

City: **Alma** County: **Buffalo**

Surveyor: **Barbara Anderson-Sannes** Date: **Fall of 1979**
Legal description: **(See attached sheet)** Acreage: **17/100 acre**

Street Address: **711 North 2nd Street (K)**
Current Name/Use: **Norbert Kellner House**

Special Features Not Visible In Photographs:
(See attached sheets)
Interior Visited? Yes No

Film Roll No.
Negative No.
Facade Orient.: **West**

owner:
Norbert Kellner
711 North 2nd
Alma, Wisconsin
54610

Original Name/Use: **Ulrich Walser House** Source: **1**
Dates of Construction: **1895** Source: **1**

Historical Data			
Owner	Dates	Uses	Sources
Ulrich Walser	1895-1940	house	2
Bert La Barge	1940-1966	"	2
Norbert Kellner	1966-	"	2

Architect/Builder: **Ulrich Walser** Source: **1**
Architectural Significance:
 Represents Work of a Master
 Possesses High Artistic Values
 Represents a Type, Period, or Method of Construction
 Is a Visual Landmark
Other:

Statement of Architectural Significance:
(over)

Historical Significance:
 Associated With the Lives of Significant Persons
 Associated With Significant Historic Events
 Associated With Important Cultural Pattern
 Other:

Statement of Historical Significance:
(over)

Sources of Information (Reference To Above)
Buffalo County Journal 8/8/1895
Abstract

Representation in Previous Surveys: HABS NRHP WRL Local Landmark
Other: **SIHSW Wisc. Inventory Historic Places**

Opinion of Eligibility for National Register:
 Eligible Not Eligible Unknown
Initials: **3-14-80** Date: **BW**

Street: **North Second St** Number: **711**

711 North 2nd Street

1895¹

Ulrich Walser House

legal description- the following described part of Lot 2 section 2 Township 21 north of Range 13 west commencing at a stone bearing South 66 degrees West 266 feet from a point bearing South 24 degrees east 401 1/2 feet to the Southwest corner of Ferdinand Walter's house, then North 66 degrees East 152 feet, thence South 24 degrees East 49 feet, thence South 66 degrees West 152 feet, thence North 24 degrees West 49 feet to the place of beginning.

A Swiss cabinet maker and carpenter by trade, Ulrich Walser was one of the six Walser brothers who came to Alma in the late 1880's from their birthplace in Switzerland. The other brothers were Anton, Peter, Jacob, Edward and Gaudenz. They all came to Alma and worked as carpenters, all of them being capable and dependable workmen, but Anton and Ulrich were unusually good carpenters and skilled craftsmen. Anton and Ulrich were both married in a double ceremony at the church at Tell that they had just finished building in 1889. The rest of the brothers left Alma in the 1890's but Anton remained until 1905 when he left for the state of Washington due to his poor health and Ulrich remained in Alma until his death in 1940.² Ulrich and Anton built some of the best houses in Alma including P. E. Ibach house, Dr. J. T. Tenney house, Charles Schaettle house, Fred Laue Jr. House, their own respective houses and many of the fine commercial buildings including the Burlington Hotel. Not only did Ulrich build houses, but he built furniture and did beautiful trim work and cabinet work. He built this house in 1895 for a dwelling for his family. The area behind the house was known as Walser's park and people made use of it for picnics and gatherings, Mrs. Walser also kept a marvelous garden in back of the house and it supplied the people in Alma with much fresh vegetables. The house is a two story Queen Anne which was originally built for two families. There is a full porch on the front and a bay window to the north side. The exterior of the attic story is covered with shingles and the house is trimmed with ornaments and brackets of Walser's own design. This trim includes barge-board, carved porch beams and brackets on the return eaves. The roof is gabled with shingled gable ends. The interior features hardwood floors, stained glass windows, carving on the parlour door frame and a lathe oak hand rail. The large shed in the rear was built at the same time as the house for Walser's workshop.

¹Buffalo County Journal, August 8, 1895

²Ibid., April 18, 1940