OMB No. 10024-0018

NPS Form 10-900 (Expires 5/31/2012) Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

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JUL - 8 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places National Park Service

United States Department of Interior National Park Service

1. Name of Property

historic name

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Orchard Street Historic District

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

2. Location							
street & number			Avenue to the north, to the south, and Ken		N/A	not for p	oublication
city or town	Racine				N/A	vicinity	
state Wisconsin	code	WI county	Racine	code	101	zip code	53405
	~						
3. State/Federal	Agency Certif	fication					
			ric Preservation Act, a umentation standards t				
equest for determina Historic Places and many meets _ does not many statewide X locally.	tion of eligibility leets the procedure the National R (See continuation	meets the doct ral and profess Register criteria	umentation standards to ional requirements set a. I recommend that the	for registering proper forth in 36 CFR Patis property be consi	erties in rt 60. In	the National	Register of the proper
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Orchard Street Historic District		Racine	Wisconsin
Name of Property		County and St	tate
4. National Park Service	ce Certification		
I hereby certify that the property is: entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the	Edson	H. Beall	8.22.16
National Register. See continuation sheet.			
removed from the National	-		
Registerother, (explain:)	A		
other, (explain.)	1) ren		
	Signature of the Ke	eper	Date of Action
5. Classification			
Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resou	rces within Property
(check as many boxes as	(Check only one box)		eviously listed resources
as apply)		in the count)	
X private	building(s)	contributing	noncontributing
public-local	X district	47	4 buildings
public-State	structure	0	0 sites
public-Federal	site	0	0 structures
	object	0	0 objects
		47	4 total
	State and Province of the Control	The second of the second secon	▲ Michael A Levis Transfer of the Constant American
Name of related multiple pr		Number of contri	
(Enter "N/A" if property not plisting.)	part of a multiple property	previously listed i	n the National Register
N/A		0	*
N/A		<u>y</u>	590
6. Function or Use			

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instru		Current Functions Enter categories from inst	mustions
DOMESTIC/single dwelling		OMESTIC/single dwelling	
DOMESTIC/single dwelling	<u> </u>	ONIESTIC/single dwent	ig.
			-
7. Description			
1 101 161 16	ar.		
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instru	**************************************	Materials (Enter categories from	m instructions)
Late 19 th and 20 th Century R	evivals/ Colonial Revival	Foundation – Concre	
Modern Movement	evivais/ Colonial Revival		
	: 1/m 1 p : 1	Walls - Brick	No.
Late 19th and 20th Century R		Roof – Asphalt	
Revival - Century R	Levivals/ Mission/ Spanish Colonial	Other - Wood	
	tury American Movements/ Bungalo	w	
Late 19 and Early 20 Cen	tury American Movements/ Bungalo	W	

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Orchard Street Historic District Racine Wisconsin Name of Property County and State

8. Statement of Significance

(Marl	icable National Register Criteria ("x" in one or more boxes for the criteria fying the property for the National Register listing.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) Architecture
_ A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	
_B	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	Period of Significance
<u>X</u> C	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	1929 to 1952
_D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates N/A
	ria Considerations c "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	
Prope	erty is:	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)
_ A	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	N/A
_B	removed from its original location.	
_ C	a birthplace or grave.	Cultural Affiliation
_ D	a cemetery.	N/A
_ E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
_ F	a commemorative property.	Architect/Builder
_ G	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	Kratochvil, Anton Henriksen, Louis G.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Orchard Street Historic District Racine Wisconsin

Name of Property County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- _ designated a National Historic
- landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency Federal Agency
- X Local government
- University

X Other

Name of repository:

Racine Heritage Museum Archive

Wisconsin Historical Society

City of Racine Building Department

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 13.00 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16N	432099	4730595	3	16N	432241	4730076	
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	16N	432249	4730591	4	16N	432106	4730077	
2	1010	432249	4/30391	4	1010	432100	4/300//	
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing	

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Rowan Davidson & Jennifer L. Le	hrke, Historic	Preservation	n Consultants		
organization	Legacy Architecture, Inc.			date	July 31, 2015	
street & number	605 Erie Avenue, Suite 101			telephone	(920) 783-6303	
city or town	Sheboygan	state	WI	zip code	53081	

Orchard Street Historic District Racine Wisconsin

Name of Property County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title Various separate listing

organization date
street & number telephone
city or town state zip code

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Orchard Street Historic District Racine, Racine County, WI

Narrative Description

The Orchard Street Historic District is located in the Manree Park Neighborhood on the western edge of the city of Racine in southeastern Wisconsin. The district stretches, north to south, along Orchard Street and a section of the parallel Russet Street one block to the east. The district, and the immediate neighborhood surrounding it, is identifiable by the prevalence of Revival style single-family homes constructed in the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s along wide suburban streets on rectilinear blocks. In fact, the very wide parkways (the area between the sidewalk and the street) are unusual in Racine and are a unique feature of this neighborhood. The decision to widen the parkways, in comparison to the width of those in adjacent neighborhoods, was a purposeful design decision. The effect was to allow neighbors a comfortable space to interact with each other while keeping cars and vehicle traffic at a greater distance. These wide parkways are also a perfect setting for shade trees which also enhance the character, comfort and beauty of the neighborhood. The Orchard Street Historic District consists of 51 residential buildings, and its development began with the plating of the Manree Park Neighborhood in the mid-1920s and continued into the 1950s, when the last available lots were developed. Representative of prevailing residential architectural styles of the period, Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival, Ranch, and Minimal Traditional styles are common and demonstrate high levels of integrity and quality.

The majority of construction within the district took place during a historic period of economic development and expansion in Racine. The 1920s and the 1930s, despite the economic Depression, were decades of growth in Racine, which boasted dozens of successful businesses, often focused on industrial manufacturing. Many of the residents in the district and surrounding neighborhood worked in such businesses, either as owners, managers, engineers, or clerks. The Orchard Street area was initially platted and developed in the late 1920s, and the lots and homes purchased and constructed individually by the initial owners. Almost all the houses in the district are accompanied by either attached or detached garages. Most of these appear to date from the district's period of significance and match the style of the associated home. The neighborhood is owner occupied and the homes are well cared for consequently, it is one of Racine's most architecturally intact historic residential areas.

The Orchard Street Historic District's resources consist of medium to large homes built along early suburban residential streets. The district's 47 contributing and 4 non-contributing resources were constructed between 1929 and 1958. The non-contributing resources have been excluded due to decreased architectural integrity or because their scale, building materials and later date of construction differentiate them from the earlier houses.

The contributing buildings are well constructed and reflect aspects of life in Racine during the period of significance and the variety of styles, closely aligned with periods of construction, reflect the

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Orchard Street Historic District Racine, Racine County, WI

architectural trends of the era in which they were built. The streetscape reflects variety in architectural expression, especially in the diversity of façade design, decoration and size, while maintaining consistency of scale, setback, wide lawns and shade tree-lined terraces. Much of the variation is displayed in size and expense rather than style, with the homes of the clerks and city employees mixed in with corporate executives, doctors, and leading figures in the economic and social life of Racine during the first half of the twentieth century. Exterior alterations to the original buildings have been minimal and have generally been limited to window and door replacements in their original openings, additions, and occasional siding replacement or covering. The buildings within the Orchard Street Historic District are well preserved and have much of the same appearance today as they did when they were originally constructed.

Building Descriptions

The following are brief descriptions of selected representative examples of the district's resources, in approximate chronological order by style.

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements/ Bungalow

Nels Matson House

1032 Russet Street

1929

The Nels Matson House (see photo #1) is a one and one-half story small brick house with a rectangular plan. The foundation is likely masonry but is not visible at grade. The entire first floor is of orange colored brick with little decoration and is a couple of feet above grade with narrow windows along the basement level. There is a small porch at the north end of main façade with a concrete stoop and a pair of brick columns supporting a large roof. The porch has a Jerkinhead roof, and like the main roof and dormer roof the house, comes to a chamfered gable end. The gable end itself is painted wood shingle siding. The main entry has a curved opening; the fenestration follows a rectangular shape. Centered on the remaining portion of the main façade is a large wood-framed picture window. The main roof line comes to a gable end with deep recessed eaves with a pair of wood windows. The roof is covered with light colored asphalt shingles. On either side of the house, to the north and south, is a large dormer with a pair of wood windows. Windows on these sides of the house are smaller than the main picture window and are paired with painted wood frames. There is a painted, wood-frame, two car garage in the rear. The garage has a Jerkinhead roof and eaves that match the house.

Nels Matson constructed this bungalow with local Racine-based builder Carl Korndoerfer at a cost of \$6,900. It was one of the first houses constructed in the neighborhood and is the oldest house in the Orchard Street Historic District. This one-and-a-half-story brick bungalow house is characterized by its Jerkinhead roof with wide overhanging eaves, asymmetrical facades, and a small porch. In the

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Orchard Street Historic District Racine, Racine County, WI

District, bungalow homes are invariably brick and modest in size.

