

**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 Milwaukee News Building and Milwaukee Abstract Assn. Building *Association*
and/or common Law Offices. Shellow and Shellow

2. Location

street & number 222 East Mason Street not for publication
city, town Milwaukee vicinity of 5th congressional district
state Wisconsin code 55 county Milwaukee code 079

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
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" 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 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 James and Gilda Shellow
street & number 222 East Mason Street
city, town Milwaukee vicinity of Wisconsin state 53202

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds, Milwaukee County Courthouse
street & number 901 North Ninth Street
city, town Milwaukee vicinity of Wisconsin state 53233

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date May 1980 federal state county local
depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin
city, town Madison vicinity of Wisconsin state 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

The nomination comprises two buildings, constructed in 1879 (east) and 1884 (west). Both have a Creem City brick exterior (painted light green) and limestone foundations. The 1884 structure features a three-story projecting bay with a variety of wood ornament. Highly-decorated metal cornices inscribed with the construction dates crown both structures.

The two buildings were joined in 1970. The original appearance of the upper stories was retained, while the first story facades were altered, replacing the former glass-panel storefronts with a single brick facade. Segmental arch windows and entry follow the fenestration pattern of the upper stories. The cornice from the building on the east was extended across both addresses. The 1884 building originally had an English basement and a first floor walkup with a wrought iron railing. The basement level now features a new courtyard with a fountain designed by Orlandini Studios of Milwaukee.

In the 1970 remodeling, the common wall between the buildings was broken through and the interior space was re-designed. The interior now contains well-harmonized elements of the original structures, architectural antiques, and new additions. Original features include hardwood floors and some wainscoting and moldings. Bannisters, doors, hardware, and fire-place mantels (all floors have operating wood-burning fireplaces) were salvaged from now demolished Milwaukee mansions. The sconces for corridor and stairway lighting throughout the buildings were designed by Louis Sullivan for the Garrick Theatre in Chicago, and were purchased by the owner of the Milwaukee buildings after the theater's demolition. Brass chandeliers of various ages include some that were initially gas fixtures.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) journalism

Specific dates	1879 (east) ¹	Builder/Architect
	1884 (west)	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The nomination is of local significance because of the site's relationship to the history of journalism and commerce in Milwaukee and to the development of commercial architecture within the city.

ARCHITECTURE. These buildings are significant as part of an ever-diminishing number of small, three and four story, nineteenth century commercial buildings in downtown Milwaukee. The Milwaukee Architectural and Historical Survey has estimated that there are about forty such structures remaining in the central business district, an area which has undergone much demolition in the last two decades. In addition, the use of materials (Cream City brick, a prominent local brick) and the Picturesque ornamented facades of these buildings make them important on the basis of their typicality; they represent a part of the character of central Milwaukee in the late nineteenth century.

JOURNALISM. The 1879 Milwaukee News Building is significant for its role in the newspaper and printing history of Milwaukee. It was constructed for the Milwaukee News, established in 1848 as a "Democratic daily." The Journal of Commerce, a commercial weekly, shared the quarters. Most important, however is the structure's association with the Milwaukee Journal. In 1885, its third year of publication, The Daily Journal (as it was then called) moved to this address from around the corner on Broadway. The growing paper remained in this building until 1891, when it relocated in larger offices on the corner of Michigan and Milwaukee Streets. During the late nineteenth century, the stretch of Mason Street between Water Street and Broadway was a center for Milwaukee newspaper publishing. Several newspapers and magazines (the 1885 Milwaukee City Director lists fifteen) were located on the block, including the prominent Milwaukee Sentinel.

COMMERCE. The 1884 building was constructed as offices for the Milwaukee Abstract Association and for lawyer Samuel Howard, president of the firm. The Wisconsin Legal News, a daily report of "official city and county news," was also published at this address for a short time. In 1890, Howard founded the Milwaukee Title Insurance Company at this site.

¹ Facade of buildings.
Milwaukee Sentinel (March 6, 1879), p. 8, col. 4.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED
UTM NOT VERIFIED

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.075

Quadrangle name Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

U References

A

1	6	4	2	5	9	7	0	4	7	6	5	4	4	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

The West Twenty (20) feet and East Twenty (20) feet of the West Forty (40) feet of Lot Six (6) in Block Ten (10) in the Original Blocks, East of the River, in the North East One-quarter (1/4) of Section Twenty-nine (29), in Township Seven (7) North, Range Twenty-two (22) East, in

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries the City of Milwaukee.

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gail Hunton

organization Landscape Research date May 1980

street & number 3441 North Newhall telephone 414-332-1065

city or town Milwaukee state Wisconsin 53211

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. Macey

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 3/23/81

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>for entry</u> Keoper of the National Register	Entered in the National Register date <u>3/1/82</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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Continuation sheet

Item number 9

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bluhm, Donald A., "Remodeling Keeps Victorian Style," Milwaukee Journal (January 3, 1971).

Building Permit Records, City of Milwaukee, Office of Building Inspection.

Latus, Mark E. and Mary Ellen Young, Downtown Milwaukee (Milwaukee Landmarks Commission, 1978), p. 64.

Milwaukee City Directories, 1879-1900.

Milwaukee Sentinel (March 6, 1879), p. 8, col. 4.

Milwaukee Sentinel (November 14, 1890), p. 3, col. 2.

Milwaukee Sentinel Index.

Oehlerts, Donald E., Guide to Wisconsin Newspapers (Madison, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1958), p. 164, 165, 167, 173.

Shellow, Gilda. Information on interior remodeling.