


City, Village or Town: Eau Claire		County: Eau Claire	Surveyor: M. Taylor	Date: 11/17/81
Street Address: 120 Ferry Street		Legal Description: See continuation sheet	Acreage: less than one acre	
Current Name & Use: Private residence		Current Owner: Dorothy Haines <i>NEW OWNER JEFFREY L. RIEBE 4/85</i>		
Film Roll No. EC 5P	Current Owner's Address: 120 Ferry Street		Special Features Not Visible In Photographs: UTM: zone 15 Easting: 615900 Northing: 4961390 USGS Eau Claire West Quadrangle 1:24,000 Interior visited? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Negative No. 5				
Facade Orient. E				

Ferry Street

120

Original Name & Use: preferred	Source	Previous Owners	Dates	Uses	Source
2 Levi Merrill House (ECMRA)	A				
Dates of Construction / Alteration 1873	A				
Architect and/or Builder: Unknown					

3 Architectural Significance

Represents work of a master
 Possesses high artistic values
 Represents a type, period, or method of construction
 Is a visual landmark in the area
 Other: _____ None

4 Historical Significance

Assoc. with lives of significant persons
 Assoc. with significant historical events
 Assoc. with development of a locality
 Other: _____
 None

Architectural Statement:

See continuation sheet.

Historical Statement:

See continuation sheet.

Plat Map #11

- 5** Sources of Information (Reference to Above)
- A** tax assessment rolls - UW-Eau Claire Area Research Center
- B** Eau Claire Leader, February 22, 1927, p. 5
- C** 1880-1900 Eau Claire city directories
- D**
- E**
- F**

6 Representation in Previous Surveys

HABS NAER WIHP NRHP landmark
 other: _____

7 Condition

excellent good fair poor ruins

8 District: _____

pivotal contributing non-contributing
 initials: _____ date: _____

9 Opinion of National Register Eligibility

eligible not eligible unknown
 national state local initials: *net*

5275

LEVI MERRILL HOUSE (120 Ferry Street)
Intensive Survey Form - Continuation Sheet (1)

ARCHITECTURAL STATEMENT:

Description: Rising one and a half stories from a stone foundation, the Merrill house is sided with narrow clapboards and is rectangular in plan. The eclectically detailed residence is identified by pointed, picket fence-like bargeboards which trim the edges of the gable roof. This detail is underscored by an unadorned frieze. Heavy engaged columns, which like the frieze contrast with the delicately ornamental bargeboards, mark the corners of the main facade and are repeated at the main entrance where they flank the doorway. Next to the entrance (the small entrance porch supported by wooden posts appears to be a modification) on the first floor is a polygonal bay sheltered by a bracketed roof. Above the bay are two narrow side-by-side, roundheaded windows plainly framed but highlighted by keystones. A similar, though smaller window, is located above the entry. The south elevation contains another bay window while the north elevation features two rectangular openings with prominent window heads.

The walk leading to the house is stone (large stone blocks) as are two very low piers (they may have been a portion of a fence) and part of the entrance porch. These may be remnants of the work of the original owner, a stone mason.

(1981 photo - 33/8)

Significance: Located in Shawtown, a section of Eau Claire which during the lumber era was dominated by the presence of the Daniel Shaw Lumber Company, the Levi Merrill house is a unique and significant addition to the city's inventory of residential architecture. The dwelling, essentially a simple vernacular structure, combines both Classical and Gothic elements in an unusual and strikingly picturesque composition.

HISTORICAL STATEMENT:

Levi Merrill, the original owner of this residence, was a noted stone mason who had his quarry at Mt. Washington which is located just west of the home. Merrill was living in Eau Claire as early as 1867 for he cut the stone pedestal for a sundial that was erected on the corner of Fourth Avenue and Water Street in that year. A 1927 newspaper article recalling the construction of the sundial noted that "Mr. Merrill was a fine stone cutter" (B).

The city directories, which for the city of Eau Claire begin in 1880, recorded Merrill as a stone mason (1880), a mason for the Daniel Shaw Lumber Company (1894), and the sexton at Lake View cemetery (1896). In 1898 his widow, Mercy Merrill, was listed at the address (C).

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

A part of Lot 2 in Blk 10 of Daniel Shaw Lbr. Cos. Add. described as follows: Beginning at a point on the east line of said lot 2, which is 102 ft. north of the southeast corner of said lot then west 114 ft. on a line parallel with the south line of said lot then west at an angle to a point on the west line of said lot 2 which is 54 ft. north from the southwest corner of said lot then north along the west line of the northwest corner of said lot then east along the north line of said lot to the northeast corner of said lot then south along the east line to the point of beginning.