Tudor Revival

Adolph R. and Gertrude Janecky House

1003 Orchard Street

1930

The Adolph and Gertrude Janecky House (see Photo #3) is a large, two-story brick house with an irregular plan. The foundation is likely masonry but is not visible at grade. The brown colored brick used around the entire house varies in color and tone and is rusticated intermittently. The main façade is dominated by a large, symmetrical, steeply pitched gable end with a set of three arched windows along the first floor and a single arched window and small balconette on the second story. The main entry is located to the south (right-hand side) of this gable, is recessed and is marked by a narrow stoop and an arched door with a stone arch surround. Most of the windows around the rest of the house are rectangular double- hung wood windows. Windows on the house are generally set in wood frames on stone sills and are often paired or arranged in bands. The house features additional stone details such as keystones, decorative buttresses, and gable end returns. The compound roof combines a steeply pitched gable end with a chamfered peak, and pyramidal and hipped roof forms. There is also a tall, brick chimney visible along the main façade. An attached two-car garage, constructed of brick and wood to match the house, is set back from the main block of the house.

Adolph and Gertrude Janecky constructed this large Tudor Revival style house at 1003 Orchard Street in 1930. The \$20,000 home was constructed by the general contractor J.D. Edwards & Company from Milwaukee. Adolph Janecky was a prominent attorney in Racine during the 1920s and 1930s. The Janecky House is one of the earliest and largest homes in the Orchard Street Historic District. This two story brick Tudor Revival house is characterized by its asymmetrical façade, steeply pitched roof, arched openings, and stone details.

Albert O. and Mary Falkenrath House

936 Orchard Street

1937

The Albert and Mary Falkenrath House (see Photo #4) is a large, two story house of red brick and is complimented with stone details and half-timbering in the side gables. The foundation is likely masonry but is not visible at grade. The main façade is composed of a two-story gable end protruding from the south side of the house with a wood-frame bay window along the first floor and a pair of wood double-hung windows on the second floor, centered on the façade. The windows are set on stone sills with brick soldier course lintels. The rest of the main façade has an arched wood door with a rusticated stone surround. The north end of this side gable portion has a pair of double-hung windows along the first floor and a gabled wall dormer with a single wood frame window on the second floor. The windows have deep canvas awnings over them. The two side facades, to the north

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and south, have double-hung windows on both floors and wood half-timbering at the brick gables. The roof is steep with shallow wood eaves and a single large brick chimney. There is a matching brick detached two car garage at the rear.

Albert and Mary Falkenrath constructed this large Tudor Revival style house at 936 Orchard Street in 1937 for \$13,300. Albert Falkenrath was the President of the Racine Screw Works, a tool and die manufacturer. The house is characterized by its asymmetrical façade and plan, pitched roof, red brick, and half-timber and wood details. The builder of the house is unknown.

N. Frederick and Lenore Adamson House

1019 Orchard Street

1941

The N. Frederick and Lenore Adamson House (see Photo #2) is a large, two-story brick and stucco house with an L-shaped plan. The foundation is likely masonry but is not visible at grade. Much of the house, on all facades and both stories, is of dark brick and complimented with stone and wood details. The main façade features one large gable end extending toward the street on the southern end of the house and a recessed wall plane where the front door is located. The first floor of the gable end section has a large bay window with four windows and transoms in a wood frame; the windows are leaded glass with the panes in a diamond pattern. Above this portion is an extended second floor with shallow wood brackets and is half-timber wood frame and stucco with a pair of wood double-hung windows. The remainder of the main façade is setback, has the main entry door with a narrow concrete stoop and a large stone surround and a wood door with leaded glass panes. There is also a small narrow window set on a stone sill next to the front door; it also is of leaded glass in a diamond pattern. Above the door is a pair of small double-hung windows with stone surrounds with a shallow wall dormer with a shed roof. Windows are typically wood and double-hung with the exception of the front bay and the leaded glass window by the front door which are casement windows. The roof has a moderate pitch with asphalt shingles and no eaves. There is a wood and stucco half-timber detached two car garage at the rear.

Frederick and Lenore Adamson constructed this large Tudor Revival style house at 1019 Orchard Street in 1941. The \$15,000 home was constructed by the general contractor Kamm Brothers, Inc. and is a fairly late example of the Tudor Revival style in Wisconsin. N. Frederick Adamson was the Vice President of the Twin Disk Clutch Company in Racine during the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s. This house exhibits characteristics of the Tudor Revival style including its asymmetrical façade featuring a prominent gable end, half-timber decorative features, bay window, leaded glass, and stone details.

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Orchard Street Historic District Racine, Racine County, WI

Colonial Revival

Louis H. and Marie Hamilton House

737 Orchard Street

1936

The Louis and Marie Hamilton House (see Photo #6) is a large, two story stone house with a rectangular plan. The foundation is likely masonry but is not visible at grade. Most of the house, on all facades and both stories, is composed of a cut-stone veneer in an irregular pattern. The asymmetrical main façade features a large door in a wood frame at the north end of the first floor and a bay window, divided into three, double-hung sections, at the south end of the façade. This shallow bay window sits on a stone sill similar to the rest of the fenestration on the house. The second floor of the main façade has a single, double-hung window above the door and a pair of double-hung windows above the bay window. The house is oriented so that it is deeper than it is wide, which makes it distinct from many of the neighboring homes. The side and rear facades also are completed with the cut-stone veneer and typically have pairs of double-hung wood windows on the first floor and individual double-hung wood windows on the second floor. The roof is a shallow hipped form with shallow wood eaves and a single chimney, also constructed with the light-colored stone veneer. There is a cut-stone, detached two car garage with a pyramidal roof to the south of the house.

Louis and Marie Hamilton constructed this Colonial Revival style house at 737 Orchard Street in 1936. Louis Hamilton was the founder of the Hamilton-Beach Company and the Wisconsin Electric Company, also known as the Dumore Company. These companies produced precision tools and electric motors for industries and household machinery. Through these companies, Louis Hamilton was instrumental in making Racine an international center of design and production of fractional horsepower electric motors. The Hamilton house was constructed by contractor W.E. Wendland for \$8,000. This house is characterized by its somewhat unusual use of a cut-stone façade and its combination of stylistic features of both the Colonial Revival and Mediterranean Revival styles. The Hamilton family had lived at two other addresses in Racine prior to residing at 737 Orchard Street and would later move to another new home, also in the Manree Park Neighborhood but outside of the district, in 1949.

Leonard J. and Frances Wellnitz House

733 Orchard Street

1937

The Leonard and Frances Wellnitz House (see Photo #7) is a large, two-story house of red brick with a rectangular plan. The foundation is likely masonry but is not visible at grade. The main façade facing

¹ "Co-founder of two industries, Louis H. Hamilton, dies, 76." *Racine Journal-Times*. April 11, 1957; & City of Racine Directories, 1876-1984. On file at the Wisconsin Historical Society Library, Madison, WI; & "History of Hamilton Beach," Hamilton Beach website. http://www.hamiltonbeach.com/history-of-hamilton-beach.html Accessed November 11, 2014.

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the street is a symmetrical side gable. The first floor of the main façade has a large door in a wood frame in the center with a transom window, pilasters, and entablature. On either side of the door is a single, large, double-hung window with brick sills and wood shutters. The second floor of the main façade has three matching double-hung wood windows, slightly smaller, and centered above, also with brick sills and wood shutters. Windows on the other sides of the house match the double-hung wood windows found on the main façade. All of the wood trim on the house is painted white. The roof is side gabled with a moderate pitch, asphalt shingles and a shallow wood cornice. The side walls are symmetrical and one side has a brick chimney centered on the wall. There is a small frame, detached, one-car garage in the rear.

Leonard and Frances Wellnitz constructed this Colonial Revival style house at 733 Orchard Street in 1937. The house was constructed by local builder Otto Jensen for \$7,000. Leonard Wellnitz was a production manager for the Dumore Company in Racine during the 1930s and 1940s. This two story red brick Colonial Revival house is characterized by its rectilinear side-gabled orientation, symmetrical façade, and centered entrance accented with slender pilasters, a pediment and transom window. There are a number of similarly designed houses in the Orchard Street Historic District.

Russell T. and Charlotte Johnson House

1004 Orchard Street

1950

The Russell and Charlotte Johnson House (see Photo #8) is a large, two-story red brick house with a rectangular plan. The foundation is likely masonry but is not visible at grade. All of the house is constructed with a brick veneer with occasional brick details and soldier course banding. The main façade is wide and symmetrical and faces the street with the central bay bumped out approximately a foot from the façade. The front door is centered and prominently featured with the distinguishing characteristics of a Colonial Revival style entrance: a wood door with a transom and sidelight surrounds, beaded wood details, and a wood cornice capped in copper. There is a large, double-hung wood window on either side of the main door along the first floor of the main façade. These windows are wide with concrete sills, flanking applied wood shutters, and a brick lintel with a concrete key stone. The first and second floors are divided by a band of soldier coursed brick. The second floor of the main façade is similar to the first with three windows symmetrically spaced across the tripartite façade. Each window matches those below, with one centered over the door. Above these windows is a narrow and shallow wood cornice with a copper gutter wrapping around the house. Fenestration elsewhere on the house is similar to the large, double-hung wood windows on the main façade. All of the wood exterior details are painted white. The roof is a shallow hipped roof with asphalt shingles and two brick chimneys. The north end of the building has an extended section along the first floor leading to a red brick two car garage. The garage has a pyramidal roof with a louvered wood monitor at the peak.

