

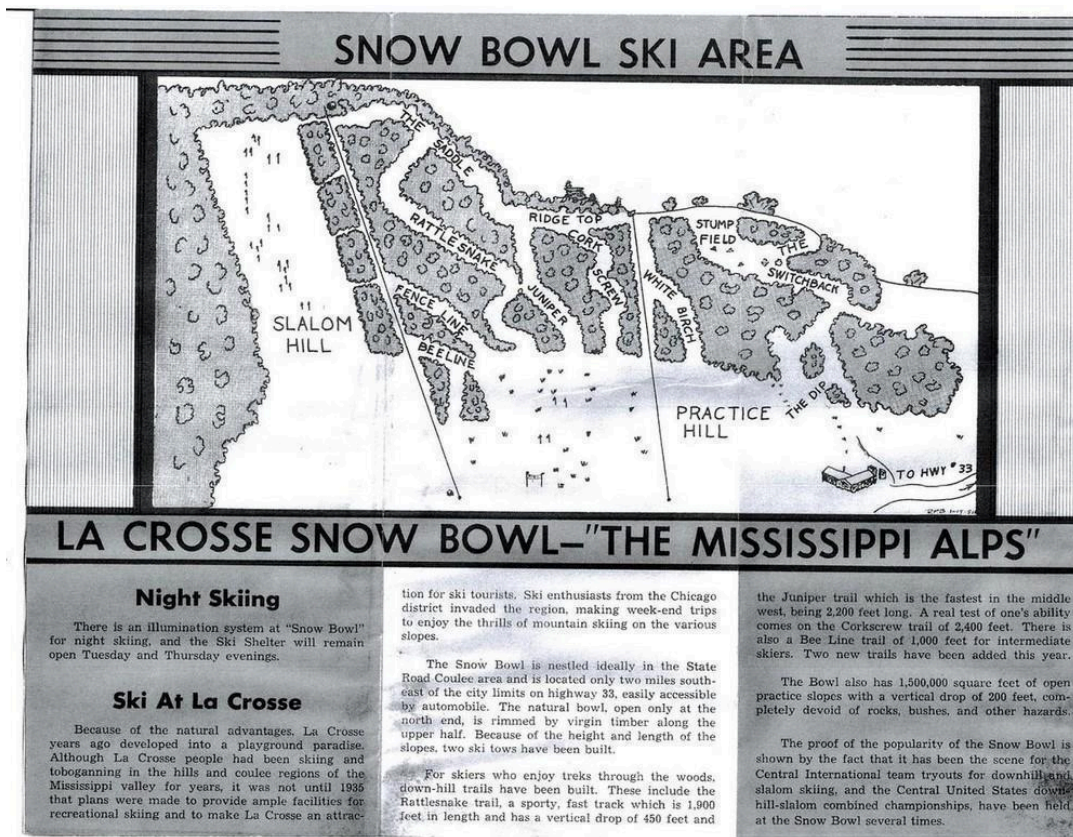
STATE ROAD 33 and TRADE ROUTES

For thousands of years people have traveled through this valley. This was a primary trade route from the east, utilizing the open ridgetops rather than the forested and swampy river valleys for overland transportation. Many historical archeological sites have been found and documented along Pammel Creek and the State Road Coulee, including the "State Road Coulee Site" where the individual who lived 800-1200 years ago had an alligator tooth and piece of obsidian with him. When La Crosse was being established, there were two primary roads built to the city. The federal government built the "Post Road" (now highway 61) and the state built the "State Road" as the primary access from the east.

DOWNHILL SKIING AND SKI JUMPING

The land that the Community Trail Farm will sit on has historically been used for recreation. As depicted in the **Exhibit 4-1**, the land was a skiing mecca when the Snow Bowl, also dubbed "the Mississippi Alps" was opened in 1935. The Snow Bowl was home to the Juniper Trail, a 2,200 foot long ski trail that was the "fastest in the middle west," as well as a 1,000 foot intermediate trail called the Beeline Trail. As noted, the Snow Bowl brought tourists from neighboring large cities, including Chicago and provided a huge economic impact by hosting both the Central United States downhill-slalom tryouts and championships several times.

