

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Rickeman Grocery Building

and/or common 6th Street Art Supply

**2. Location**

street & number 415 - 6th Street \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Racine \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district First

state Wisconsin code 055 county Racine code 101

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name William Saunders

street & number 4715 Elizabeth Street

city, town Racine \_\_\_ vicinity of state Wisconsin 53402

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Racine County Courthouse, Registry of Deeds

street & number 730 Wisconsin Avenue

city, town Racine \_\_\_ vicinity of state Wisconsin 53403

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Racine Architectural Survey - Johnson, Johnson & Roy (continued) has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date April 1974 \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county  local

depository for survey records Racine Public Library

city, town Racine \_\_\_ vicinity of state Wisconsin 53403

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Rickeman Grocery Building is a two-story, rectangular, brick building with a shop on the first floor and one apartment above. Common brick is used on the rear and side walls, and face brick on the main (6th street) facade. The Rickeman building is located along a street of two- and three-story brick commercial buildings. The surrounding buildings are either sadly neglected or badly altered.

A prominent sheet-metal cornice dominates the 6th street elevation. Carved limestone trims the large segmentally arched second story window, which is divided into three parts by brick piers. A cast iron lintel supports the upper part of the building above glass prisms and large plate glass windows. To the left (east) on the first floor, is the entrance to the second floor apartment. Except for this element, the facade is bilaterally symmetrical.

The cornice is supported by brick piers at each end of the building and a three-stage corbel table in between the piers. The cornice itself is divided horizontally into three parts by four large brackets. Between the middle two brackets is the word "Rickeman" and the date "1883"; between these and each outer bracket are five smaller brackets which support a molded projection. The outer brackets are each topped with a rounded finial, while the two middle brackets support a broken pediment, decorated with dentils, which in turn is topped with another rounded finial. Six rosettes decorate various parts of the cornice.

The ornament would appear to be derived from classical prototype, but it is so removed from the source as to make stylistic designation not very helpful or meaningful.

It is not known what the ground floor looked like before the c. 1905-10 remodelling.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1883<sup>1</sup> **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Rickeman Grocery Building stands today in Racine's main commercial district as a significant example of the small, late 19th century, commercial structure, both because of the high quality of its architecture and because of its present fine state of preservation. Built during one of Racine's most prosperous eras, the building reflects the vitality and optimism present in the Midwest when men like George Rickeman, German immigrant, Civil War veteran, successful businessman, and civic-minded politician, lived and worked here--men and women who followed the pioneers, and turned villages overnight into permanent communities for living, working and worshipping.

The Rickeman Building is significant as one of the finest, relatively unaltered Late Victorian commercial storefronts left in the downtown area of Racine. The narrow two-story building with its prominent, bracketed metal cornice is typical of late nineteenth century commercial structures constructed by local builders and embellished with stock-ordered architectural elements.

The Rickeman Grocery Building was constructed between January and July of 1883<sup>2</sup> at a cost of \$4,500,<sup>3</sup> to house George Rickeman's retail grocery business. The ground floor was remodelled c. 1905-10 and glass prisms from the American 3-Way Prism Co. of Chicago, Illinois were installed above new plate glass windows. In the mid-70's much of the ground floor was covered in a remodelling, but this has been removed by the present owner who has restored the ground floor to its 1905-10 state. With the exception of aluminum store windows on the second floor, the upper part of the building remains as it was built 95 years ago.

The Rickeman Grocery Building is a visible reminder of an era long gone and a fine building preserved an in use nearly a century after its construction.

<sup>1</sup>Rickeman Building inscription stone.

<sup>2</sup>Racine Daily Journal "New Store, New Goods, Low Prices" (ad), 7/7/1883.

<sup>3</sup>Racine Daily Journal "Building Boom," Dec. 22, 1883, p. 2.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Racine Daily Journal, July 7, 1883, December 22, 1883, July 10, 1894  
Racine City Director - 1872  
Rickeman Building

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property c. 0.5  
Quadrangle name Racine South, Wisconsin

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

1	6	4	3	5	6	8	5	4	7	3	0	5	2	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

D 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

E 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Block 35, of Original Plat  
East 20' of West 100' of North 41-7/12' of Lot 5, East 20' of West 100' of Lot 6.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert D. Long - Architectural Conservationist

organization Architectural Conservation Program date 1/15/80

street & number 730 Washington Avenue telephone 414/636-9280

city or town Racine, state Wisconsin 53403

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Richard M. Mearns

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 2/24/81

For HCERS use only  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Helena Byers date 3/1/82  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation sheet

Item number 6

Page 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (continued)

Historic Architecture of Downtown Racine - Nelson Peter Ross  
1975 Local  
Landmarks Preservation Commission - City Hall  
Racine, Wisconsin 53403

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places  
1975 State  
State Historical Society of Wisconsin  
Madison Wisconsin 53706