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Russell and Charlotte Johnson constructed this house in 1950. The \$32,000 home, one of the largest in the Orchard Street Historic District, was constructed by the local builder Carl Korndoerfer. Russell Johnson was the Assistant Secretary for the large tractor manufacturer J.I. Case during the 1940s and 1950s. This two-story red brick Colonial Revival House is characterized by its symmetrical façade, rectilinear massing, accentuated front door, six-over-six double-hung windows and a hipped roof.

Italian Renaissance/Mediterranean Revival

Katie and John Oster, Sr. House

928 Orchard Street

1933

The Katie and John Oster, Sr. House (see Photo #5) is a large, two-story house of light colored brick and with a rectangular shaped plan. The foundation is likely masonry but is not visible at grade. The main façade features a small, projecting entry bay. This entry has a single, arched door with a stone surround and is capped with a shed roof with one gable end directly above the door. On either side of the entry door on the symmetrical main façade are two arched windows, each is a separate wood double-hung window with a brick sill and a brick arch above. The second floor of the main façade has a single, small, double-hung window over the entry feature and a pair of double-hung rectangular windows spaced equally to either side of the façade centered over the pair of arched windows below. Fenestration around the rest of the house follows a similar pattern with arched double hung windows on the first floor and rectangular ones on the second floor. There are also glass block windows that provide light to the basement on the side facades. The pyramidal roof has no eaves, but has copper gutters and downspouts, a matching brick chimney, and asphalt shingles. There is a matching brick and wood detached, two-car garage at the rear of the house.

Katie and John Oster, Sr. constructed this house in 1933. The house was built by the local builder Otto Jensen for \$10,000. After working as an engineer and local entrepreneur, John Oster, Sr. teamed with Oscar Lackner and Len Kobal to start the Oster Manufacturing Company. The company made haircutting clippers and other small electric tools, including a popular kitchen blender. In 1946, Oster purchased the Stevens Electric Company and a patent for their liquefying blender along with it. By the 1950s, the company was large and manufactured a wide variety of electric tools including hair dryers, vaporizers, humidifiers, and aviation controls in addition to blenders. The electric blender was renamed the 'Osterizer' and was very successful. John Oster's son, John Oster, Jr., succeeded his father as president in 1953. The same year John Oster, Jr. had a house constructed in the Orchard Street Historic District located at 904 Orchard Street.² The Oster, Sr. house is a restrained example of the

² Building Permit Log. City of Racine Directories, 1876-1984; & "One of Oster founders, Oscar E. Lackner, dies." *Racine Journal-Times*. June 1, 1978; & "Oster's family made Osterizer Blender." *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. December 18,

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Italian Renaissance style and characteristics of the style include its pyramidal roof, two-story boxy massing, symmetrical façade, the arches above the entrance and the first story windows, and the simpler and paired rectangular windows at the second story. Its lack of eave overhang and brackets is more closely related to the Mediterranean Revival style but the home lacks other stylistic features of that style.

Moderne/Regency Revival

Erwin and Thelma Wall House

726 Orchard Street

1936

The Erwin and Thelma Wall House (see Photo #9) is a two-story brick house with a rectangular plan. The foundation is likely masonry but is not visible at grade. The entire house is of light colored brick veneer and although has a boxy form, horizontal emphasis with horizontal brick bands spaced equally extending up approximately two-thirds of the height of the symmetrical main façade facing the street. The main façade features an entry that extends out with a simple wood door slightly recessed in the center. This entry feature has little decoration which allows attention to be drawn to the curved corners of the door surround. The entry is flanked by two, large wood, double-hung windows on either side of the main facade. Each of these windows has brick sills and lintels with flanking applied wood shutters painted a dark grey. The second floor of the main façade is also symmetrical with smaller double-hung wood windows on either side of the main façade and a small hexagonal window centered over the entry. Fenestration elsewhere on the building is similar with double-hung wood windows with brick sills and lintels spaced symmetrically along the side and rear facades. The north façade has a two-story extension from the otherwise completely rectangular box shape of the house. This extended section matches the rest of the house with its brick façade and banding and large double-hung wood windows; however, it lacks the applied shutters found on the first floor of the main façade. The low pitched hipped roof has a very shallow wood cornice, a matching brick chimney at the south end, and asphalt shingles. The entry portion and the side extension have flat roofs. There is a wood frame detached two-car garage at the rear of the house.

Erwin and Thelma Wall constructed this house in 1936. The Wall House shares characteristics of the Moderne and Regency Revival styles, an unusual composition not commonly found in Racine County. The uniform wall surface, rectangular massing, very narrow eave, the curved corners at the front entrance, and the horizontal brick banding all strongly suggest characteristics of the Moderne style. The Regency Revival is a variant of the Colonial revival style and on this house, those stylistic references include the brick walls, hipped roofline, the symmetry of the façade, the polygonal window

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at the second floor, and double-hung windows. The builder of the house was Hardd Strand

Vernacular

Arthur M. and Frances Olson House

830 Orchard Street

1941

The Arthur and Frances Olson House (see Photo #10) is a one-and-half-story brick building with a circular plan. The foundation is likely masonry but is not visible at grade. The entire house is constructed of light colored brick veneer with little variation or decorative features. The house is oriented at an angle, with the main entry facing southeast and one of four gable ends facing the street. The main entry is set under a small, wood frame, open porch; the simple single door is set in a wood frame. This entry is flanked by two, double-hung wood windows, all within the covered porch. Similar wood framed double-hung windows continue around the circumference of the building on the first floor; however, these windows are not spaced equally or symmetrically around the circumference of the building and their locations are likely dictated by the interior plan. Each of the four gable ends has a pair of double-hung wood windows centered on the façade. These windows also have simple wood frames and brick sills. The roof is an unusual shape with a cruciform pattern of four crossing gable ends on top of what would otherwise be a domed or conical shape. There are shallow eaves around the domed sides and simple wood trim at the gable ends. The front porch form continues from this roof with a nearly flat top and hipped corners. The roof has asphalt shingles.

Arthur and Frances Olson constructed this house in 1941. Arthur Olson was an Assembler at the Modine Manufacturing Company in Racine. The \$5,680 home was constructed by local builder Anton Kratochvil who was responsible for the design of at least a dozen centric homes in Racine and the rest of southeast Wisconsin. This house is a vernacular interpretation of a cross-gabled form. Its lack of stylistic cues emphasize that the house's strongest features are its cross-gable form, curved walls and its circular plan. More information about Anton Kratochvil is located in Section 8 of this nomination.

Minimal Traditional

Robert Sorenson House

1036 Russet Street

1946

The Robert Sorenson House (see Photo #11) is a small, one-story house with an L-shaped plan. The foundation is likely masonry but is not visible at grade. The house is constructed of light colored brick, commonly found in the surrounding area, and has painted wood trim. The house is located on a corner, and the main façade faces Russet Street to the east. The east façade features one gable end of the L-shaped plan with one small narrow wood window at the southern end of the wall with a brick sill. There is a pair of double-hung wood windows at the north end of this wall with a brick sill, wood

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shutters on both sides, and a metal awning. Above these windows is a circular louvered opening centered on the gable end. The southern side of the main façade is occupied by an open porch with a concrete floor, concrete steps and covered by a large metal canopy supported by two, metal lattice columns. There is a large operable window centered on this wall facing the east. The main wood entry door with its stone surround, faces south. The southern façade is a gable end with four windows spaced equally along the first floor. The first two windows to the east are similar double hung wood windows on brick sills, each with a canvas awning. The last of the three to the west is a smaller window, also with an awning. The second floor of this gable end has a center window. The fenestration around the other sides of the house matches that found on the eastern and southern facades. The moderate pitched roof has a narrow wood eave and asphalt shingles. A small brick chimney is located toward the back of the house.

Robert Sorenson commissioned this house in 1946. The \$8,500 single story brick house was built by local builder Peter Olson. Notably, many of the smaller houses in the Orchard Street Historic District and the surrounding neighborhood constructed in the post-war period are of brick.

Ranch

John R. and Ardessa Anderson House

916 Orchard Street

1947

The John R. and Ardessa Anderson House (see Photo #12) is a one-story brick house with a T-shaped plan. The foundation is likely masonry but is not visible at grade. The house is constructed of red brick with painted wood siding and trim in the gable ends. The main façade facing the street to the west features a gable end at the southern end and a large picture window centered along the brick wall at the north end of the house. The large, bowed, picture window at the north end of the main façade is composed of twenty individual panes set in a horizontal pattern four panes high and five wide. The main entry is a wood door and sidelight tucked under the roof of the gable end at the approximate center of the main façade. The corner of the roof at this point is supported by a painted metal lattice column which creates a small covered area at the front door. There is a pair of double-hung wood windows centered along the red brick wall at the first floor of this gable end. This window, and the others on the house, rests on a concrete sill, and its lintel aligns with the underside of the eaves. The top of the gable end transitions to wood siding with a round window centered under the peak. The moderately pitched roof has wood eaves and soffit, a brick chimney, and asphalt shingles. There is an attached garage slightly set back along the south façade of the house that matches the house, having red brick, a side gable, and painted white wood details.

