

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 00000190


Date Listed: 3/16/00

Anderson, Brady, & Waldermar Ager Hse; Eau Claire County
Property Name County

WI
State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



Signature of the Keeper

7/18/00

Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

The house is part of a Multiple Resource Area: "The Historic Resources of Eau Claire" MRA.

Under Areas of Significance, The Ethnic Heritage subcategory was omitted on the form. It is "European."

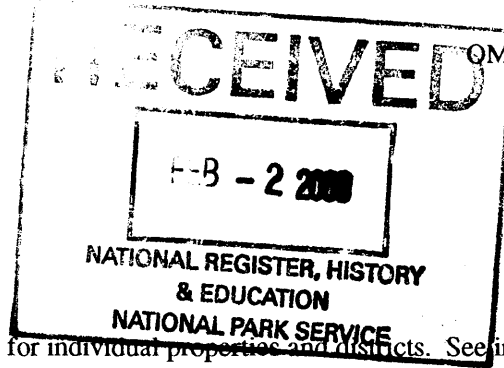
This information was verified with Daina Pentiuonas of the WI SHPO staff.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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.

1. Name of Property

historic name Anderson, Brady/Ager, Waldemar, House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 514 West Madison Street not for publication N/A

city or town City of Eau Claire vicinity N/A

state Wisconsin code WI county Eau Claire code 035 zip code 54703

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Flora Z. Goch
Signature of certifying official/Title
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

12/20/99
Date

State or federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or federal agency and bureau

Anderson-Ager House
Name of Property

Eau Claire County, Wisconsin
County and State

4. National Park Service 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
 National Register.
 ___ See continuation sheet.
 removed from the National Register.
 other (explain) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Patricia Andrews 3/16/00

5. Classification

Ownership of Property Category of Property
(check as many as apply) (Check only one box)

 private building(s)
 public-local ___ district
 public-state ___ site
 public-federal ___ structure
 ___ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include listed resources in the count)

	Contributing	Noncontributing
buildings	1	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	0

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a
multiple property listing.)
N/A Eau Claire MRA

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
RECREATION AND CULTURE/Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
Queen Anne

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation CONCRETE
walls Weatherboard
roof ASPHALT
other WOOD

Narrative Description

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

Anderson-Ager House
Name of Property

Eau Claire County, Wisconsin
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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying
the property for the National Register listing.)

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.

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.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information
important in our prehistory or history

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age achieved significance
within the past 50 years.

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

9. Major Bibliographic References

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Architecture
Ethnic Heritage

Period of Significance
1892-1941

Significant Dates
1892-94, circa 1900, circa 1925

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked)
Ager, Waldemar

Cultural Affiliation
Norwegian

Architect/Builder
Anderson, Brady

Anderson-Ager House
Name of Property

Eau Claire County, Wisconsin
County and State

Previous Documentation on File (NPS):
___ 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

Primary location of additional data:
___ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other state agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
 Other
Name of repository: Waldemar Ager Association

___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

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

1	<u>1/5</u>	<u>6/1/7/5/0/0</u>	<u>4/9/6/3/3/4/0</u>	3	<u>1</u>	<u>11111</u>	<u>111111</u>	
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	<u>1</u>	<u>11111</u>	<u>111111</u>	4	<u>1</u>	<u>11111</u>	<u>111111</u>	
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing	

___ see continuation sheet

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 <u>Elizabeth L. Miller, Historic Preservation Specialist</u>	date <u>22 September 1998</u>
organization <u>Mead & Hunt</u>	telephone <u>(608)273-6380</u>
street & number <u>6501 Watts Road</u>	zip code <u>53719-2700</u>
city or town <u>Madison</u> state <u>WI</u>	

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)

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Anderson-Ager House
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

INTRODUCTION

The Anderson-Ager House was built over a two-year period between 1892 and 1894.¹ It was designed and built by its first owner-occupant, Brady Benjamin Anderson. The house has two contributing additions, dating from circa 1900 and circa 1925; and one noncontributing addition, dating from circa 1960. The Anderson-Ager House is a two-story, frame building finished with clapboards. The house's Queen Anne style is displayed in its distinctive and highly-detailed carved wood decoration, at which Anderson was said to have excelled. The multi-hip-and-gable roof is clad with asphalt shingles. The Anderson-Ager House was moved from its original site at 429 Chestnut Street to its current site in 1994. At that time, the concrete block basement was constructed.

DESCRIPTION

The Anderson-Ager House is located on the north side of West Madison Street, west of Whipple Street, and northwest of Eau Claire's central business district. West Madison Street is a busy thoroughfare with low-scale commercial buildings dating from the late twentieth century. A residential neighborhood with single-family houses to the north (rear) of the Anderson-Ager House dates from the early twentieth century.

