

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0675903

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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DATE ENTERED	JUN 6 1979

**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

AND/OR COMMON

Hansen House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1221 North Main Street

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Racine

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Wisconsin

CODE

55

COUNTY

Racine

CODE

101

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Victor S. Hansen

STREET & NUMBER

1221 North Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Racine

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Wisconsin 53402

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Racine County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

730 Wisconsin Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Racine

STATE

Wisconsin 53403

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1975

___ 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

The Hansen house is a two-story frame house with a one-story side wing, set back upon a knoll above the street. Its main pavilion is rectangular in plan, with a gable roof oriented perpendicular to the road. The main pavilion is three bays wide with two levels of six-over-six windows with double-hung sash. Covering the wall is approximately 4-inch-wide clapboard with corner strips of an equal width. The verges of the roof are ornamented with an elliptical molding and have returns about two feet long. Below the returns, and continuing around the side elevations of the house, are plain friezes with an astragal and elliptical molding at the top. The main entrance to the house is a single door set almost flush with the northwest corner. This door is framed by two pilaster strips surmounted by a frieze containing two rudimentary consoles. The consoles support an overhanging cornice faced with a wide elliptical molding. Between the consoles is a pair of plain bosses of which there is also one each halfway up the pilaster strips. Within the transom over the door is an incised sunrise.

The one-story side wing is attached to the north elevation of the main pavilion, the eaves of its low gable roof coming out to even with the wall plane. The exterior wall plane of the west elevation of the wing is recessed about four feet behind a diastyle colonnade of three wooden fluted Greek Doric columns and an unfluted Doric pilaster where wing and main pavilion intersect. The columns and pilaster support an entablature composed of a frieze about a foot deep topped by an elliptical molding and an astragal, and a plain cornice projecting about six inches with a drip molding at the front. The rear wall of the porch is vertically-sided with approximately four-inch-wide flush boards with a narrow bead cut at the joint. Upon this wall are three rows of paired bosses spaced widely apart. A door is centered between the first and second columns to the left, flanked on each side by a window. On the north elevation of the wing the returns of the gable run completely across and form a shallow pediment. This elevation and most of the north elevation have been covered with green asphalt shingles.

The interior has been little altered since the house was built. The main block contains the hall with a black walnut staircase, and two parlors connected by a wide arch. Mounted in a plaster acanthus medallion in the hall is the original oil chandelier of brass with a painted shade and hanging crystal prisms. The wing contains the kitchen, a small storage room, a pantry, and a bath which was added in 1939 when plumbing and central heating were introduced. The original cookstove remains in the kitchen. Two bedrooms and a small chamber comprise the second floor rooms. In one of the bedrooms is a 19th-century fire alarm box which called residents of the house to local fires.

The basement features brick walls and a brick floor. Original log beams are still visible.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1855 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Thomas Fuller

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hansen house is among the six best Greek Revival houses in Racine, a city which was settled by Yankees early in the state's history. Downtown Racine once contained many fine Greek Revival structures, but many of these have been lost, and the urban renewal trends established in the 1950's show few signs of abatement. The Hansen house may be affected by a large bridge project proposed for the area. The project is in the very early stages of planning.

The Hansen house is the best example in Racine of a significant common type of Greek Revival house -- the two-story pavilion with gable end facing the street and a one-story wing with porch. This type was popular in western New York State and throughout the Midwest. The only other known example in Racine is across the street from the Hansen house, but it has suffered many alterations.

The house was built probably between 1854 and 1856 by Thomas Fuller, a carpenter and joiner. Fuller purchased the lots on which the house was built in April of 1854 for \$260. In February of 1856 Fuller sold the lots to Russell Skinner, a builder of steam engines, for \$1,600 plus the assumption of three mortgages and a judgment totalling \$607. Records of the City Assessor suggest that no structure was on the lots before 1854 and that there was one by 1857. The P. McCabe map of Racine for 1858 clearly indicates a house of the same configuration on the lots.

The Hansen house is located on a hill overlooking the Racine harbor. Many residents of the neighborhood were connected with Great Lakes shipping, including occupants of the Hansen house. In the late 1860's and 1870's, Captain John S. Smith and his family lived in the house. Smith was a ship captain on the Great Lakes. In 1880 William McIlrath, a boilermaker, bought the property. In later years McIlrath served as harbormaster and bridgetender. In 1890 McIlrath sold the house to Captain Lawrence Easson, a Great Lakes ship captain and lighthouse keeper who had lived in the neighborhood for many years. Easson was an early settler of Racine, having emmigrated from Scotland in 1843 and arrived in Racine in 1844. McIlrath moved to Minneapolis but returned in 1895 and bought back the house. It has remained in his family ever since.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Census records for Racine County, 1860, 1870, State Historical Society of Wisconsin.
 McCabe, P., Map of the City of Racine in the County of Racine, State of Wisconsin,
 Philadelphia: George Harrison, 1858.
Portrait and Biographical Album of Racine and Kenosha Counties, Chicago: Lake City
 Publishing Co., 1892, pp. 776-777.
 Racine City Directories.
Records of the Assessor's Office, City of Racine, and County Register of Deeds.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .290 acre
Racine South

QUADRANGLE NAME _____

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 435795 4731600

B _____

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C _____

D _____

E _____

F _____

G _____

H _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 12 and 13 of Blk. 54, original plat.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David R. Black, Researcher

ORGANIZATION

Architectural Conservation Program

DATE

October 18, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

730 Washington Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Racine

STATE

Wisconsin 53401

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Richard M. Mery

TITLE Director,
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE 4/18/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

William H. Brennan
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6.6.79

ATTEST: William H. Brennan
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

6.4.79

DATE