John R. and Ardessa Anderson constructed this house in 1947. The \$16,000 single story house is the first Ranch style home in the Orchard Street Historic District and one of the oldest in the surrounding

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neighborhood. John Anderson was the owner of the Anderson Drug Company, a local pharmacy. The Anderson House is characterized by its single story plan, attached garage, large windows, and references to the Colonial Revival style. The builder of the house is unknown.

Building Inventory

The following inventory lists every building in the district and includes the address of the property; the historic name; the date or circa date of construction; the resource's contributing (C), or non-contributing (NC); and architectural style of the building.

Address	Historic Name	<u>Date</u>	Class	<u>Style</u>
4019 Kinzie Avenue	Earl H. & Florence Hess House	1949	C	Ranch
4020 Kinzie Avenue	William B. & Jean Danford House	1958	NC	Contemporary
4100 Kinzie Avenue	Albert J. & Janis Jensen House	1946	C	Colonial Revival
4020 Lindermann Avenue	Arthur H. & Bernice Johnson House	1950	C	Ranch
704 Orchard Street	Leonard C. & Bertha Tagatz House	1930	C	Tudor Revival
708 Orchard Street	Louis & Helen Luker House	1931	C	Tudor Revival
712 Orchard Street	Arthur D. & Angeline Clauson House	1935	C	Bungalow
718 Orchard Street	William L. & Norma Ulrich House	1945	C	Ranch
722 Orchard Street	Bryon Longenfeldt House	1941	C	Colonial Revival
726 Orchard Street	Erwin & Thelma Wall House	1936	C	Moderne/Regency Revival
727 Orchard Street	Richard D. & Hazel Cory House	1947	C	Ranch
733 Orchard Street	Leonard J. & Frances Wellnitz House	1937	C	Colonial Revival
736 Orchard Street	Gerald D. & Alice Nelson House	1950	C	Ranch
737 Orchard Street	Louis H. & Marie Hamilton House	1936	C	Colonial Revival
800 Orchard Street	Robert L. & Marjoire McQueen House	1942	C	Colonial Revival
805 Orchard Street	Eleanor P. Goepfert House	1949	C	Colonial Revival
810 Orchard Street	Evan S. & Ruth Miller House	1938	C	Colonial Revival
811 Orchard Street	George E. & Helen Cooke House	1936	C	Colonial Revival
814 Orchard Street	George S. & Hazel Strombeck House	1942	NC	Minimal Traditional
815 Orchard Street	Norval C. & Merelda Johnson House	1945	C	Minimal Traditional
822 Orchard Street	Harold C. & Ruth Jensen House	1946	C	Minimal Traditional
825 Orchard Street	George W. & Alice Carnell House	1946	C	Georgian Revival
826 Orchard Street	Auge A. & Hazel Jensen House	1952	C	Ranch
830 Orchard Street	Arthur M. & Frances Olson House	1941	C	Contemporary
831 Orchard Street	Victor L. & Elsie Anderson House	1936	C	Mediterranean Revival
904 Orchard Street	John Jr. & Eleanor Oster House	1946	NC	Colonial Revival
909 Orchard Street	Russell C. & Ellen Evans House	1941	C	Colonial Revival
913 Orchard Street	Richard J. & Jean Guenther House	1952	C	Ranch
916 Orchard Street	John R. & Ardessa Anderson House	1947	C	Ranch
922 Orchard Street	Ansgar E. & Marjorie Hansen House	1936	C	Colonial Revival
927 Orchard Street	Charles & Caroline Kristerius House	1941	C	Minimal Traditional
928 Orchard Street	Katie and John Oster, Sr., House	1933	C	Italian Renaissance /

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				Mediterranean Revival
936 Orchard Street	Albert O. & Mary Falkenrath House	1937	C	Tudor Revival
937 Orchard Street	Clarence K. Howe House	1933	C	Colonial Revival
1003 Orchard Street	Adolph R. & Gertrude Janecky House	1930	C	Tudor Revival
1004 Orchard Street	Russell T. & Charlotte Johnson House	1950	C	Colonial Revival
1010 Orchard Street	Joseph C. & Evelyn Fanning House	1956	NC	Split-Level
1011 Orchard Street	Peter E. & Emily Mogensen House	1938	C	Colonial Revival
1018 Orchard Street	Frederick P. & Lillian Nelson House	1936	C	Mediterranean Revival
1019 Orchard Street	N. Frederick & Lenore Adamson House	1941	C	Tudor Revival
1026 Orchard Street	Ella D. Beach House	1936	C	Tudor Revival
1029 Orchard Street	Ralph W. & Leone Strand House	1941	C	Minimal Traditional
932 Russet Street	Edward J. & Winnie Ritter House	1929	C	Tudor Revival
936 Russet Street	William M. & Martha Ballentyne House	1942	C	Colonial Revival
1004 Russet Street	Ernest J. Schmeller House	1937	C	Colonial Revival
1010 Russet Street	Harold E. & Evelyn Cripe House	1939	C	Colonial Revival
1020 Russet Street	George W. & Vivian Walter House	1949	C	Colonial Revival
1022 Russet Street	John E. & Eleanor Christensen House	1950	C	Colonial Revival
1028 Russet Street	Louis Larson House	1938	C	Tudor Revival
1032 Russet Street	Nels Matson House	1929	C	Bungalow
1036 Russet Street	Robert Sorenson House	1946	C	Minimal Traditional

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Orchard Street Historic District Racine, Racine County, WI

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Orchard Street Historic District was identified for its concentration of single family suburban homes arranged along two blocks of Orchard and Russet streets in the Manree Park Neighborhood of the City of Racine and constructed between 1929 and 1958, having local significance under National Criteria C for Architecture. The period of significance is 1929-1952 which encompasses the date of construction of the earliest contributing house and the last contributing house built in the district. The Orchard Street Historic District is locally significant under National Register Criteria C as an architecturally important collection of residential buildings that together constitute a well-defined and visually distinct geographic and historic entity.

The Orchard Street Historic District has boundaries roughly delineated by Haven Avenue to the north, Russet Street to the east, Lindermann Avenue to the south, and Kentucky Street to the west. The district is located near the western edge of the City of Racine and is comprised of 47 contributing resources and 4 non-contributing resources. Individually, the contributing resources include very fine representative examples of several of the most popular styles applied to domestic architecture in Wisconsin during the period of significance. The period of significance from 1929 to 1952 reflects twenty-three years of domestic architecture and suburban planning and begins with the construction of the district's oldest home, the Nels Matson House, a Bungalow style home located at 1032 Russet Street. Since that date, homes constructed in the district conformed aesthetically to revival and more modern residential styles. The period of significance ends in 1952 with the construction of two Ranch style homes in the District. Four houses within the district are non-contributing due to decreased architectural integrity or because their scale, building materials, and later date of construction differentiate them from the contributing houses.

The houses within the Orchard Street Historic District are well preserved and have much the same appearance today as they did when constructed. Exterior alterations to the original buildings have been minimal and have generally been limited to window replacements in their original openings, some alterations, and replacements. The result is now one of Racine's most architecturally intact historic residential areas.

Historic Context

The City of Racine was first settled in 1836 and incorporated as a village in 1843. When Wisconsin received statehood in 1848, Racine was one of the first communities to incorporate as a city that year. Racine experienced rapid growth during much of the nineteenth century due to its prominence as a

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milling, industrial, and transportation hub in support of the plentiful farms in southeast Wisconsin.³ The Western Historical Company published *The History of Racine and Kenosha Counties, Wisconsin*, a comprehensive history of the County and City of Racine, in 1879.⁴ This 700-page, illustrated and indexed history contains not only an extensive chronological history of the County, but also histories of its pioneers, immigrants, government, transportation, churches, schools, professions, press, politics, towns, and biographies of individuals, and it is an invaluable resource that goes far beyond the possible scope of this survey in describing the history of the City and County. Likewise, John Buenker's and Richard Ammann's work *Invention City: The Sesquicentennial History of Racine* provides an excellent history of the City during the twentieth century.⁵ Consequently, the history that follows will deal primarily with the history of the Manree Park Neighborhood, where this district is located.

The Manree Park Neighborhood was originally within the Town of Mount Pleasant. The Town of Mount Pleasant was organized in 1842 with a population of 312 settlers. Two farming families, the Walkers and the Reeds, settled in this portion of the Town of Mount Pleasant along a toll plank road that would become Washington Avenue that ran between the City of Racine and the small settlement of Wygatt's Corner. Plat maps from 1858 show the Walker family settled on 160 acres. By 1893, the Reed family occupied adjacent land. Dairy farming was the dominant economic pattern in the Town of Mount Pleasant in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, and the Walker and Reed farms were no exception. Plat maps from 1899 through 1915 show the continued occupation of the Reed and Walker family farmsteads, with their houses and agricultural buildings situated at the southern edge of their properties along Washington Avenue. Until the early twentieth century these farms comprised the entire survey area.