The Anderson-Ager House (see photo 1) is rectangular in plan and measures about 26 feet (east-west) by about 38 feet. It is a boxy, two-story building with three additions to the rear (see site plan). The original section was erected in 1892-94 and extends back to include the first gable on the east- and west-facing facades. The first addition is in the middle of the building (see site plan) and probably was constructed by Brady Anderson circa 1900. This addition's windows have decorative surrounds that match the original section, although the gable ends are devoid of bargeboards. The second addition consists of the rear section, and was erected circa 1925.² The third addition is the partially-enclosed rear porch, which dates from circa 1960 and was attached to a garage (demolished).³ This is the Anderson-Ager House's only non-contributing addition.

The front facade of the house faces south and is composed of a side-gable (east) and a front-facing hip (west) with a two-story, gabled bay. The front facade is enriched with a plain cornice and corner boards and ornate, scroll-sawn eave trim. The front door is located in the side-gable (see photo 2). It is a paneled wood door, with a transom, a sidelight, and a carved wood surround. The front door is sheltered by a shed-roofed porch with a center gable. The porch has heavy, turned posts; a scroll-sawn railing; and vent boards with clover-leaf cut-outs

¹City of Eau Claire Tax Rolls, on file, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Area Research Center.

²Ken Ziehr, President, Waldemar Ager Association, Personal Communication, 26 August 1998.

³Ziehr, and Map of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, (Pelham, New York: Sanborn-Perris Fire Insurance Company, 1931, updated through 1958).

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Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

(see photo 3). These elements date from 1997-98 and reproduce the originals,⁴ which were lost prior to 1981. The original scrolled brackets and frieze boards on the front porch are intact and have raised, carved, foliated ornamentation and cut-out blocks (see photo 4). The porch's center-gable pediment is similarly carved, and lattice-work adorns the east and west faces of the porch's shed roof. Above the porch, three, single-pane, fixed windows are grouped in a continuous, carved wood surround.

On the front-facing hip section, there is a slightly-projecting, square, paneled, bay window at the first story. It features a large, cottage window with a multi-paned, leaded-glass header in a carved wood surround. Above the window, the bay flares out in a convex line, finishes in a classical cornice, and supports a gabled balcony at the second floor (see photo 5). The balcony retains its original turned posts; scroll-sawn railing; frieze boards; and gable-end decoration matching those of the front porch. The gable above the balcony is further enriched with eave trim carved in a wave motif. A pair of tall, one-over-one windows in a continuous, carved wood surround open onto the balcony. On either side of the balcony, a row of wood panels creates a frieze molding.

On the north-facing (rear) facade of the house (see photo 6), there is a hip (east) and a gable (west). A paneled wood door is located toward the east end of this facade. At the second-story there is a single-pane wood window in the hipped section, and a one-over-one window in the gabled section. A hip-roofed porch with heavy, turned posts runs across the rear facade, steps down at the west end and wraps around to the west-facing facade. These posts are identical to the posts on the front porch and the balcony. The porch dates from 1997-98. Originally, the Ager House had a rear porch with posts similar to those of the existing porch. The original porch was lost prior to 1931, perhaps when the circa 1925 addition was erected.⁵ The partially-enclosed rear porch was likely constructed circa 1960, along with a garage, to which the enclosed section was attached. The garage was removed prior to relocating the house, but the partially-enclosed rear porch was retained and new porch posts installed.

The east-facing facade of the house (see photo 7) features an east-facing gable (south), and a hip-roofed section with a center gable (north). The south gable is the original section, which features cornice and corner boards; and triangular bargeboards with raised, foliated ornamentation of carved wood, set between a simple collar beam and king post (see photo 8). The collar beam is enriched with a scrolled pendant and scroll-sawn trim. The fenestration pattern in the gable section is composed of two small, single-pane, fixed windows ascending on the first-story and marking the interior staircase; and two, one-over-one windows at the second story. All of these windows have carved wood surrounds that match those on the front facade, except that the surrounds on the staircase windows overlap (see photo 9). The hip roof (north) shelters the circa 1900 and circa 1925 additions to the Anderson-Ager House. A narrow "corner" board rising in the middle of the center gable marks the division

⁴Historic photograph, dating from circa 1903, in possession of the Ager family.

⁵Map of Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

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Anderson-Ager House
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between the circa 1900 and circa 1925 additions. Originally, this facade of the circa 1900 addition likely matched the west-facing facade, where there is a gabled wall dormer rather than a center gable (see description below). At the first story in the hip roof section, there is a group of three windows in the circa 1900 addition (south) and a small, fixed window in the circa 1925 addition (north). A cottage window with a leaded-glass header in a lozenge pattern, flanked by narrow, one-over-one windows, comprise the grouped windows. The continuous surround is carved to match those on the front facade. At the second story, there are two, one-over-one windows with carved surrounds in the center gable, and a smaller, horizontally-oriented, single-pane, fixed window south of the center gable. The eave of the hip roof section is undecorated.

