

Paintings of Folk Artist Paul Seifert

by Marian Burmester



Residence of Lemuel Cooper, 1879 in watercolor, oil, and tempera on paper, 21 ½ x 28 inches in the collection of Howard and Jean Lipman. Later this residence was known as the Tony Brickl farm on Valley View Road, just outside of Plain. Presently owned by Greg & Tammy Alt. Painted by primitive folk artist Paul A. Seifert. A German immigrant who made his living by selling flowers, fruit, and vegetables that he raised on an eighty-acre farm near Richland City. Between 1875-1885, Seifert periodically took off on foot with his sack of colored papers and paints in search of farmers; in Richland, Grant, Sauk and Iowa Counties; willing to pay \$2.50 for a picture of their farmstead. Seifert used colored paper or cardboard for his scenes—tan or gray or blue permitting this underlying color to peak through to form part of the landscape. Discovered in the 1950s by a New York folk art historian who included samples of his work in a textbook thus his paintings became worth thousands.



Any ideas on the location of this painting?

It is another Seifert painting of a farmstead in the vicinity of Plain, Wisconsin. It is a watercolor, oil, and tempera on cardboard, 15 ½ x 28 inches at the New York State Historical Association, Cooperstown.

If anyone has any ideas of where this farmstead might be located contact either Marian Ruhland Burmester (608-985-8063 trkyhnr811@lycos.com) or Karen Ruhland Beth (608-522-5035 honeycreek-1@lycos.com).

Many farmsteads in Sauk County may have been the subject of one of his paintings. Our society is documenting a history on this folk artist & his paintings of the area. We would appreciate any new information.

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