Meanwhile, the population of the City of Racine had reached 23,840 by 1890 and showed no sign of slowing down. New and existing industries expanded Racine's industrial base after the turn of the twentieth century. The demand for productivity during World War I further boosted the city's economy as major foundries, machine shops, and automotive and farm implement manufacturing establishments converted to military production. During the last half of the 1910s, the number of manufacturers in Racine County increased by more than 20%, wage earners increased by 50%, and the value of their output nearly tripled. At the same time, the county's agricultural output boomed, peaking in 1919. The growth of these industries, accompanied by a severe manpower shortage, led to

³ The Grassroots History of Racine County. Racine County Historical Museum. Racine, WI. 1978, page 133.

⁴ The History of Racine and Kenosha Counties, WI. Chicago, IL: Western Historical Company, 1879.

⁵ Buenker, John and Richard Ammann. *Invention City: The Sesquicentennial History of Racine*. Racine, Wisconsin: Racine Heritage Museum, 1998.

⁶ The Grassroots History of Racine County, page 100.

⁷ The History of Racine and Kenosha Counties, WI, page 629.

⁸ The Grassroots History of Racine County, pages 134-136.

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continued growth in Racine's population. By the end of the 1920s, Racine County ranked second to Milwaukee in value of industrial products and manufacturing employment in the State of Wisconsin.

The resulting population growth spurred Racine's largest growth in area due to annexation during the 1910s and 1920s. ¹⁰ A combination of declining profits from dairy farming combined with growing land values encouraged many farmers to sell farmland on the outskirts of urban areas for development. ¹¹ The decline of the agricultural industry accompanied by the upgrading and consolidation of rural schools, the installation of electricity and telephones, the proliferation of automobiles, and the resulting improvement of roads led to further expansion into rural areas through the 1920s and 1930s.

By the early 1920s, a number of small residential lots were developed on the western city limits along Lathrop Avenue and into the Town of Mount Pleasant along Washington Avenue. In 1925, members of the Reed family platted a portion of their property northwest of the intersection of Washington and Lathrop avenues in collaboration with the surveying and development firm L.O. Mann & Son Company. The subdivision was named Manree Park, likely an amalgamation of the two names Mann and Reed. Lot sales and construction of homes began soon afterward and continued through the following three decades. In 1926, the Reeds platted another subdivision with a dozen other smaller landowners from the western portion of their property and small portions from a dozen other landowners as the Hillcrest Addition; however, development of this subdivision failed to take off. The same year the portion of the Town of Mount Pleasant west of Lathrop Avenue to Kentucky Street made up of the original Walker and Reed farms, was annexed into the City of Racine in anticipation of residential development. The remaining portion of the neighborhood, from Kentucky Avenue to S. Ohio Street, was annexed by the City of Racine in 1929.

In collaboration with L.O. Mann & Son again in 1929, the Reeds platted the Manree Park No. 2 subdivision as an extension of and immediately west of Manree Park, between it and Hillcrest. While slow to take off, lot sales and construction of homes eventually steadied in the coming decades. ¹⁷ An

⁹ Buenker, John and Richard Ammann. *Invention City*, pages 96-112.

¹⁰ Burckel, Nicholas C., Ed. *Racine: Growth and Change in a Wisconsin County*. Racine, WI: Racine County Board of Supervisors, 1977, pages 289-303.

¹¹ Sankey, Alice. *Racine, the Belle City*. Racine, WI: Racine Board of Education, 1958, page 163.

¹² Plat and Subdivision Maps and Records. On file at the Racine County Register of Deeds, Racine County Courthouse, Racine, Wisconsin.

¹³ Building Permit Log. On file at the Building Inspector's Office, Racine City Hall, Racine, Wisconsin.

¹⁴ Plat and Subdivision Maps and Records.

¹⁵ Building Permit Log.

¹⁶ Plat and Subdivision Maps and Records.

¹⁷ Building Permit Log.

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advertisement in the *Racine Review* from 1929 announces the opening of Manree Park #2 with "163 lots, 22 solid, restricted city blocks." Slow development of Manree Park No. 2 and Hillcrest Addition subdivisions coincided with the nationwide trend of limited housing development during the Great Depression. During that time, Racine's manufacturing output was cut in half and overall employment declined by forty percent. In 1933, forty percent of the Racine County's population was behind in their property taxes and twenty percent were on some sort of relief.

During the Great Depression, companies such as Johnson Wax, Twin Disc, and Western Printing made conscientious efforts to maintain employment of their workers on maintenance tasks such as painting and repairs. Companies worked to remain competitive and profitable by implementing technical developments and developing patented innovations. These efforts by several companies prevented matters from worsening in Racine and aided the painfully gradual recovery into the 1940s. The unionizing of the Racine's workforce during this time, increased the average weekly wage in the city to second highest in the state by the end of the decade, created better working conditions with generous benefits, and ultimately led to a disproportionately high number of blue collar homeowners. 19 Notable companies that were established and flourishing during the early twentieth century in Racine included Oster Manufacturing, J.I. Case, Massey-Harris, Hamilton-Beach, Dumore, Twin Disc Clutch, Modine Manufacturing, Andis Clippers, Western Printing and Lithographing, Horlick Co., and S.C. Johnson. Many of the residents in the Manree Park Neighborhood were involved with these companies, as owners, managers, or workers.²⁰ Due to the steadier economic condition of these companies compared to others in the state and country, the Manree Park Neighborhood continued to develop during the 1930s and early 1940s. Homes were built in almost every year from 1929 to 1945 in the Manree Park, Manree Park No. 2, and Hillcrest Addition subdivisions.²¹

By 1940, the population of Racine reached 67,195, and the City tripled in area due to annexation.²² Areas on the outer fringes of the city became new suburban enclaves for the city's more prosperous residents. The Manree Park Neighborhood was no different, with its earliest development along Lathrop Avenue, Russet Street, and Orchard Street being one of Racine's premiere residential neighborhoods from the mid-1920s through the mid-1940s, largely populated by business owners, managers, and professionals.²³

¹⁸ "Manree Park #2, Speer and Reed," *The Racine Review*. May 24, 1929, page 81.

¹⁹ Buenker, John and Richard Ammann. *Invention City: The Sesquicentennial History of Racine*, pages 96-112.

²⁰ Building Permit Log; & The Grassroots History of Racine County, pages 197-220.

²¹ "1937 Aerial Map," Wisconsin Historic Aerial Image Finder, Wisconsin Cartographer's Office website http://www.sco.wisc.edu/aerial-photography-catalog.html Accessed October 2, 2014; & Building Permit Log; & Plat and Subdivision Maps and Records.

²² The Grassroots History of Racine County, pages 137-138.

²³ Buenker, John and Richard Ammann. *Invention City*, pages 96-112.

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The outbreak of World War II and the subsequent economic boom successfully brought Racine, along with the rest of the nation, out of the Depression. War contracts spurred unprecedented gains in production and employment in the manufacturing sector. Employment doubled from 1939 to 1945. Thousands of women, African Americans, and even prisoners of war were put to work in the effort to produce war materials. The industrial economy of Racine boomed, with its companies and inventors producing more patents than all but one other county in the United States. However, the demand for employees became so great by 1943 that the federal government recognized Racine County as having an acute labor shortage, which in turn influenced higher incomes. A resulting population jump, caused by the influx of new residents attracted to Racine by its expanding economy, created a critical housing shortage.

After completion of neighborhoods such as Manree Park, Racine continued to expand outward, primarily with tracts of suburban-style ranch houses to the west and south during the post-World War II baby boom years, reaching its present spatial boundaries in the early-1960s and a peak population of 94,580 inhabitants in 1978. As of 2010, the City of Racine has had a population of 78,860. While other neighborhoods in Racine have shown signs of the city's decline in population and a greater occurrence of unsympathetic remodeling of its historic building stock, the Manree Park Neighborhood has been relatively stable, with its historic building stock largely intact, and remains one of the city's most beloved residential neighborhoods.

Architecture

The Orchard Street Historic District is locally significant in the area of architecture because many of its buildings are good examples of popular residential architectural styles from the early- to mid-twentieth century. As a whole, it is an area that maintains a high level of integrity that reflects the development of the district within the larger Manree Park Neighborhood of Racine during the period of significance. The following are brief descriptions of the architectural styles represented within the district, listed in the chronological order in which they were popular, as well as good examples of those styles.

Bungalow

From 1910 to 1940, the Bungalow was a popular residential form in Wisconsin, classified for its plan,

²⁴ Sankey, Alice. *Racine, the Belle City*, page 135.

²⁵ Buenker, John and Richard Ammann. *Invention City*, pages 96-112.

²⁶ Burckel, Nicholas C., Ed. Racine: Growth and Change in a Wisconsin County, page 279; & The Grassroots History of Racine County, page 139.

