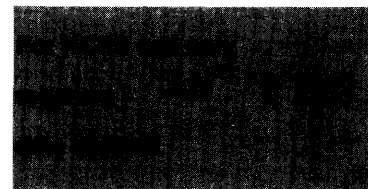


United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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 Peter Myers Pork Packing Plant & Willard Coleman Building

and/or common Koutsky & Berg

2. Location

street & number 117-123 North Main Street not for publication

city, town Janesville vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Wisconsin code 55 county Rock code 105

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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<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 Multiple - See Item 7

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Rock County Courthouse

street & number 51 South Main Street

city, town Janesville state Wisconsin 53545

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Janesville Intensive Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981-1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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

INTRODUCTION:

This nomination is for three buildings on North Main Street in Janesville. The buildings are on the north end of the former North Main Street Historic District. Due to an explosion and major fire in 1981, they are now separated from the rest of the buildings in the district by almost one block of vacant land. Since the area is likely to be redeveloped, there will be no connecting elements. Thus, it seems reasonable to revise the boundaries of the district and to submit these buildings as a separate nomination for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

DESCRIPTION:

117 North Main Street - Willard Coleman, Painter (The Bear Trap Saloon)
(N. 22' Lot 2, Blk. 42, Original Plat) Owner: Robert F. Berg
Built ca. 1858-60; 117 N. Main St.
Renovated ca. 1870-75; Janesville, WI 53545
Achieved Final Appearance ca. 1900-02

Two story, red brick building with a cast iron front with rosettes on the flat metal beam. The metal is inscribed "Lackawanna." The second story has a single window with a stone lintel and a metal and wood bay with palmetto frieze below the window and a frieze above the window. There is a simple band of decorative brickwork at the cornice. The first floor storefront is a recent change. No pictures have been found to determine if it is close to the original. The metal and wood bay was added between 1900 and 1902. Remodeling over the years has eliminated any of the original interiors.

119-123 North Main Street - The Peter Myers Pork Packing Plant
(119 North Main Street - Legal Action of Wisconsin; 121 North Main Street - The Main Waye - Women's Apparel; 123 North Main Street - Midwest Prosthetic - Orthotic Center)
Built ca. 1857; ca. 1868

Owner: Arthur W. Koutsky
P. O. Box 456
Dryden, Ontario, Canada

This is a two-story complex of two buildings of cream brick built in the Italianate style. The south two-thirds (119-121) is treated very simply, with arches of the six segmental windows formed by radiating bricks flush with the walls. The roof is flat and the cornice has been removed. The north one-third, 123 N. Main St., has more elaborate brickwork: the three second-story windows have three-tiered brick arches that spring from engaged brick pilasters; the cornice is of brick, well-laid in a varied pattern. The first story retains its cast-iron columns. The north side has simple segmental arched windows. The exterior brick walls have been uncovered in the interior of 119 and 121 N. Main St.; that is all that remains of the original building on the interior.

All three structures have recently benefited by recent restoration activities in Janesville. Project Facelift, sponsored by the Greater Janesville Corporation, provided architectural advice and matching grants for facade renovation in the downtown area. The work done on the buildings involved in this nomination is largely a result of that project. The city helped fund Project Facelift for two years through the use of Community Development Block Grant funds.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		assoc. w/significant person

Specific dates ca. 1850-80; ca. 1900¹ **Builder/Architect** unknown

period of significance: 1850-1884
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Peter Myers Pork Packing plant (#119-123) is of historic significance in its association with a person significant in the development of the city of Janesville; the north portion (#123) is also architecturally significant as representative of Victorian classical commercial design. The Willard Coleman building (#123) is architecturally significant as representative of early small-scale turn-of-the-century commercial design in Janesville.

Association With Significant Person (119-123 N. Main; association with Peter Myers: 1850-1844)

Peter Myers was born February 8, 1819 in France. He emigrated to the United States as a child, settling near Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He learned the butcher's trade and in 1845 moved to Janesville where he became a prime factor in the development of the city. He first opened a meat market, but in 1850 he devoted himself to the pork packing business. He also invested in business property and built a number of brick structures in the city, including the first brick residence (no longer standing). He operated the pork packing plant himself to start with and later turned the operation over to his son, Walter.

Some of his other commercial buildings were the Myers Hotel, the Myers Opera House, the Myers Armory Block, the Galbraith Stables and the Young America Block. Of these, only the Young America Block is still standing, and it has been much altered.

