of the Watertown Plank Road in Wauwatosa. University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Archaeological Research Library.

Bolton, William

1897 *Plank Roads of Wisconsin*. Unpublished L.B. thesis, University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Brown, Charles E.

1930 *Wisconsin Indian Trails*, Wisconsin Archaeological Society: Milwaukee.

n.d. Shawano County, Unpublished Manuscripts on File at the Archives Division of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

Campbell, Ballard

1980 *The Good Roads Movement in Wisconsin, 1890-1911*. Reprinted from the Wisconsin Magazine of History, 49: 273-293 (Summer, 1966).

Ellis, A. J.

1843 *Field Plat of Township 25 North, Range 16 East*, Government Land Office: Dubuque.

Highway Planning Survey

1947 *A History of Wisconsin Highway Development 1835-1945*. State Highway Commission and the Public Roads Administration Federal Works Agency: Madison, Wisconsin.

Hixson, W.W.

1924 *Plat Book of Shawano County, Wisconsin*, W.W. Hixson & Co.: Rockford.

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1906 *Rural Highways of Wisconsin*. Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, Bulletin No. XVIII, Economic Series No. 11. State of Wisconsin: Madison, Wisconsin.

Kingsford, William

1851 *History, Structure and Statistics of Plank Roads in the United States and Canada*. A. Hart, Philadelphia.

Kreisa, Paul P.

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1992 *Raube Road Site National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service: Washington, D.C.

Marathon Map Publishers

1952 *Farms and Land Ownership Atlas and Plat Book of Shawano County, Wisconsin*, Marathon Map Publishers: Milwaukee.

National Park Service

1986 *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. National Register Bulletin 15. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Interagency Resources Division: Washington, D.C.

National Park Service

1991 *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*. National Register Bulletin 16A. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Interagency Resources Division: Washington, D.C.

Navarino History Committee

1992 *Navarino: Timber Trails and Tales*, Palmer Publications, Inc.: Amherst, Wisconsin.

Ogle, George

1911 *Standard Atlas of Shawano County, Wisconsin*, George Ogle & Co.: Milwaukee.

Pommer, Patricia J.

1950 *Plank Roads: A Chapter in the Early History of Wisconsin Transportation (1846-1871)*.

Randall, G.A.

1865 *New Sectional Map of the State of Wisconsin*, Rockford Map Publishers: Rockford.

Rosebrough, Amy E.

2000 *A Phase I Archaeological Survey Of Portions of CTH "K" In Shawano County, Wisconsin*. Reports of Investigations Number 44: Middleton, Wisconsin.

Sloane, Eric

1955 *Our Vanishing Landscape*. Ballantine Books: New York.

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Wisconsin Timber and Land Company

1900 *Map of Shawano County, Wisconsin*, Wisconsin Timber and Land Company: Matton,  
Wisconsin.

Wyatt, Barbara

1986 *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin: A Manual for Historic Properties,*  
*Volume 1*, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Division of Historic Preservation: Madison,  
Wisconsin.

    End of References

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     **Insert Boundary Descriptions**

*Verbal Boundary Description*

The boundary of the Old Shawano Road is shown as the double parallel line on the accompanying U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Series Topographic Lunds Quadrangle Map.

*Boundary Justification*

The southern and northern boundary of the site is established by the presence of a linear earthen feature, which extends for approximately 1500 feet. The linear earthen feature and two man made ditches to either side correspond to the Old Shawano Roadbed. The width of the Old Shawano Roadbed is 30 feet wide. Furthermore, the Old Shawano Road runs from the southeast to the northwest and ranges from 50 to 150 feet east of CTH K. The southern terminus bends and extends southeast for an indeterminate distance.

     **End of Boundary Descriptions**

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     **Insert Photo Descriptions**

Old Shawano Road  
Vicinity of CTH 156 and CTH K  
Shawano County, WI  
Karen Poulson  
Archaeological Research, Inc.  
November 1, 2001  
View to northeast  
Photograph 1 of 5

Old Shawano Road  
Vicinity of CTH 156 and CTH K  
Shawano County, WI  
David Keene  
Archaeological Research, Inc.  
November 1, 2001  
View to northwest  
Photograph 2 of 5

Old Shawano Road  
Vicinity of CTH 156 and CTH K  
Shawano County, WI  
Karen Poulson  
Archaeological Research, Inc.  
November 1, 2001  
View to east  
Photograph 3 of 5

Old Shawano Road  
Vicinity of CTH 156 and CTH K

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Shawano County, WI  
David Keene  
Archaeological Research, Inc.  
November 1, 2001  
Detail of plank  
Photograph 4 of 5

Old Shawano Road  
Vicinity of CTH 156 and CTH K  
Shawano County, WI  
David Keene  
Archaeological Research, Inc.  
November 1, 2001  
Detail of plank  
Photograph 5 of 5

End of Photo Descriptions