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not stylistic features. These buildings can appear in several variants. It can be one story or two stories tall. The roofs can be gabled or hipped and may have decorative, exposed rafter ends. If the house is one story, the roof is generally low sloped. If the house is two stories, the roof often starts above the first floor and is more steeply pitched to allow for the second floor. Features of Bungalow homes include dominant fireplaces and chimney, exposed and exaggerated structural elements, and porches supported by massive piers. The exterior design is adaptable to many different stylistic interpretations and can be seen with Colonial, Craftsman, Tudor, Japanese, and Spanish influences. Bungalows are clad in natural materials such as wood clapboards, shingles, brick, stone, stucco, or a combination thereof in order to achieve the desired stylistic interpretation.²⁷

There are two Bungalows within the Orchard Street Historic District: the Nels Matson House, located at 1032 Russet Street and constructed in 1929 and already mentioned previously in this nomination, and the Arthur D. and Angeline Clauson House, located at 712 Orchard Street and constructed in 1935.²⁸

Tudor Revival

The Tudor Revival style, based on English building traditions, is typified by a steeply pitched roof dominated by one or more prominent cross gables, an irregular plan, and the style's hallmark decorative half timbering, generally on the second floor or gable ends, infilled with stucco or brick. Characteristic elements also include tall, narrow, and multi-paned windows in multiple groups, oriel windows, one- or two-story semi-hexagonal bay windows, massive chimneys commonly crowned by decorative chimney pots, and decorative strapwork. Exterior wall materials are typically a combination of brick, stone, clapboard, wood shingles, and stucco. Rare examples attempt to mimic the picturesque thatch roofs of rural England by rolling roofing materials around the building's eaves and rakes.²⁹

There are eight Tudor Revival style buildings within the Orchard Street Historic District. Notable amongst these are the Edward J. and Winnie Ritter House, located at 932 Russet Street and constructed in 1929; the Leonard C. and Bertha Tagatz House, located at 704 Orchard Street and constructed in 1930; and the Ella D. Beach House, located at 1026 Orchard Street and constructed in 1936.³⁰

²⁹ McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984, pages 355-356.

²⁷ Blumenson, John J. G. *Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945.* Second Ed. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1981, page 71.

²⁸ Building Permit Log.

³⁰ Building Permit Log.

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Colonial Revival

The Colonial Revival style became especially popular due to the restoration of Williamsburg, Virginia, in the early twentieth century. The style is characterized by gable roofs, dormers, simple columns and pilasters, denticulated cornices, and shutters. Residences are typically two stories in height and faced with clapboards. Most commonly rectangular in plan, later examples may assume an L-shaped form to accommodate a breezeway and garage. The simple and regular style lent itself well to standardization, extending its popularity into the 1950s and beyond.³¹

The most prevalent style within the district, there are nineteen Colonial Revival style buildings within the Orchard Street Historic District. Notable amongst these are the Ansgar E. and Marjorie Hansen House, located at 922 Orchard Street and constructed in 1936; the Harold E. and Evelyn Cripe House, located at 1010 Russet Street and constructed 1939; and the Robert L. and Marjorie McQueen House, located at 800 Orchard Street and constructed in 1942.³²

Georgian Revival

Because of their reference to early American Georgian architecture, some forms of the Colonial Revival style are more properly referred to as Georgian Revival. These tend to be structures larger in scale and more richly finished than typical Colonial Revival buildings. Characteristic of the Georgian Revival style are formal symmetrical facades, rectangular plans, hipped roofs, and classical embellishments including denticulated cornices, elliptical fanlights, sidelights flanking doorways, Palladian windows, broken pediments, and classical columns.³³

There is one Georgian Revival style building within the Orchard Street Historic District, the George W. and Alice Carnell House, located at 825 Orchard Street and constructed in 1946.³⁴

Mediterranean Revival

The Mediterranean Revival style is relatively rare in Wisconsin. Homes in this style are often architect designed and constructed of brick with stone trim. They may feature straight or arched openings, columns, stone balconies and porch railings, and low sloped, red clay tile, hipped roofs. The Mediterranean Revival style is often planned around a courtyard and exhibits flat wall surfaces, broken

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³¹ Wyatt, Barbara, Ed. *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin: Volume 2, a Manual for Historic Properties.*Madison, Wisconsin: Historic Preservation Division State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, page Architecture 2-29.

³² Building Permit Log.

³³ Wyatt, Barbara, Ed. Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin: Volume 2, page Architecture 2-28.

³⁴ Building Permit Log.

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by arcading, terra cotta, plaster, or tile ornamentation, sometimes drawing on classical motifs. This style is often used for both residential and commercial buildings.³⁵

There are three buildings that incorporate elements of the Mediterranean Revival style within the Orchard Street Historic District: the Victor L. and Elsie Anderson House, located at 831 Orchard Street and constructed in 1936; the Katie and John Oster Sr., House at 928 Orchard Street and constructed in 1933; and the Frederick P. and Lillian Nelson House, located at 1018 Orchard Street and completed in 1936.³⁶

Regency Revival

The Regency Revival style is a variant of the Colonial Revival style, more closely based on the style of English architecture. The Regency Revival style, as a simplified version of Colonial Revival, relies on classical proportions and lines rather than decorative embellishments. Simplified colonial door surrounds, quoins, plain roof-wall junctures, and octagonal accent windows are typical. Some examples feature a delicate ironwork entry porch covered by a minimal canopy roof. The exterior of Regency Revival style houses are commonly of stucco or painted plaster.³⁷

There is one house that incorporates elements of the Regency Revival style within the Orchard Street Historic District, the Erwin and Thelma Wall House, located at 726 Orchard Street and constructed in 1936.³⁸

Minimal Traditional

The term Minimal Traditional style covers a wide variety of homes constructed in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s in an attempt to construct affordable and simplified houses that maintained the form of traditional eclectic styles, but lack the decorative detailing found in their precedents. Minimal Traditional buildings commonly refer to the Colonial, Tudor, and Mediterranean Revival styles with low roof pitches, shallow eaves, simple L- and T-Shaped plans, a prominent chimney and entry, and a lack of ornament. Common in most communities of the period, the style uses a wide variety of building materials in one and one and a half story construction.³⁹

There are six Minimal Traditional style buildings within the Orchard Street Historic District. Notable

³⁵ Wyatt, Barbara, Ed. Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin: Volume 2, page Architecture 2-32.

³⁶ Building Permit Log.

³⁷ McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester. A Field Guide to American Houses, pages 330-332.

³⁸ Building Permit Log.

³⁹ Wyatt, Barbara, Ed. Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin: Volume 2, page Architecture 3-1.

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amongst these are the Charles and Caroline Kristerius House, located at 927 Orchard Street and constructed in 1941, and the Harold C. and Ruth Jensen House, located at 822 Orchard Street and constructed in 1946.⁴⁰

Ranch

The Ranch style originated in California during the mid-1930s, designed to reflect a more informal lifestyle. It became the dominant style for suburban, single family residences throughout the United States during the 1950s and 1960s, especially in large, sprawling, affordable suburban tract developments. It is the most pervasive residential style found along the western edge of Racine around the district. Ranch homes are typically single story. Examples may feature hipped or gabled roofs with a moderate or wide eave overhang. They are generally rectangular, L-, or U-shaped in plan with horizontal and asymmetrical façades. Attached garages, sliding glass doors, and large picture windows are common Ranch features. Wooden or aluminum siding and brick are the most typical wall claddings, often used in combination. Examples of the Ranch style may incorporate modest elements of other styles. These may include decorative iron or wooden porch supports and decorative shutters of Spanish or English Colonial influence or ribbon or wrapped corner windows of the International Style.⁴¹

There are eight Ranch style buildings within the Orchard Street Historic District. Notable amongst these are the John R. and Ardessa Anderson House at 916 Orchard Street, constructed in 1947, and the Richard J. and Jean Guenther House at 913 Orchard Street, constructed in 1952. 42

Architects and Builders

Anton Kratochvil

Anton Kratochvil was born in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, around 1886. His family relocated to Racine in 1901, where he soon began working as a carpenter. In his early 20s, he traveled the country as a vaudeville entertainer, contortionist, and juggler. He was proclaimed to be the only man in the world at the time that could ride a unicycle across a slack wire and was billed as "the Marvelous Kradwell." Around 1912, he began a design and construction company with his brother August, who owned a local lumber mill. He constructed numerous buildings in Racine independently during the 1920s, most of which were Bungalow and Period Revival style houses. In 1935, Kratochvil ran an unsuccessful

⁴⁰ Building Permit Log.

⁴¹ McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*, page 479.

⁴² Building Permit Log.

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campaign for mayor.⁴³

During the late 1930s, he became fascinated by his nephew Ernest's igloo-shaped ice cream stand. He recognizing that a round, octagonal, or oval shaped building possessed more square footage than a square or rectangular shaped building with the same perimeter and could be constructed for ten to twenty percent less. He also claimed that centric-designed houses would cost less to heat and be more structurally stable to high wind. In 1939, Kratochvil copyrighted his design for a circular house and erected a small, one-story circular house at 2012 Rapids Drive on Racine's northwest side. This round house and his ideas on affordable housing construction received press coverage in the *Milwaukee Sentinel*. Kratochvil constructed four more round houses in Racine by 1941. That same year, he constructed a round house on Orchard Street in the City of Racine's Manree Park Subdivision. He was joined in business by his son, Clyde, and Earl Burgess to form Circular Homes, Inc. The company advertised a number of models, including "The Royde," "The Convertible," "The Champion", "The Leader", and "The Challenger." They went on to build at least 15 circular houses in Racine, including the Arthur M. and Frances Olson House located at 830 Orchard in the district, and sold plans to builders across Wisconsin and the Midwest.⁴⁴

From around 1956 through 1961, Anton's son, LeRoy, joined him in business under the name Anton Kratochvil & Son. An advertisement in the *Racine Journal Times* for Anton Kratochvil & Son dated November 4, 1956 states that "Its Sound if Its Round" and lists the advantages of round building as more "pride, space, convenience and health." The advertisement makes it clear that Kratochvil also sold plans in addition to working as a builder. Anton carried on alone from 1962 to 1967, when he retired. He died in 1969 at the age of 83. 45

Carl Korndoerfer

Carl Korndoerfer was a builder in Racine from 1926 to 1954, specializing in masonry construction. Carl Korndoerfer constructed three houses in the Orchard Street Historic District during this period including the Nels Matson House at 1032 Russet Street, the Russell T. and Charlotte Johnson House at 1004 Orchard Street, and the Louis Larson House at 1028 Russet Street. In 1954, Carl Korndoerfer's son, C.W. Korndoerfer, took over the business as Korndoerfer Corporation, which expanded to larger projects across Wisconsin. By the 1970s, the firm was one of the largest builders in Wisconsin. Though the company was sold in 1986, it is still in operation.

