

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



82

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

1. Name *Frontenac, The*

historic The Frontenac Flats

and/or common The Frontenac (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 132 ^A 140 High Street & 9 Brown Street not for publication

city, town Oshkosh vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state Wisconsin code 55 county Winnebago code 139

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<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-apts.
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition N/A	Accessible	<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 checked="" 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 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 Tom Brinkman

street & number 1033 Hazel Street

city, town Oshkosh vicinity of state Wisconsin 54901

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Winnebago County Courthouse

street & number 415 Jackson Avenue

city, town Oshkosh state Wisconsin

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

see continuation sheet

title Wisconsin Inventory of
Historic Places

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located on the western fringe of the commercial area north of the Fox River, the Frontenac Flats remains as the most impressive example of late Victorian apartment building design in the city. The two story brick structure occupies a corner lot and is roughly L-shaped in plan. The street elevations (to the east and south) are faced with deep red brick laid in a common bond and set in rose mortar. Contrasting with the red brick are limestone foundation, lintels, sills and belt course.

The principal south facade displays a regular system of fenestration, ordered around three entrance arches. Each round arch springs from stone impostes and is framed by brick pilasters supporting a simple architrave. Arch spandrels contain terra cotta panels of foliated patterns surrounding a fleur de lis. Pairs of double hung windows flank the arch on the first floor and appear above the arch on the second story. Alternating with these windows on the second story are shallow frame oriel windows. This composition is doubled on the western portion of the facade to accomodate an additional apartment unit.

The east facade features a rhythm of rectangular windows with the arch and oriel composition repeated on the north corner.

The roof line of the Frontenac is delineated by a terra cotta frieze of foliated scrolls and a simple denticulated cornice.

Access to the sixteen apartment units is gained through the rounded entrance arches, each serving four units which are similar in plan. The original layout is basically unchanged, functions of rooms rather than arrangement has been altered. The typical unit consists of a side hall opening to parlor and sitting room (now partitioned as a bedroom), and terminating at doors to bedroom and dining area (now a study). Located beyond the dining room are butler's pantry, kitchen and rear bedroom. A central light well, shared by four apartments provides natural light and increases air circulation in the rear portion of the flats. Each flat is somewhat individualized by the inclusion of a fireplace in the main parlor. Each is of a slightly different design but generally consist of glazed tile framed by fluted columns which support the mantel or overmantel.

Modifications to the interior have been minor. A partition has been constructed between the original parlor and sitting room, however, the original frame has been retained and one apartment retains the original sliding doors in this area. The woodwork and fireplaces are in excellent condition and the building is well maintained.

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1893–1898 ¹ **Builder/Architect** J.T. Raycraft - builder ²

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Frontenac Flats is significant as a representative of a type and period of construction, synthesizing the Richardsonian Romanesque and Queen Anne styles of design.

The original owners of the Frontenac, Dr. George Steele and Edwin Wickwire, were local businessmen who invested in real estate throughout the city. Joseph T. Raycraft, the builder of the structure was a local contractor best known for fine woodwork. Raycrafts skill remains apparent on the interior of the Frontenac.

The exterior of the Frontenac incorporates materials and motifs popular in Oshkosh during the 1890's. The juxtaposition of red brick with limestone details, inclusion of terra cotta panels and large arch forms occurs primarily on ecclesiastical buildings and is handled in a manner evocative of the Richardsonian Romanesque style. The introduction of regular oriel windows as well as the foliate ornament suggests a Queen Anne influence.

Footnotes:

1. Wrights Directory of Oshkosh A.G. Wright publisher. Oshkosh Daily Northwestern 1893. No listing for building appears in this directory. It is mentioned in Oshkosh of Today. The Daily Northwestern Oshkosh, WI 1898 p. 84
2. Oshkosh of Today The Daily Northwestern Oshkosh, WI 1898 p. 84

9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	6	3	7	6	2	4	8	7	4	8	1	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

Southeast 10' of Lot 2 All Lots 3 & 4 Block 11
Original Plat 1st ward.