Exhibit 4-1: La Crosse's Snow Bowl



CHAS HASS DAIRY

Charles Hass operated a dairy on the property for many years. The family milked their own cows, but also coordinated with neighboring farms to bottle and distribute milk to the community. Chas's original milk wagon is at the La Crosse Historical Society. In 1920 he purchased a Ford Model T milk truck from the Dahl Family and in the 1990's the Dahl's bought it back at the farm auction. It is restored and lives in their Auto Museum in Downtown La Crosse.



Exhibit 4-2: Hass Farm (circa 1950)



STATE ROAD SCHOOL

The original State Road School was built on this property in the 1860's. It's most notable student may be Louis H. Pammel.

STATE ROAD Dist. No. 3



STATE ROAD SCHOOL, Rt. 1, La Crosse, was in earlier times called Shelby Township School District No. 3. The original building was constructed in 1867 on Highway 33. The log school house was replaced by this brick structure in 1873.

It was a part of the Shelby Township School District until annexation by the La Crosse School District in 1965.

We thank Earl Linse, Rt. 1, West Salem, for what may be the only picture of the school. Now, in 1983, the building lies in shambles and weeds, almost unseen, on the left side of the now busy Highway 33 between Schmidy's and Irish Hill.

Linse identifies the second woman from the right in the back row as his maternal grandmother, Mrs. Louis (Matilda Pammel) Koch. The girl in the checkered dress in the center of the second row is his mother, Emma Koch, later to be Mrs. Adolph Linse. He thinks his mother was about 12 years old at the time; since she was born in 1892, the picture might be dated 1904.



STATE ROAD SCHOOL, Highway 33, La Crosse, in 1937. First row, front to back, Charlotte Helwig Gollnick, Charmayne Helvig Tauscher, Charles Knoblock, Nellie Barnes McBain, Gladys Breidel Stelter.

Second row: Eugene Barnes, Donald Hass, Darlene Barnes Johnson, Clarence Stremcha, Stella Stahl Burt and Teacher Miss Sylvia Rommel.

Third row: James Knoblock, Ward Covell, Gertrude Breidel Ritter, Frederick Barnes and Shirley Helvig Hass.

Courtesy of Mrs. Marlin Tauscher

Louis H. Pammel

Louis Pammel was born and raised in the La Crosse area. His family's farm was adjacent to the Trail Farm property and he grew up playing in Pammel creek and running up the bluffs of the valley. He attended the original State Road School from 1865-1871 and left school to help his family on the farm. He had a love of art and observation of nature and a curiosity for how life thrived and failed on the farm. He was able to be tutored through all his high school classes in one year and then went on to graduate from UW Madison with a degree in botany. He went on to lead the agricultural department at Iowa State in Ames, become George Washington Carver's primary mentor, found the Iowa State Park System, and write the first book in English on Ecology.



Louis H. Pammel, Augusta Pammel, Robert R. Moton, and George W. Carver

THE MADER BRICK YARD In State Road Coulee

<https://www.maderfamily.com/category/lacrosse-stories/>

"...The Mader family did some farming but later on their chief occupation was making brick. They furnished most of the brick for many of the old buildings in La Crosse."(1)

Frank Mader, Jr. told about the brick yard in a La Crosse Tribune article dated July 1, 1951.

"...Bricks made by the Maders were used in buildings from the river's bank to Sixth Streets, including St. Joseph's Cathedral and also St. Rose Convent farther out.(2) Many structures made of Mader brick still stand as sturdy as they were when they were erected."

"The Maders provided employment for a crew of 30 which was considered a big payroll back then. Old records show that many men, later to rise to prominence in the business world of La Crosse, made their start helping to manufacture Mader bricks with which much of the city had been built."

Frank Mader (Dominick's grandson) said, "The old streets of La Crosse were made with Mader brick."

The manufacture of brick was an important industry in the development of early LaCrosse. There was a great demand for brick before lumber became the chief building source. The Valley was rich in clay ideal for making brick, the brick being a substantial red sand mold brick.