On the west-facing facade, the original section and all three additions are visible (see photos 10 and 11). The original, hip-roofed section with its west-facing gable is at the south end. The circa 1900 addition with its hip roof and gabled wall dormer is in the center. The circa 1925 addition, which is side-gabled, is at the north end. The circa 1960 addition is the enclosed porch, also at the north end. The original section has a one-over-one window with a carved wood surround at each story; corner and cornice boards; and bargeboards and eave trim that match those on the east-facing facade. The circa 1900 addition has two, one-over-one windows with carved surrounds at the first story. At the second story, there is an identical window in the gable dormer, and a single-pane, horizontally-oriented, fixed window south of the dormer. Only the second story of the circa 1925 addition is visible. It has one single-pane, horizontally-oriented, fixed window. The circa 1960 enclosed porch also has a similar window.

On the interior, the plan consists of a staircase in the southeast corner and a series of rooms north and west of the staircase (see floor plans attached). Interior finishes include: oak flooring in the original section and the first addition, and pine flooring in the second addition; plaster and wall-paper on the walls; and plaster ceilings. The staircase is oak, in a quarter-turn-with-landing configuration. It features turned balusters and a highly carved newel post. Most of the window and door surrounds are fluted and have bull's-eye corner blocks. Many of the lintels are enriched with foliated carving. There is a carved frieze with a pendant and scroll-sawn brackets in the bay window opening. There is decorative wood flooring in what was Ager's study, on the first floor in the first addition, consisting of narrow boards laid in a square pattern.

The Anderson-Ager House retains excellent integrity, despite having been moved from its original site in 1994. The new setting, on a busy street facing a commercial area and with a residential neighborhood to the rear, is very similar to the original one. At its Chestnut Street site, the Anderson-Ager House faced Luther Hospital, which owned the house. The Anderson-Ager House itself was in commercial use for twenty years as a gift shop for the Hospital beginning in 1973. Exterior alterations to the Anderson-Ager House are confined to the noncontributing circa 1960 partially-enclosed porch; the concrete block basement (1996); and new porch posts, railing and vent boards (1997-98). None of these alterations compromise the integrity of the Anderson-Ager House. The partially-enclosed rear porch is small and cannot be seen from the street, minimizing its impact. The concrete block basement is not very visible, and may be hidden by plants eventually. The new porch elements

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 1/92)

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Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

reproduce the originals, and are based on historic photographs. Few interior alterations have been made. The Ager Association, which owns the house and made the 1996-97 changes to the exterior, is restoring the house to its original appearance, based on historic photographs and oral history from the Ager family.

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Anderson-Ager House
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: SUMMARY

The Anderson-Ager House is architecturally significant at the local level under Criterion C. It is a fine example of the Queen Anne style and retains excellent integrity. The period of significance for architecture extends from 1892, the year that construction began on the original section of the house, through circa 1925, when the second contributing addition was built. The Anderson-Ager House is also significant under Criterion B in ethnic heritage for its association with Waldemar Ager, a Norwegian-American author and editor of regional importance. The period of significance for history coincides with the years in which Ager lived and worked in the house, 1903 through 1941. It should be noted that the Anderson-Ager House was nominated to the National Register as part of the Eau Claire Multiple Resources in 1983, but was not listed due to the objection of the owner. At that time, it was determined eligible for listing both for its architecture and for its association with Waldemar Ager. The house was subsequently moved to its present location.

HISTORY OF THE CITY OF EAU CLAIRE

The early history of the city of Eau Claire is closely associated with the development of the lumber industry in the Chippewa Valley, earning the community its nickname, the Sawdust City. Logs were rafted down the Chippewa River beginning in 1821, and a sawmill was built at Chippewa Falls in 1838. In 1846, Stephen McCann, Jeremiah Thomas, George Randall and Simon Randall erected a dam and a sawmill at the junction of the Eau Claire and Chippewa rivers. The sawmill was washed away by heavy rains in 1847, but the Randalls, with new partners, were able to rebuild the mill. A second dam and mill complex was built for Jesse Gage and James Reed soon afterward.⁶

Lumbermen such as Daniel Shaw, Charles Bullen, Joseph G. Thorp, Orrin Ingram, Donald Kennedy, H. C. Putnam and George Buffington set up operations near the sawmills in the 1850s. Three small settlements grew up near the sawmills, separated by the rivers. The village of Eau Claire was located south of the Eau Claire River and west of the Chippewa River; Eau Claire City was located south of the Eau Claire and east of the Chippewa; and North Eau Claire was north of the Eau Claire River and east of the Chippewa. In 1856, plats for the Village of Eau Claire and Eau Claire City were recorded, and Eau Claire County was separated from Chippewa County. The village of Eau Claire was made county seat. In 1861, the population of the three settlements was 3,164.⁷

⁶Jane Hieb, Eau Claire, Heartland of the Chippewa Valley: An Illustrated History, (Northridge, California: Windsor Publications, Inc, 1988), pp. 20-22.