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dorothy Steele, Architectural Historian

organization Howard, Needles, Tammen & Bergendoff date September 1981

street & number 6815 W. Capitol Dr. telephone 414 - 463-2310

city or town Milwaukee, state Wisconsin 53216

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. M... 3/5/82

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

date 3/5/82

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

entered in the National Register

date 4/22/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet The Frontenac Flats

Item number 6

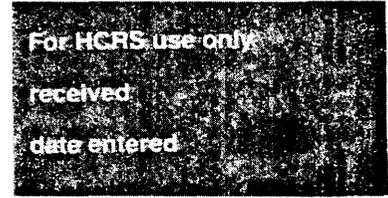
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6. REPRESENTATION

Intensive Survey of Oshkosh
1980
State Historical Society of Wisconsin
816 State Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

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Continuation sheet The Frontenac Flats

Item number 9

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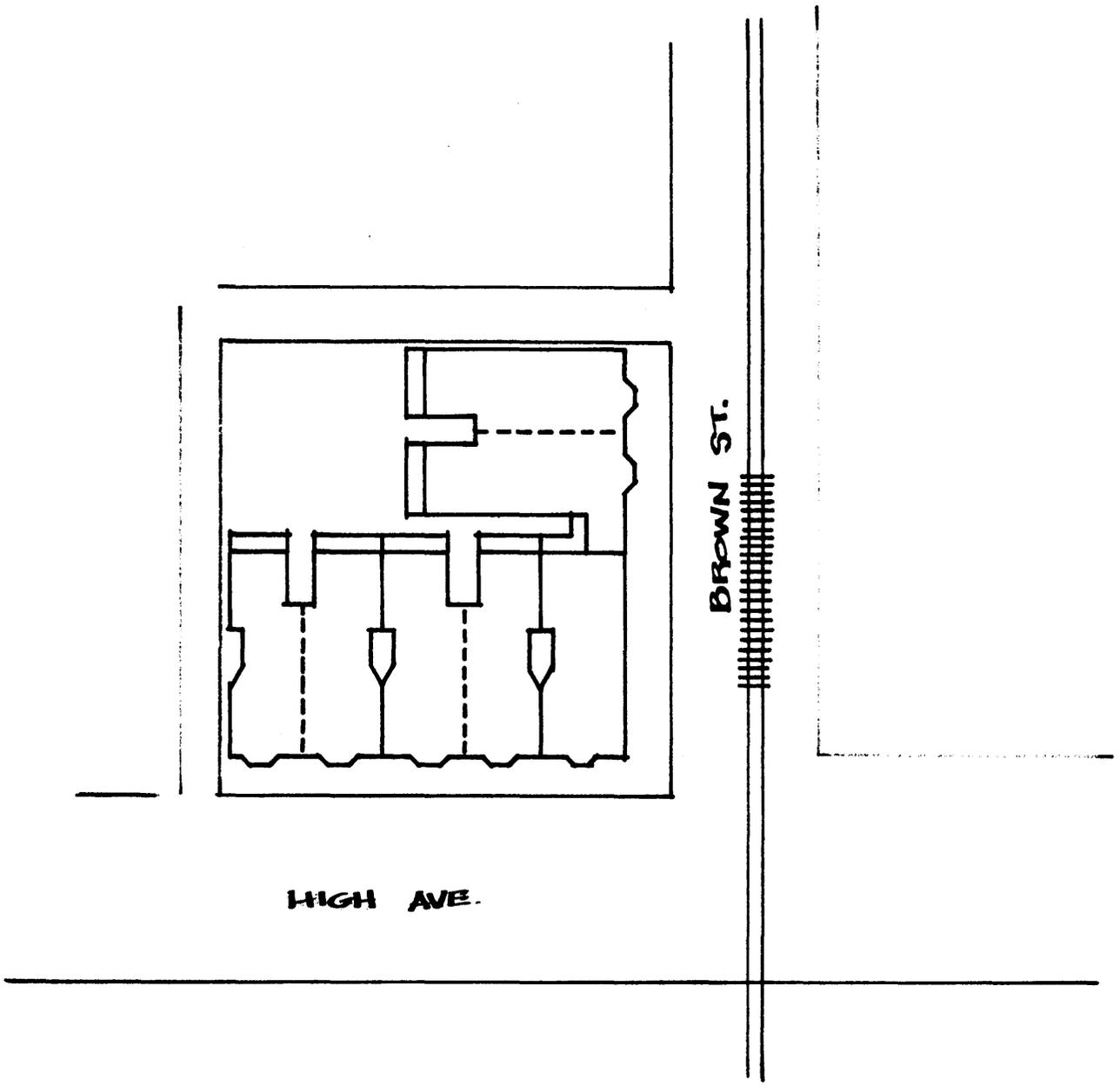
BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Books:

Oshkosh of Today. The Daily Northwestern Oshkosh, WI 1898
Oshkosh City Directory 1898

Maps:

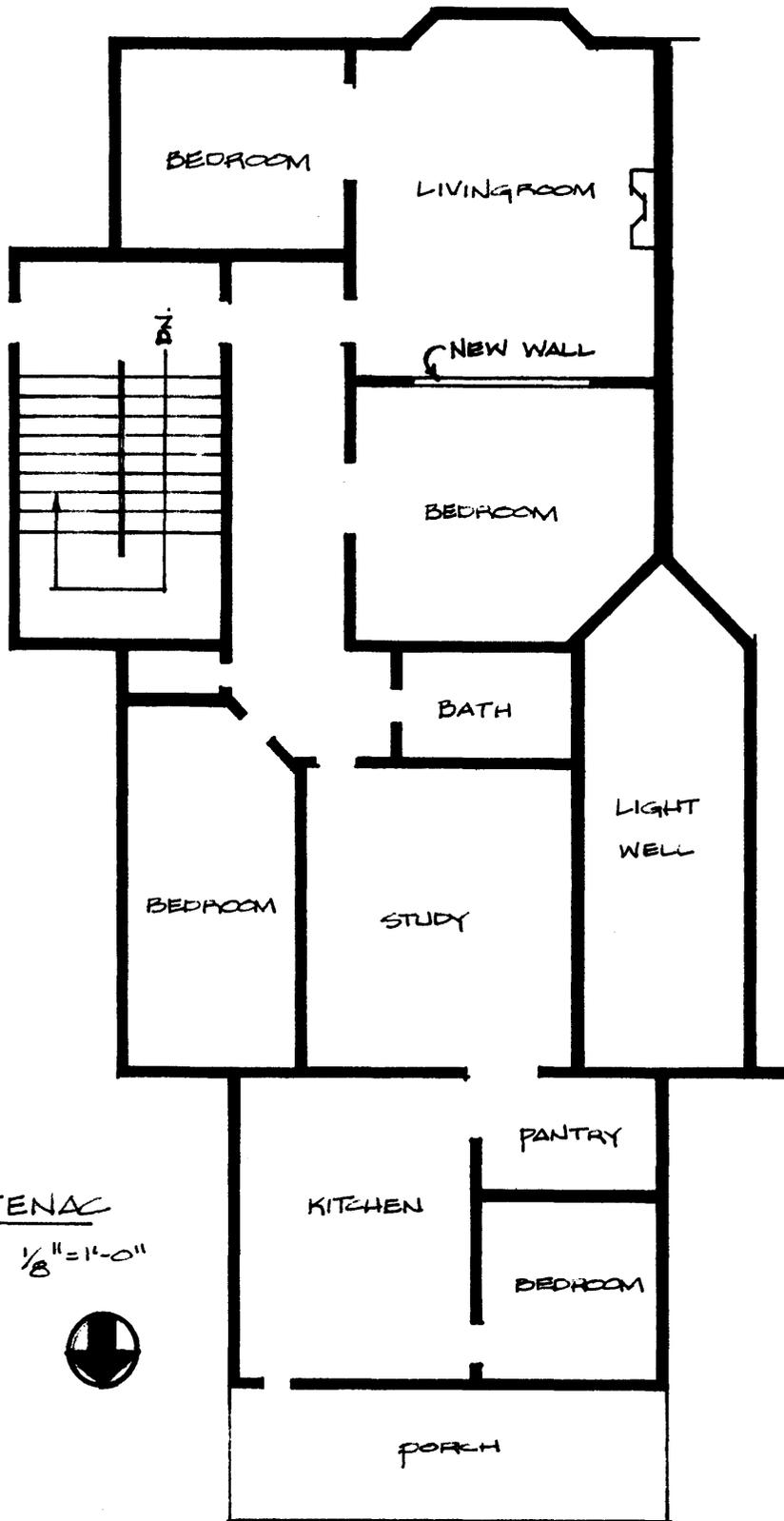
Sanborn Perris Map of Oshkosh 1903
State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Archives.



SITE PLAN - THE FRONTENAC

NO SCALE





THE FRONTENAC
 SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"



NOTE - ROOM DESIGNATIONS REFLECT CURRENT (NOT HISTORIC) USE.

STEELE
 10/81