⁴³ "Round the Corner: Architect Liked Curves Not Angles." *Racine Journal Times*. December 8, 1988.

⁴⁴ "Circular Homes, Inc." Advertisement, *Racine Journal Times*. February 21, 1949.

⁴⁵ "It's Sound if it's Round." *Racine Journal Times*. November 4, 1956; & Building Permit Log.

⁴⁶ Building Permit Log.

⁴⁷ "Korndoerfer Sells." Racine Journal Times. July 25, 1986; & "Our Story," Korndoerfer Homes Inc. website.

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J.D. Edwards & Company

J.D. Edwards and Company is a design and construction firm located in Racine that has constructed buildings in southeast Wisconsin throughout the twentieth century. The firm constructed the Adolph and Gertrude Janecky House in the Orchard Street Historic District. J.D. Edwards & Company is still active as a design-build firm in Racine. Little else is known at the present time about J.D. Edwards and Company.

Kamm Brothers, Inc.

George Kamm and his brother worked as contractors in Racine during the 1910s, 1920s, and 1930s and constructed the Frederick and Lenore Adamson House in the Orchard Street Historic District.⁴⁹ Little else is known at the present time about the careers of the Kamm Brothers.

Louis G. Henriksen

Louis G. Henriksen began work as a carpenter in Racine around 1925. By 1927, Henriksen partnered with Peter Clausen to form Clausen & Henriksen Well Built Homes, a residential design and construction firm. In 1930, co-sponsored by the Racine Journal-News, Henriksen built a model home to demonstrate modern construction methods and showcase new materials and furnishings, documented by a special 23-week column in the *Journal Times*. The Tudor Revival style house is located on the north side of Racine at 3617 North Main Street in the then newly developing outskirts of the city. The Clausen and Henriksen partnership ended by 1931, when Henriksen went out on his own under the name Certified Home Builders & Finance Company, advertising himself as a Designer, Contractor, and Builder of Dependable Homes. By 1933, Henriksen was listed as an architect and continued working as an architect and builder in the City of Racine through 1955. Eight of the houses in the district were constructed by Louis G. Henriksen including: the Arthur D. and Angeline Clauson House at 712 Orchard Street, the Robert L. and Marjorie McQueen House at 800 Orchard Street, the Evan S. and Ruth Miller House at 810 Orchard Street, the Peter E. and Emily Mogensen House at 1011 Orchard Street, the George S. and Hazel Strombeck House at 814 Orchard Street, the Leonard C. and Bertha Tagatz House at 704 Orchard Street, the Louis and Helen Luker House at 708 Orchard Street, and the William M. and Martha Ballentyne House at 936 Russet Street. 50

<www.korndoerferhomes.com> Accessed October 21, 2014.

⁴⁸ Building Permit Log.

⁴⁹ Building Permit Log.

⁵⁰ General Files. On file at the Racine Heritage Museum, Archives/Research Center, Racine, Wisconsin; & Building Permit Log.

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Otto Jensen

Otto Jensen worked as a builder in Racine during the 1930s and 1940s and constructed two houses in the Orchard Street Historic District during this period, the Leonard and Frances Wellnitz House at 733 Orchard Street and the John and Katie Oster House at 928 Orchard Street.⁵¹ Little else is known at the present time about the career of Otto Jensen.

Peter Olson

Peter Olson worked as builder in Racine during the 1940s and constructed six houses in the Orchard Street Historic District during this period including the Robert Sorenson House at 1036 Russet Street, the George W. and Vivian Walter House at 1020 Russet Street, the Ralph W. and Leone Strand House at 1029 Orchard Street, the George W. and Alice Carnell House at 825 Orchard Street, the Norval C. and Merelda Johnson House at 815 Orchard Street, and the Eleanor P. Goepfert House at 805 Orchard Street. Little else is known at the present time about the career of Peter Olson.

W.E. Wendland

W.E. Wendland was the contractor for the construction of the Louis H. and Marie Hamilton House at 737 Orchard Street.⁵³ Little else is known at the present time about the career of W.E. Wendland.

Conclusion

The Orchard Street Historic District is nominated under National Register Criteria C in the area of Architecture, locally significant as a fine collection of homes demonstrating the range of residential architectural styles during its period of development between 1929 and 1952. The district conveys a sense of architectural cohesiveness through its architectural designs of 51 single-family homes arranged along two blocks of Orchard and Russet streets in the City of Racine. Representative of the prevailing architectural styles of the time, Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival, Mediterranean Revival, Minimal Traditional, Ranch, and other styles are prominent within the district. The buildings within the Orchard Street Historic District are well preserved, maintain architectural integrity, and have much the same appearance today as they did when constructed. The result is now one of Racine's most architecturally intact historic residential areas.

⁵¹ Building Permit Log.

⁵² Building Permit Log.

⁵³ Building Permit Log.

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Statement of Archeological Potential

This area of Racine County near the Root River was likely home to considerable Native American activities. While it is almost certain that the construction of the homes within this historic district would have greatly disturbed archeological artifacts, it is possible that Native American resources may be extant within the boundaries of the district in Racine. Archaeological potential remains unassessed.

Preservation Activities

The Orchard Street Historic District has been fortunate in consistently attracting long-term home owners who have taken pride in their historic properties and have maintained them. In addition, the City of Racine is proactive in promoting, protecting, and preserving Racine's historic resources. In listing this district, the City of Racine hopes to provide the opportunity for home owners to obtain historic tax credits and/or other incentives to maintain and preserve their properties.

Acknowledgments

This program receives Federal financial assistance for identification and protection of historic properties. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or disability or age in its federally assisted programs. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, 1849C Street NW; Washington, DC 20240.

The activity that is the subject of this Nomination has been financed entirely with Federal Funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, and administered by the Wisconsin Historical Society. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior or the Wisconsin Historical Society. Nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior or the Wisconsin Historical Society.

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Major Bibliographical References

There are a wealth of resources available on the history of the City of Racine and the Manree Park Neighborhood. The information and research already produced on these subjects far exceeds the purpose of this district nomination. The following bibliography contains works with considerably more breadth and information on individual historical subjects and buildings; in particular, the work of local historians whose research can be accessed through the Racine Heritage Museum.

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Orchard Street Historic District Racine, Racine County, WI

Verbal Boundary Description

The proposed district consists of the legal parcels associated with the 47 contributing and 4 non-contributing resources within the district and may be defined by the general description:

Beginning at the corner of the west curb line of Orchard Street and the south curb line of Haven Avenue near the northeast corner of the lot associated with 704 Orchard Street, continue south along the west curb line of said street to a point near the southeast corner of the lot associated with 722 Orchard Street, turn 90 degrees and continue east along the north property line of the lot associated with 727 Orchard Street to the northeast corner of said lot, turn 90 degrees and continue south along the east property line of said lot to the northwest corner of the lot associated with 932 Russet Street, turn 90 degrees and continue east along the north property line of said lot to the west curb line of Russet Street near the northeast corner of said lot, turn 90 degrees and continue south along the west curb line of said street to the north curb line of Lindermann Avenue near the southeast corner of the lot associated with 1036 Russet Street, turn 90 degrees and continue west along the north curb line of said street to the east curb line of Orchard Street near the southwest corner of the lot associated with 4020 Lindermann Street, turn 90 degrees and continue north along the east curb line of said street to a point near the northwest corner of said lot, turn 90 degrees and continue west along the south property line of the lot associated with 1026 Orchard Street to the southwest corner of said lot, turn 90 degrees and continue north along the west property line of said lot to the south curb line of Haven Avenue near the northwest corner of the lot associated with 704 Orchard Street, turn 90 degrees and continue east along the south curb line of said street to the beginning.

The boundaries of the proposed Orchard Street Residential Historic District are clearly delineated on the accompanying district map and enclose an area of 13 acres.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the proposed Orchard Street Residential Historic District enclose all the areas historically associated with the district's resources. While the adjacent areas are residential in nature, they were not constructed within the district's period of significance or do not maintain the historic integrity or scale of the residences contained within the district boundaries. The result is a cohesive district with as few non-contributing properties as possible.