⁷Mary Taylor, "Final Report: Intensive Historic/Architectural Survey of the City of Eau Claire, Wisconsin," Report Prepared for the City of Eau Claire, March 1983, pp. 6-7; and Lois Barland, Sawdust City, (Stevens Point, Wisconsin: Worzalla Publishing Company, 1960), pp.12-20.

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Anderson-Ager House
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

Following the Civil War, many Norwegian immigrants settled in Eau Claire, adding to an ethnic base of Germans, Irish, Canadians, and Yankees. By this time, a fourth community had developed in the area. West Eau Claire was located north of the Eau Claire River and west of the Chippewa River. When Eau Claire incorporated as a city in 1872, the new city included what had been West Eau Claire, as well as the former communities of Eau Claire, Eau Claire City, and North Eau Claire. The population in 1880 was 9,771. By 1885, the booming lumber industry had caused the population to swell to 21,668, making Eau Claire the second-largest city in Wisconsin. During the late 1880s, the lumbering industry in Eau Claire declined sharply. The city's population fell twenty percent in response, dropping to 17,415 in 1890. Eau Claire's business community moved into wood-products manufacturing, with such enterprises as the Pioneer Furniture Company (1887), the Phoenix Furniture Company (1899), the Dells Pulp and Paper Company (1894), the Linderman Box and Veneer Company (1895) and the Kaiser Lumber Company Box Factory (1905). These concerns helped stabilize Eau Claire's population.⁸

After the turn of the century, the manufacturing sector expanded beyond wood-products, with the Gillette Safety Tire Company (later Uniroyal, Incorporated, and the city's largest employer until it closed in 1992), the Northwestern Steel and Iron Works (later National Presto Industries, producing small home appliances), and other companies. In 1916, the Wisconsin State Normal School for teacher-training opened in Eau Claire. This post-secondary institution, now the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, drew students from all over west-central Wisconsin. Eau Claire's population, which had hovered around 17,500 from 1890 to 1910, began to grow again in the 1910s. This reflected the city's development as a regional economic and educational center for the surrounding rural counties.⁹

In 1940, the population of Eau Claire was 30,745. It reached 44,619 in 1970.¹⁰ Today the city of Eau Claire is a lively community with more than 55,000 residents and thriving institutional, commercial and industrial sectors.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Anderson-Ager House is architecturally significant at the local level under Criterion C. It is a fine example of the Queen Anne style and retains excellent integrity. Built primarily between 1880 and 1910, Queen Anne residences typically feature an asymmetrical facade with multiple gables; polygonal bays; a combination of finishes that can include clapboards, brick and patterned shingles; and a front or wrap-around porch. Turrets and towers also occur. The porch elements may be turned or, less commonly, scroll-sawn. Later examples of the style often represent the transition between Queen Anne and Classical Revival, incorporating classical moldings

⁸Taylor, pp. 8-9.

⁹Taylor, pp. 8-9; and Barland, Sawdust City, p. 112.

¹⁰Taylor, p. 9.

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Anderson-Ager House
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

and columned porches.¹¹ The Anderson-Ager House has a boxy, vernacular form rather than the irregular silhouette, but does have multiple gables. It is lavishly ornamented in the Queen Anne manner with: carved wood surrounds; a front porch with turned posts, scroll-sawn porch railing, cut-out vent boards, lattice work, and curvilinear carving in the gable end; a second-story balcony with similar ornamentation; a paneled frieze molding; scroll-sawn eave trim; and triangular bargeboards with raised, foliated ornamentation of carved wood, set between a simple collar beam and king post.

The 1983 and 1997 intensive surveys of Eau Claire's historic resources identified numerous Queen Anne residences. In Eau Claire, most of the high-style examples of the Queen Anne style, combining both irregular form and Queen Anne ornamentation, are located in the Randall Park Historic District. Among these are the Dinkum House at 420 Fourth Avenue (1889), which features a square tower, multiple gabled bays and a mansard roof. The Dulany House at 326 Fourth Avenue (circa 1891) is another high-style Queen Anne residence in the Randall Park Historic District. It features a round, shingled tower with a patterned chimney; a two-story canted bay; and shed-roofed porches with lattice work. These houses have more of a picturesque Queen Anne silhouette than does the Anderson-Ager House, but their ornamentation is not as elaborate. One of the few houses in the Randall Park Historic District that has scroll-sawn ornamentation similar to that of the Anderson-Ager House is the circa 1890 residence at 819 Third Avenue (see photo 12). This house also has carved wood hood moldings, but is not as ornate as the Anderson-Ager House.

