Figure 7-1. The Town of Marquette, located on a map of Wisconsin depicting the Fox, Mississippi, and Wisconsin waterways.
CHAPTER 7:
The Plan of Marquette

In the Fall of 1832, Doty stood on a bluff overlooking Lake Apuckaway, and sketched the profile of the lake on a plan of the proposed military road. Since Lake Apuckaway was essentially a widening in the great Fox River, Doty must have taken note of the land below him as a townsit of some potential. Located as it was at the intersection of two of the territories most promising transportation routes (the Fox and the new military road), a town developed at this location would have numerous advantages. Marquette was platted in 1836 in a form virtually identical to Doty’s plan of Fond du Lac, as he had revised it when having the plan lithographed in New York City. The original plat of the town lists proprietors Sherman Page of New York, Joel Sutherland of Philadelphia, Andrew Palmer of Toledo and Albert Ellis and John Arnd of Green Bay. Both Arnd and Ellis were shareholders in Doty’s Fond du Lac Company and had been involved with Doty on numerous occasions. While Doty is not listed as one of the proprietors, he was probably involved in the development in some friendly capacity, as he seems to have been responsible for the passage of an act in the Wisconsin Territorial Legislature which incorporated the Marquette and Kentucky City Canal Company. The Marquette and Kentucky City Canal Company was chartered to pursue the construction of a canal connecting Marquette on the Fox River to another townsit of Doty’s: Kentucky City on the Wisconsin River. This canal would have bypassed Portage, taking a shorter route between Lake Apuckaway and the Wisconsin. Proposed at a time when it was assumed that water travel would continue to dominate commerce, such a canal was considered to be of great benefit to development and property values.
Figure 7-2. Map of Marquette, Wisconsin: ca. 1836. State Historical Society of Wisconsin.
A print of the 1836 plat of Marquette survives and is reproduced as figure 7-2. Utilizing twenty-four wards, each with an internalized cruciform green, the plan could easily be mistaken for that of Fond du Lac. Referenced on the plan is pertinent dimensional information regarding various lots and public open spaces:

"Blocks are 900 feet square
Lots fronting on streets 60 X 180
Lots fronting on squares 56 X 168
All streets are 60 feet
Alleys are 12 feet."

The canal between Marquette and Kentucky City was never built and the village grew slowly and remained a small one. Marquette did see limited activity from traffic on the Fox River, as farmers took their crops to market, and a granite quarry located in the city shipped most of its stone over water. Reaching a population of only four hundred people in the late nineteenth century, Marquette later experienced a decline that mirrored the collapse of water navigation on the Fox River. A plan of Marquette as it existed early in the twentieth century is reproduced as figure 7-3. Taken from a Green Lake County atlas, the plan depicts the sparse settlement found in the declining river town. The form of the original plat has been retained essentially unaltered, with a small addition having occurred along the lake shore. The center of the village occurs in the area of ward twenty-one, where the plan depicts a post office, a school, a hotel, a "hall & store", as well as the "Caw Caw Club" all clustered around a cruciform shaped open space.
Figure 7.3. Plan of Marquette, Wisconsin: ca. 1900-1906 (above); and a photograph of square # twenty-one taken during that same era (below).
A 1909 photograph of this space exists, the date of which roughly coincides with that of the previous plan. The photograph describes the cross-shaped open space of ward twenty-one, with the "hall & store" in the left foreground. Enclosed by two-story wood frame buildings, the expansive open space is shown with Second and Lyon Streets running through its center. While a graveled lot serves for carriage storage for the store, the space is seen to be primarily kept lawns well planted with trees. The view possesses charms both urban and rural and perhaps gives an impression of what Doty had in mind for the "lost" spaces of Fond du Lac. It is an impression of a green, almost agrarian place, a place very different from the tightly enclosed main streets typical of urban development throughout the territory. The space as shown in the photograph survives in Marquette to the present day and its mature trees and considerable charms makes the loss of Fond du Lac's seventeen squares all the greater. It is probable that the low demand for property in the town (throughout its history) has provided for the continued existence of these spaces, unlike the re-platting and alterations seen in Fond du Lac.