United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form





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1. Nam	1e				
				Association	
historic Milw	waukee News Bui	lding a	nd Milwaukee Abs	stract Assn. Buildin	<u>g</u>
and/or common	Law Offices.	Shell	ow and Shellow		
2. Loca	ation				_
street & number	222 East Ma	son Stx	eet		not for publication
city, town	Milwaukee		vicinity of	congressional district	5th
state	Wisconsin	code	55 county	Milwaukee	code 079
3. Clas	sification	1			
Category district _X building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisitie in process being consider		Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible X yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agricultureX commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Pro	pert	У		
	1 0 1 1				
name	James and Gilda	a Suell	ow		
street & number	222 East Mason	Stree	t		
city, town	Milwaukee		vicinity of	state	Wisconsin 53202
5. Loca	ation of L	ega	Descripti	on	
courthouse, regi	stry of deeds, etc.	Regis	try of Deeds. Mi	lwaukee County Cour	thouse
	<u>, u.ou.,</u>				chouse
street & number		901 N	orth Ninth Stree	t	
city, town		Milwa	ukee	state	Wisconsin 53233
6. Rep	resentati	on ii	n Existing	Surveys	
	in Inventory of c Places	Ē	has this p	operty been determined el	∳gible?yesX no
date May 198	0			federalX sta	te county local
depository for su	ırvey records	ate Hi	storical Society		
city, town	Ma	adison		state	Wisconsin 53706

Condition excellent X good fair	deteriorated ruins unexposed	Check one unaltered _X altered	Check one X original site moved date	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

7. Description

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 prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 X 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C — archeology-prehistoric — archeology-historic — agriculture — X architecture — art — X commerce — communications		landscape architecture law literature military music mphilosophy politics/government	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify) journalism
Specific dates	1879 (east) 1884 (west)	Builder/Architect		

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The nomination is of \underline{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 importnat, 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.

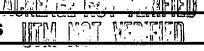
COMMERCE. The 1884 building was constructed as offices for the Milwaukee Abstract

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.

Facade of buildings.

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

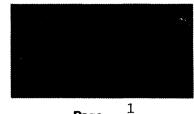


See continuation sheet.

10. Geograp	ohical Data		
Acreage of nominated prop Quadrangle name <u>Milwa</u>	erty 0.075		. 1.24000
U References	dree, wisconsin		Quadrangle scale 1:24000
A 1 6 4 2 5 9 7 0 Zone Easting	4 7 6 5 4 4 0 Northing	BZone	Easting Northing
C		D F ,	
G		н 🔟	
in Block Ten (10) in $(1/4)$ of Section Twe	feet and East Twen the Original Block nty-nine (29), in T	s, East of the 1 ownship Seven (the West Forty (40) feet of Lot S River, in the North East One-quart 7) North, Range Twenty-tow (22) Ea Inty boundaries the City of Milwauke
state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code
11. Form Pr	epared By		
- 1			
name/title Gail Hunt			Ma 1000
organization Landscape		dat	
street & number 3441 No	rth Newhall	tele	phone 414-332-1065
city or town Milwauk	ee	sta	te Wisconsin 53211
12. State Hi	storic Pres	ervation C	Officer Certification
The evaluated significance o	of this property within the s	state is:	
national	state	X local	
	property for inclusion in th	ne National Register a	c Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89– nd certify that it has been evaluated ion and Recreation Service.
State Historic Preservation (Officer signature	Kelevud	Menay
title Director. State	Historical Society	of Wisconsin	date 3/5/5/8/
For HCRS use only	is property is included in the		the .
		The second secon	
Keeper of the National Rec	jister .		

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Continuation sheet

Item number

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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, <u>Downtown Milwaukee</u> (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., <u>Guide to Wisconsin Newspapers</u> (Madison, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1958), p. 164, 165, 167, 173.

Shellow, Gilda. Information on interior remodeling.