The house that probably is most similar to the Anderson-Ager House is the house at 421 Tallmadge Street (see photo 13). Like the Anderson-Ager House, this house has a vernacular form, yet displays Queen Anne decoration. The Tallmadge Street house has a two-story, canted bay with carved wood brackets and a pendant; shingles in the gable ends; and a porch with turned posts, railing with turned balusters, spindled frieze, and curvilinear carving in the pediment marking the entrance to the porch. It does not have the balcony, eave trim, bargeboards or carved surrounds that the Anderson-Ager House has. Thus, although there are Queen Anne houses in Eau Claire that more closely conform to the irregular silhouette characteristic of the style than does the Anderson-Ager House, the Anderson-Ager House displays the finest carved wood ornamental detailing of all the Queen Anne houses in Eau Claire. The Anderson-Ager House also retains a high degree of integrity.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: ASSOCIATION WITH WALDEMAR AGER

The Anderson-Ager House is also significant under Criterion B in ethnic heritage for its association with Waldemar Ager, a Norwegian-American author and editor of regional importance. The writings of Waldemar Ager (1869-1941) were influential among the many Norwegian-Americans of the Upper Midwest, and were

¹¹Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1991), pp. 262-265; and Barbara Wyatt, editor, Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), II:2-15.

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Anderson-Ager House
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well-regarded in Norway as well. He lived in the Anderson-Ager House from about 1903 until his death. Ager wrote many novels, short stories and essays in his study in the Anderson-Ager House. He also wrote editorial pieces for his newspaper, Reform, in the house.¹²

Waldemar Ager was born in Frederikstad, Norway, and grew up in the nearby community of Graesvik. In 1885, Ager emigrated with his family to Chicago, where his father had settled previously. In Chicago, Waldemar Ager became a typesetter's apprentice at Norden, a Norwegian-language newspaper with a large circulation. Ager also joined a Norwegian temperance lodge and wrote brief articles for the lodge's monthly newspaper.¹³

In 1892, Ager moved to Eau Claire to work for Reform, a Norwegian-language Prohibitionist newspaper. Ager began as the typesetter for the newspaper, contributing a few articles. When Ole Olson, the newspaper's editor, died in 1903, Ager became the editor of Reform, a position he would retain until his own death in 1941. Reform ceased publication one month after Ager's death. At its peak prior to World War I, Reform had a weekly circulation of about 10,000 and was read by Norwegian-Americans throughout the Upper Midwest, where Norwegian settlement concentrated in the U. S. Reform carried general news items from Norway and about Norwegian-Americans, but it was Ager's editorials that sold the paper.¹⁴

Ager was a talented and highly skilled journalist who championed temperance and other causes through articles that informed, educated, entertained and berated readers using irony, satire, wit and humor. Temperance was popular among Norwegian-Americans and Ager soon became a leading spokesman for the cause. Ager was much in demand as a public speaker, and traveled throughout "Norwegian America," in the upper Midwest, helping organize hundreds of temperance societies and Good Templar lodges. Through his efforts, Ager helped make temperance the most widely supported social reform issue among Norwegian-Americans. An influential member of the Wisconsin Prohibition party, Ager ran for lieutenant governor on the Prohibition ticket. Ager championed other social reform ideas, such as suffrage and agricultural cooperatives, supported the ideas of Robert M. LaFollete and the Progressive wing of the Republican party in Wisconsin, as well as the more radical Farm-Labor party of Minnesota.¹⁵

The cause that was probably most dear to Ager's heart was the preservation of Norwegian language and culture in the U. S. The period between 1890 and World War I was the height of Norwegian cultural and language

¹²Ziehr.

¹³Kenneth Smemo, "Waldemar Ager and the Golden Age of Norwegian America," Speech given 15 May 1988, Eau Claire.

¹⁴Ibid.

¹⁵Ibid.