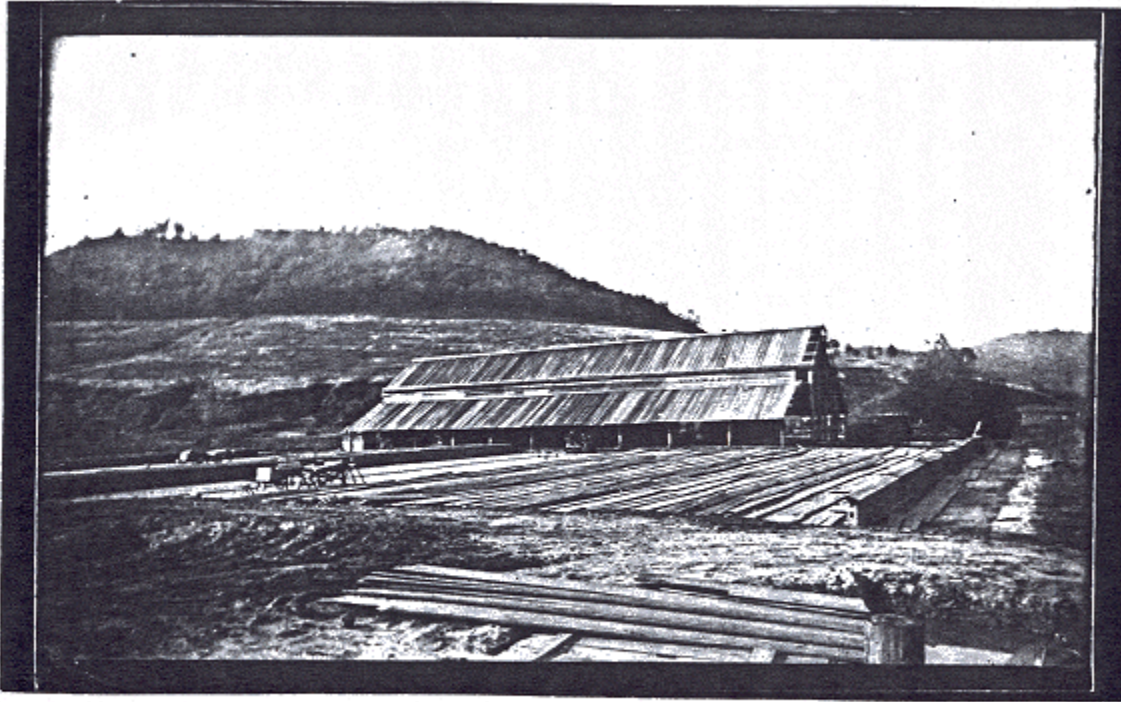
The clay was soaked in vats overnight and mixed with a tempering wheel operated by horse power. The brick was molded by hand, dried in hacks on the yard, and burned in scove kilns. It required seven to eight days to burn the brick and about one-fourth of a cord of wood for each thousand brick burned. The cutting and aging of wood from the surrounding hillsides was the chief occupation in the winter.

It is not known when David and his sons began manufacturing brick on David's land. Gumble and Bloomer opened a brick yard on neighboring land in 1858. The Maders could have learned the brick business on this brick yard, starting their own yard, ca. 1860-65. It is known that the Maders were early brick makers and that it was before 1870 when St. Joseph's Cathedral was built and the cornerstone for St. Rose Convent was laid.

The Mader brothers operated the brick yard as David would have been too old to take an active part in it. When he sold it to Theodore in 1878 he was 80 years old.

(1) Pummel, *Reminiscences of Early La Crosse* (La Crosse: Liesenfield Press 1928) p. 20.

(2) The brick house at 1903 Barnebee Road in La Crosse is built from Mader brick of the old St. Joseph Cathedral. The owner who built the house personally cleaned all the brick by hand. (*La Crosse Tribune*). Mader brick was used in the oldest section of St. Rose Convent.



The Mader Brick Yard.