Peter Myers also invested a number of the early businesses in the city. He was a charter member of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company (now headquartered in Milwaukee) and one of the original stockholders in the following: the Rock County National Bank, the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad, the Chicago Northwestern Railroad, and the Janesville Cotton Mills.

Peter Myers died March 13, 1888. In reporting his death, the Janesville Gazette noted, "The lavish expenditure of his money in erecting buildings on which he could not hope to realize a fair margin of interest, has given Janesville a reputation for business blocks second to no inland city in the state."

The buildings at 119-123 N. Main St. are historically significant in that they were the site of the original business (pork packing) of Peter Myers, whose success allowed him to build the many fine business blocks important to the commercial growth of the city. They are the best-preserved commercial structures connected with Peter Myers. Number 123 N. Main has a cornerstone plaque embedded in the north pier of the facade which is inscribed "Erected by Peter Myers March 19, 1851."

¹ (Sources: City Assessment Rolls, 1854-1921; City Directories, 1858-1900; Sanborn Maps, 1884-1926; Rock County Republican, December 25, 1860; Brown Rock County, 1908; Portrait and Biographical Album of Rock County, 1889.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Brown, Wm. F., Rock County, Chicago: Cooper, 1908, 2 vols.
 Douglas, Nancy S., National Register of Historic Places nomination form, July 19, 1979.
 Janesville city directories, 1858-1958.
 Janesville Gazette, March 13, 1888, and March 19, 1888. (continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/2 acre

Quadrangle name Janesville West, WI

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

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3	3	4	1	18	10
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4	17	2	17	5	12	10
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 Zone Easting Northing

B

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

117 — N. 22', Lot 2, Blk. 42, Original Plat of Janesville
 119-23 — Lot 1, Blk. 42, Original Plat of Janesville

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries (Not applicable)

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Judy Adler

organization Community Development Authority date January 1983

street & number 18 N. Jackson St. telephone 608/754-2811

city or town Janesville, state Wisconsin 53545

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

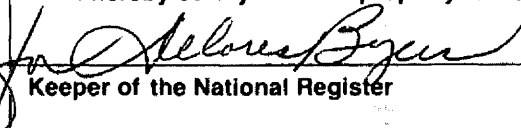
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

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 Meneay

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 5/23/83

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
 Keeper of the National Register	Entered in the National Register date <u>7/7/83</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

Peter Myers Pork Packing Plant & Willard Coleman Building
Continuation sheet Janesville, Rock Co., Wis. Item number 8

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Page 1

Architecture

117 N. Main St. - Willard Coleman Building

Examination of photographs of the front and rear of this building along with city assessment rolls and city directories indicate that this building was built ca. 1858-60, renovated in the early 1870's and achieved its early twentieth century appearance ca. 1900-1903. With the installation of the bay, the building is typical of small scale early twentieth century commercial architecture in Janesville, equal in quality to other pivotal buildings of the period in the former North Main Street District.

Willard Coleman acquired the property between 1890 and 1894. He was a contract painter doing house and sign painting. He had his business there and lived above it until the 1920's.

The interior of the building has been remodeled over the years so that there is no original fabric remaining.

(Sources: City of Janesville Assessment Rolls, 1854-1921, City Directories, 1858-1931; Sanborn Maps, 1884-1926).

123 N. Main Street

Architecturally, the northern portion of the former Peter Myers Pork Packing Plant represents one aspect of Victorian commercial construction in the city of Janesville, which still retains one of the state's best collections of buildings of that period. More classical than purely Italianate, the building appearance was probably achieved ca. 1868, after the original structure (adjoining 119 N. Main) was built. The metal classical cornice above the storefront is probably a later period modification.

(The 1870 City Director shows that W. E. Goodman, a gas steam fitter had his business at 119 N. Main, the original section of Myers Pork Packing Plant. The Pork Packing Plant was operated at this location by Peter Myer's son, Walter until the early 1880's.)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

Peter Myers Pork Packing Plant & Willard Coleman Building
Continuation sheet Janesville, Rock Co., Wis. Item number 9

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date entered

Page 1

Major Bibliographical References (continued)

Portrait and Biographical Album of Rock County, Wisconsin. Chicago: Acme Publishing Co.,
1889.

Rock County Republican, December 25, 1860.

Sanborn Maps, 1884-1926.