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Anderson-Ager House
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

retention in the U. S. Immigration from Norway to the Upper Midwest in large numbers had begun in the mid-nineteenth century and continued through the early twentieth century. Concentrations of Norwegians helped keep the Norwegian language and culture vibrant. Between 1890 and 1914, over one million Americans spoke Norwegian; more than 3,000 Lutheran congregations worshiped in Norwegian; and some 600,000 homes subscribed to a Norwegian-language newspaper.¹⁶

Ager dreamed of a permanent Norwegian-American culture, which would maintain its connection with Norway through the Norwegian language. Ager referred to the Norwegian language as the bridge that joined Norwegian America with Norway; without the language, there would be no bridge. To this end, Ager not only continued to publish Reform in Norwegian, he encouraged the development of Norwegian-American fiction written in the Norwegian language. Ager himself published four novels, eight collections of short stories and essays, and two short novels.¹⁷

He also wrote a history of the 15th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, which was composed entirely of Norwegians under the leadership of Colonel Hans Heg. During the 1920s, Ager launched a fund drive to build two monuments to honor Heg. One is located in Heg's birthplace in Norway, the other stands on the Capitol Square in Madison, Wisconsin.¹⁸

Ager's fiction was well-regarded and his Kristus for Pilatus was the first Norwegian-American work to be published in Norway (1911). At least two of his novels have been translated into English. Hundeoine ("Dog's eye," published in English as I Sit Alone) and Gamlelandets Sonner (Sons of the Old Country). Several other Norwegian-American authors of the time achieved critical acclaim for their fiction in the Norwegian language, including Simon Johnson, Dorothea Dahl and Jon Norstog. Ole Rolvaag was the best known of these authors, gaining an international reputation for his work. Rolvaag was a professor of Norwegian at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, and a close friend of Ager's. Ager was well-known as a lecturer on the topic of preserving Norwegian culture in the United States, and addressed crowds of thousands in Boston, New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. He also lectured extensively in Norway in 1914 and again in 1934.¹⁹

During World War I, widespread intolerance of foreign languages in the U. S. sparked a national "Speak English" movement. Although primarily directed at German speakers, this movement also affected Norwegian-

¹⁶Ibid.

¹⁷Waldemar T. Ager, Prominent Editor, Dies, Eau Claire Leader, 2 August 1941; and William F. Bailey, editor, History of Eau Claire County, Wisconsin, (Chicago: C. F. Cooper and Company, 1914) pp. 504-05.

¹⁸Waldemar T. Ager, Prominent Editor, Dies."

¹⁹Smemo; and "Waldemar T. Ager, Prominent Editor, Dies."

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Anderson-Ager House
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

Americans. Increasingly, Lutheran services were conducted in English; the circulation of Norwegian-language newspapers declined dramatically; and organizations such as the Sons of Norway began using English. In an effort to show loyalty to the U. S., Norwegian-Americans relinquished their language and encouraged their children to Americanize. By the end of the 1920s, the bridge to Norway had been lost and there were few remnants of once-vibrant Norwegian America. With the end of Prohibition in 1933, Waldemar Ager had lived to see his two greatest causes defeated. Yet Ager continued to promote both temperance and Norwegian language and culture to the end of his life. Ager was honored for his efforts on behalf of Norwegian America. He was twice decorated by the King of Norway, and received awards from the Norwegian Society of America and the Norwegian Library Association.²⁰

CRITERION CONSIDERATION

The Anderson-Ager House was moved from its original location at 429 Chestnut Street in 1994. Ordinarily, Criterion Consideration B disqualifies properties that have been removed from their original location. However, under this criterion consideration, properties may be eligible if they derive their primary significance from architectural distinction. The Anderson-Ager House provides an outstanding local example of Queen Anne decorative ornamental detailing carved in wood, and was executed by the house's builder and first owner-occupant, Brady Anderson. Further, the house's new setting is very similar to its original setting; facing a busy street and with a neighborhood of early twentieth century, single-family residences behind it.

Criterion Consideration B would ordinarily disqualify the Anderson-Ager House from recognition for its association with Waldemar Ager, prominent Norwegian-American author and newspaper editor. While the newspaper, Reform, was printed at other locations, the Anderson-Ager House is where Ager wrote both his literary works and his newspaper editorials. This house, therefore, is more closely associated with the significant aspects of Ager's working life (his novels and his editorials) than the buildings where Reform was printed. Further, the house is more intact than the buildings where Reform was printed. In 1914, Reform was published in the Drummond and Laycock Building at 1 South Barstow Street. That building was destroyed by fire. The building at 307 South Barstow Street, where Reform was published from at least 1923 until at least 1939, is extant. However, the house is more closely associated with Ager's writings, and is therefore eligible for its association with Ager despite the fact that it has been moved from its original site.

CONCLUSION

The Anderson-Ager House is architecturally significant at the local level under Criterion C. With its multi-gabled roof, decorative triangular bargeboards, carved surrounds, and elaborate porch, the house is a fine example of a

²⁰Smemo, and "Waldemar T. Ager, Prominent Editor, Dies."