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Name of Property: Orchard Street Historic District

City or Vicinity:

County:

Racine County
State:

Wisconsin
Name of Photographer:

Rowan Davidso

Name of Photographer: Rowan Davidson
Date of Photographs: October 24, 2014

Location of Original Digital Files: Wisconsin Historical Society
Historic Preservation Division

Madison, WI

Photo #1 (WI_RacineCounty_OrchardStreetHistoricDistrict_0001)

1032 Russet Street, facing west

Photo #2 (WI_RacineCounty_OrchardStreetHistoricDistrict_0002)

1019 Orchard Street, facing east

Photo #3 (WI_RacineCounty_OrchardStreetHistoricDistrict_0003)

1003 Orchard Street, facing east

Photo #4 (WI_RacineCounty_OrchardStreetHistoricDistrict_0004)

936 Orchard Street, facing west

Photo #5 (WI_RacineCounty_OrchardStreetHistoricDistrict_0005)

928 Orchard Street, facing west

Photo #6 (WI_RacineCounty_OrchardStreetHistoricDistrict_0006)

737 Orchard Street, facing east

Photo #7 (WI_RacineCounty_OrchardStreetHistoricDistrict_0007)

733 Orchard Street, facing east

Photo #8 (WI RacineCounty OrchardStreetHistoricDistrict 0008)

1004 Orchard Street, facing west

Photo #9 (WI_RacineCounty_OrchardStreetHistoricDistrict_0009)

726 Orchard Street, facing west

Photo #10 (WI_RacineCounty_OrchardStreetHistoricDistrict_0010)

830 Orchard Street, facing west

Photo #11 (WI_RacineCounty_OrchardStreetHistoricDistrict_0011)

1036 Russet Street, facing west

Photo #12 (WI_RacineCounty_OrchardStreetHistoricDistrict_0012)

916 Orchard Street, facing east

Photo #13 (WI_RacineCounty_OrchardStreetHistoricDistrict_0013)

726 Orchard Street and 722 Orchard Street, facing southwest

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Photo #14 (WI_RacineCounty_OrchardStreetHistoricDistrict_0014)
928 Orchard Street and 922 Orchard Street, facing southwest
Photo #15 (WI_RacineCounty_OrchardStreetHistoricDistrict_0015)
936 Orchard Street and 1004 Orchard Street, facing southwest
Photo #16 (WI_RacineCounty_OrchardStreetHistoricDistrict_0016)
1020 Russet Street and 1010 Russet Street, facing northwest

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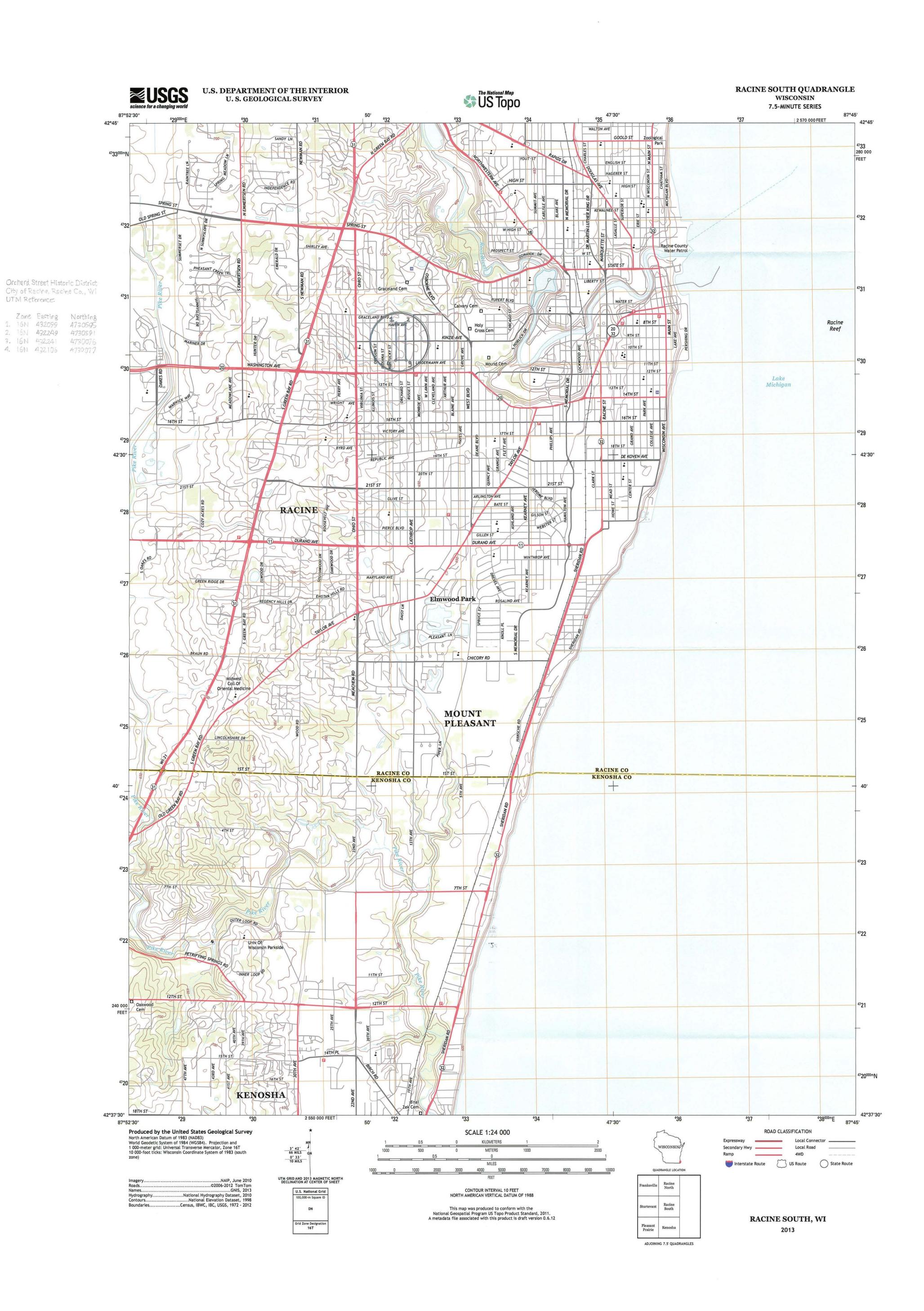
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION
PROPERTY Orchard Street Historic District NAME:
MULTIPLE NAME:
STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Racine
DATE RECEIVED: 7/08/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/26/16 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/10/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/23/16 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:
REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000566
REASONS FOR REVIEW:
APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N
COMMENT WAIVER: N ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 8.22.16 DATE
ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS: Entered in The National Register of Historic Places
RECOM./CRITERIA
REVIEWER DISCIPLINE
TELEPHONE DATE
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N
If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

MAY 0 2 2016

Ms. Peggy Veregin, National Register Coordinator Wisconsin Historical Society 816 State Street Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Dear Ms. Veregin:

I am writing with my enthusiastic support for the approval of the Orchard Street Historic District in Racine.

As a life long Racine resident I can attest to the special character of the Manree Park neighborhood and the respect among Racine residents that the quality residences in the area have engendered for many, many years.

When one of the houses in the area was for sale 14 years ago—a relative rarity—my wife and I took advantage of an open house to tour 708 Orchard Street. (We had a nice house on the south side of Racine and had no thoughts about moving.) However, we were so struck by the beauty and quality of this 1930s home that we impulsively put in an offer and purchased the home. We have never for a minute regretted our hasty decision and we are taking care to preserve our beautiful home.

Also in testimony to the application, you should know that I was for many years a history teacher in Racine Unified Schools. Living in this beautiful neighborhood provides residents with the value of relaxing nostalgia—the feeling of coming home to their residences built in—and still looking like—the 1920s, 30s and 40s.

One little anecdote to also attest to how strongly we feel about this special district. When Cathie and I bought our home we took a little risk. I was the State Representative for the area living several miles southeast in the middle of the 62nd Assembly District and new district lines were being considered during the decennial redistricting process. One of the border lines of the 62nd was Haven Avenue, 100 feet north of the home at 708 Orchard. During the process we moved to the very edge of the political district hoping against hope that the gurus and computers would not toss me out. Fortunately it all worked out and I was able to keep my job and live on Orchard Street! (I went on the serve in the Wisconsin State Senate and ran—unsuccessfully—for Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin in 2014.)

Again, thank you for you presentation in Racine last night, for your work on behalf of historic preservation throughout the state of Wisconsin and for all the effort that has gone into this particular nomination.

Sincerely.

John Lehman



TO:	Keeper National Register of Historic Places	RECEIVED 2280	
		JUI 8 2016	
FROM:	Peggy Veregin National Register Coordinator	Nat. Register of Historic Places National Park Service	
SUBJECT:	National Register Nomination		
The following materials are submitted on this <u>Seventh</u> day of <u>July 2016</u> , for the nomination of the <u>Orchard Street Historic District</u> to the National Register of Historic Places:			
1	Original National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form CD with NRHP Nomination form PDF		
16	Multiple Property Nomination form		
1	Photograph(s) CD with image files		
1	Map(s)		
1	Sketch map(s)/figures(s)/exhibit(s)		
1	Piece(s) of correspondence Other:		
COMMENTS:			
	Please ensure that this nomination is reviewed		
	This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67 The enclosed owner objection(s) do or do not constitute owners Other:	a majority of property	