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Anderson-Ager House
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

Queen Anne style and retains excellent integrity. The period of significance for architecture extends from 1892 to circa 1925. The Anderson-Ager House is also historically significant under Criterion B in ethnic heritage, for its association with regionally-important Norwegian-American author and editor Waldemar Ager. The house is the property most closely associated with the working life of Ager and with the contributions he made to Norwegian-American culture and the fostering of the Norwegian language. The period of significance for ethnic heritage corresponds to the years Waldemar Ager lived in the house, 1903-1941. Although Criterion Consideration B applies, it does not disqualify the Anderson-Ager House from being listed on the National Register either for its architecture or for its association with Waldemar Ager.

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Anderson-Ager House
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

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Section 10 Page 1

Anderson-Ager House
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Anderson-Ager House is located on Lots 8, 9 and 10, Block 18, Whipple and Bellinger's Addition to the City of Eau Claire. This parcel measures 80 feet along the north and south boundaries, 114.69 feet along the east boundary, 87.57 feet along the west boundary, and encompasses less than one acre.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the Anderson-Ager House enclose all the resources historically associated with it, and coincide with the legal boundaries of the parcel given by the Eau Claire City Council in 1996 for the relocation of the house.

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Anderson-Ager House
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 1 of 13

Anderson-Ager House
City of Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin
Photo by Stacey Pilgrim, Mead & Hunt, 10 June 1998
Negative on file in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin
View of the south- (front) and east-facing facades, looking northwest.

For the photographs listed below, the information is the same as the above, except as noted:

Photo 2 of 13

Closeup of the front porch and the main entrance, looking north.

Photo 3 of 13

Closeup of scroll-sawn railing on front porch, looking west.

Photo 4 of 13

Closeup of front porch frieze and brackets, looking west.

Photo 5 of 13

Closeup of bay window and balcony, south-facing (front) facade.

Photo 6 of 13

View of north-facing (rear) facade, looking southeast.

Photo 7 of 13

View of east- and south- (front-) facing facades, looking west-northwest.

Photo 8 of 13

Closeup of bargeboards and carved wood window surrounds, east-facing facade, looking west.

Photo 9 of 13

Closeup of overlapping window surrounds, east-facing facade, looking west.

Photo 10 of 13

View of west-facing facade, looking southeast.

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Anderson-Ager House
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

Photo 11 of 13

View of west-facing facade, looking northeast.

Photo 12 of 13

819 Third Avenue, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, a comparison property.

Photo 13 of 13

421 Tallmadge Street, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, a comparison property.

Anderson-Ager House
Name of Property

Eau Claire County, Wisconsin
County and State

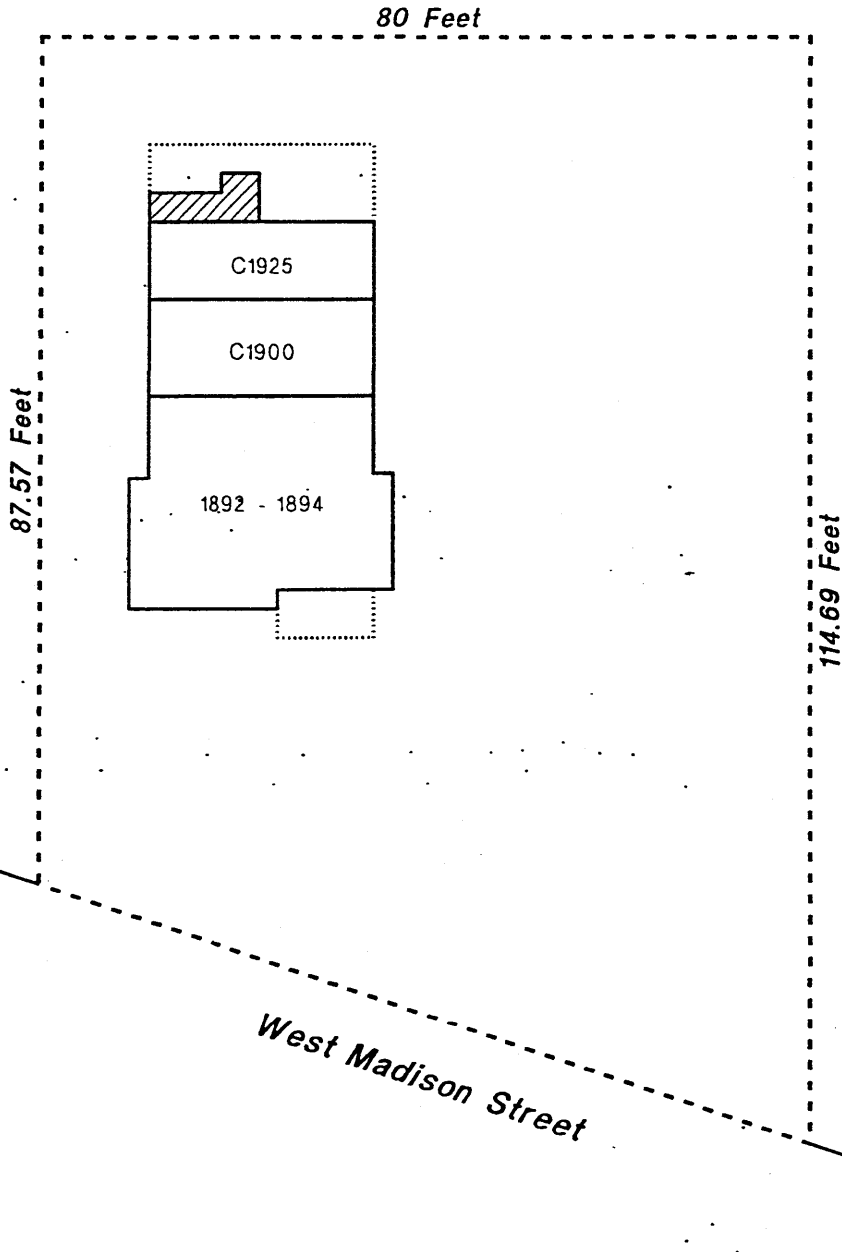
Property Owner

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

name Waldemar Ager Association, c/o Ken Ziehr
street & number 223 Hudson Street telephone _____
city or town Eau Claire state WI zip code 54701

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.).




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ANDERSON - AGER HOUSE

514 West Madison Street
 Eau Claire, Eau Claire County
 Wisconsin

Legend:

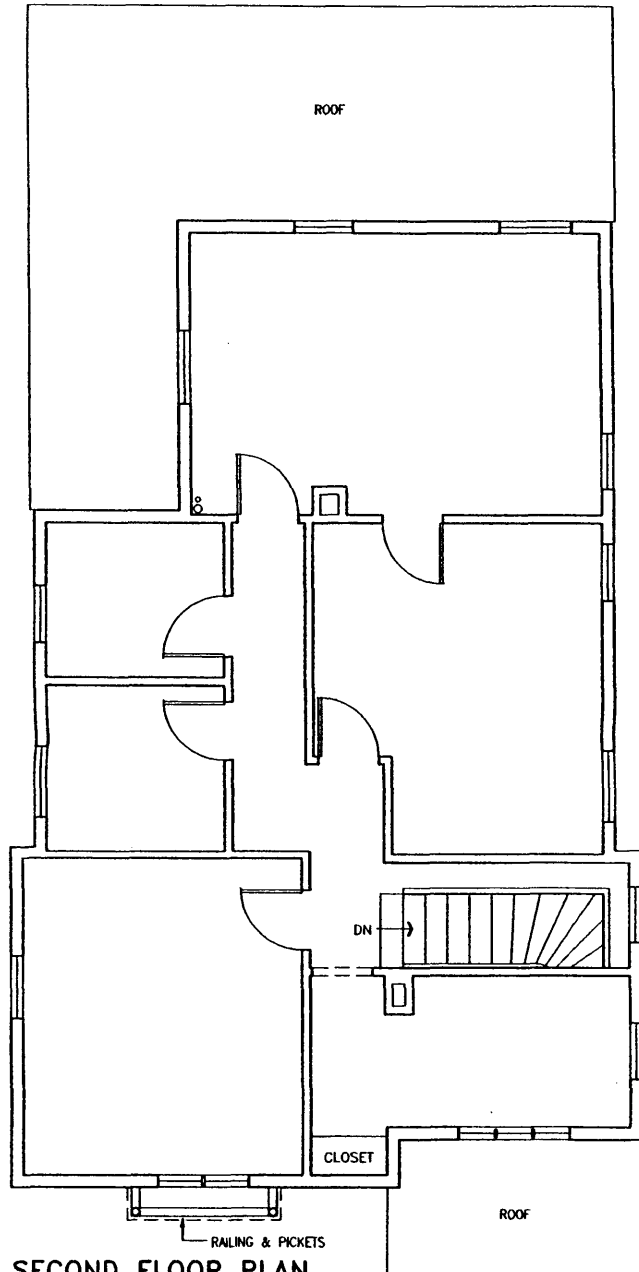
-  Contributing
-  Non-Contributing
-  Historic Boundary



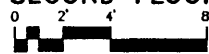
Scale: 1" = 20'

ATTACHMENT 2

ANDERSON AGER HOUSE, EAU CLAIRE, EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

WALDEMAR AGER HOUSE
EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN

E. WALDGER/VAS

AVRES
ASSOCIATES

ARCHITECTS/ENGINEERS/SCIENTISTS/SURVEYORS

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Checked : TOMPKINS
Date : 09-24-96
Revised :

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